



October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024

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## Hitting Our Stride

What an exciting first month of school we have had. This period of time is always a flurry of activity, when the relaxed summer routine is broken off, and we all have to change gears in a short span of time. I think this stellar weather we've been enjoying has also made it a little harder to break out of summer mode. Regardless, our transition back to school has gone remarkably well.

## Pack It In, Pack It Out

We have been trying to instill a better understanding and appreciation of the need to manage our waste in an environmentally responsible way. At school, we have a system for sorting our waste, including the recycling of a wide range of materials and composting of organic matter. However, with so many individuals on site, it is difficult to ensure all of our waste is being sorted accurately. To help manage this, we are promoting a 'pack it in, pack it out' philosophy. Where this is particularly helpful is with food scraps, which can make a real mess if not handled appropriately. It may also be helpful to you, to see what your kids may not be eating from their lunches. We appreciate your support in this.

## Reporting An Absence

Our school uses an online absence reporting system called *School Messenger*. Click on this link for more details: <https://www.sd33.bc.ca/safe-arrival>.

## Medical Alert Conditions

All students with potentially life-threatening medical conditions and those who require medication and/or special consideration at school should update their documents on file at the school office as soon as possible.

## Bell Schedule (8:20 am-2:18 pm)

8:00 am-----	Supervision Begins
8:15 am-----	Warning Bell
8:20-10:20 am-----	Classes in session
10:20-10:35 am-----	Recess
10:35 am-12:15 pm----	Classes in session
12:15-1:00 pm-----	Lunch
1:00-2:18 pm-----	Classes in session
2:18 pm-----	Dismissal
2:18-2:30 pm-----	Supervision after school

If your child has a medical condition that the school needs to know about, please speak with your child's teacher as soon as possible as well as contact the office so we can be informed.

## Peanut Aware

In an attempt to make Cheam a safer place for all of our students, we respectfully ask that you be 'peanut aware'. Please do not send food containing peanuts, or products that 'may contain traces of peanuts'. We fully appreciate how challenging it can be to change habits and find safe and healthy alternatives. Thank you for your support.

## Volunteering

If you are hoping to participate in activities in your child's classroom or help with fieldtrips, a Police Information Check (PIC) must be completed. Police Information Checks are mandatory for all volunteers and are valid for four years. We ask that a PIC be completed once while your child is in the Primary grades and again when they are in Intermediate to ensure all PIC's are current. There is no cost for having this done. Forms can be picked up at the school office.

*As it can take time for PICs to go through the system, we do encourage you to take care of this*

*step as soon as you're able to. Also, if you'd like to help out with driving, we'll need a driver's abstract on file. Volunteer driver forms need renewed every year.*

### **Labeling Clothing**

Our Lost and Found cupboard is often overflowing with jackets, sweaters, and such. To help minimize loss, please put your child's name on the labels of their personal items.

### **Supervision**

A reminder that supervision begins at 8:00 am in the morning. For student safety reasons, please *do not* drop off your children or leave them unattended before this time. Supervision after school ends at 2:30 pm. Any students that have not been picked up by this time will be asked to wait outside the office.

### **Communication**

If you want to know what's going on at school, our website is an excellent place to begin. Visit <http://cheam.sd33.bc.ca/>. Key areas to focus on are the *Home* page, the *Calendar* and *News and Events*. The site will be updated regularly. We will also send out periodic reminders via our email system: [sysadmin@myeducation.gov.bc.ca](mailto:sysadmin@myeducation.gov.bc.ca).

All of our monthly newsletters will only be published online. If you require a paper copy, please inform Merilee at the office.

There is a Cheam Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/cheamelementary/>, which has proven to be an excellent vehicle for sharing information and keeping families connected. I encourage you to visit the site and request to be added to the group. Please understand this is a parent forum, with parent administrators. If you ever need to get a hold of me or other staff, best to contact us directly.

Your child's teacher will also be in regular contact with you, of course, perhaps by newsletter, communication book, planner, class website, email or phone.

### **Code of Conduct**

To view our complete Code of Conduct, follow this link: <https://cheam.sd33.bc.ca/code-conduct>. We review this document annually. Feedback is invited.

### **Unstructured Play Time**

Every year, we see a range of toys and other items that rise in popularity, and the kids really want to bring them to school. Every year, we also have to help manage a range of challenges presented by these items. The current trend is fidget toys and cards. Trading these cards and toys is a very common thing for our students, in spite of our insistence they not do this. There's nothing inherently wrong with trading, however, not all of our students understand the value of these items, nor do they appreciate that a trade is permanent.

Truly, the purpose of unstructured playtime (recess and lunch) is for the kids to run around, explore, use their imagination, and have fun challenging themselves, all in the company of their friends and classmates. They do not need fidget toys or cards to keep them entertained.

Another point on the fidget toys- these devices were intended as tools in the classroom. Some students use them to maintain their focus on the task at hand, helping them be more successful. Unfortunately, they are most often a source of distraction and curb students' ability to attend to their schoolwork. If your child's teacher sees them benefitting from this tool, they will be permitted to continue. However, if your child's teacher observes the opposite, the student will be asked to put it away. Your support in reinforcing this with your kids is greatly appreciated.

### Early Dismissal

Our first Early Dismissal Day of the year is scheduled for Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. Students will be dismissed at 11:20 am. The general plan for the remainder of the day is an Open House for you to visit your child’s teacher and check out what they’ve been working on. Your child’s teacher will communicate with you more directly what their plan is for that day.

*Sent on behalf of Canadian Parents for French-Chilliwack Chapter:*

### Join the French Connection!

Bonjour! We are thrilled to announce the launch of a new chapter of Canadian Parents for French (CPF) in Chilliwack! This initiative offers a precious opportunity to enrich French learning for our children and to create cultural connections within our Francophone and Francophile community.

#### Membership Ongoing

Become a member of Canadian Parents for French - BC & Yukon! <https://cpf.ca/en/join-cpf>  
 🐾 It's FREE, and until October 31, all new members will be automatically entered into our gift card draw. 📬 Each membership strengthens CPF - Chilliwack’s ability to offer French activities in our region. With every new member, we will receive funding based on the percentage of membership growth. To learn more about CPF chapters, click here: <https://bc-yk.cpf.ca/en/chapter-supports/>

On behalf of a group of CPF members from your community, we invite you to participate in the AGM on:

- **Date:** October 9
- **Time:** 6:00 PM (approximate duration: 1 hour)
- **RSVP:** The location will be shared upon confirmation via email at [cpf.chilliwack@gmail.com](mailto:cpf.chilliwack@gmail.com).

This meeting aims to elect our executive team for 2024-2025 and to start planning for the upcoming school year. We thank you for your collaboration and encourage you to share this information with your network.

**Friendly reminder: Become a member of Canadian Parents for French - BC & Yukon! Sign in now** 📧 <https://cpf.ca/en/join-cpf> ! 😊

Best regards,

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### Canadian Parents for French - Chilliwack (CPF-Chilliwack)

Email: [cpf.chilliwack@gmail.com](mailto:cpf.chilliwack@gmail.com)

[Follow us! CPE-Chilliwack Facebook](#)

*This is a snapshot of events on the horizon. Please keep your eyes on the website for details and updates.*

**Important Dates**

- Oct 8: Bus Evacuation Training
- Oct 14: Thanksgiving
- Oct 15: Photo Retakes
- Oct 16: Hot Dog Day
- Oct 17: ShakeOut BC (province-wide earthquake drill)
- Oct 18: Early Dismissal
- Oct 24: PAC Trunk or Treat (5:00-7:00 pm)
- Oct 25: Pro-D Day
- Oct 30: Hot Lunch
- Oct 31: Black and Orange Spirit Day

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- Nov 1: Pro-D Day
- Nov 7: Remembrance Assembly
- Nov 8: Pro-D Day
- Nov 11: Remembrance (stat holiday)
- Nov 15: Rock Your Mocs

*Check the calendar for more events....*