



May 1st, 2025

Iain Gardner, Principal | Tel 604.792.1416 | iain_gardner@sd33.bc.ca | <http://cheam.sd33.bc.ca>

The Final Push

It's hard to believe, but we are nearing the end of another school year. It will be summer before you know it! But while students are focused on closing out this year, staff are also turning an eye to next year. It's as things wind down in classes our tentative plans for the upcoming school year start to take shape.

Planning for September

Staffing is directly related to student enrolment. If you are planning to move, or transfer to another school in Chilliwack, please contact the office as soon as possible.

At this time, it looks like we will continue to have combined grade classes at just about every level. The more accurate a picture we have of our student population, the more proactively we can build our classes for next year. We don't have a lot of flexibility, but where we do, we want to make the wisest decisions.

Student Placement Information

Staff will be meeting before the end of this school year to discuss the placement of students in classes for next year. To achieve a good balance in each class, we consider many factors:

- Academic achievement and needs
- Class size and composition
- Peer relations
- Previous placement history
- Learning styles

While considering the needs of the school/class as a whole, we take into account the learning and social needs of each child.

Staff members will be working together closely to make thoughtful student placement decisions through a comprehensive process. We do the bulk of this work in June, while we have the students fresh in our minds. We always face a few surprises in the fall, so the stronger our plans are now, the better we can adjust before classes are finalized at the end of the first week of school in September.

School Goal

To increase our critical thinking in Literacy, Numeracy, and Social Responsibility.

With respect to combined classes, please understand that combined classes are a fact of school life and are more the norm than the exception. The thought process we apply in our selection for combined grade classes, in situations where we have options, is as unique as the students we are working with. We are very confident that the students in these classes receive a full and rich academic program at their grade level. And truly, with the way the curriculum has been redesigned in recent years, teachers have the flexibility they require to balance the needs of their students.

If you have pertinent details to share regarding your child's class placement, we are open to hearing your thoughts. If you send me an email (iain_gardner@sd33.bc.ca), I will ensure this information will be taken into consideration, along with all the other factors already mentioned. Please put 'Student Placement Information' in the subject line.

While all parent input will be given careful consideration, we cannot promise any specific

placement. We can promise, however, that we will do our very best for each and every child. Ultimately, our job is to ensure our students are successful, and their class placement is just the first step.

Summer Learning

Our School District Summer Learning Program is now open for online registration:

<https://sd33.bc.ca/summer-learning-2025>.

School Bus Registration

Registration for bus transportation for the 2025/2026 school year is open. Visit

<https://www.sd33.bc.ca/bus-registration-2025-2026> to register your child.

Child Care

[SD33 Early Learning and Child Care](#) is thrilled to announce the offering of Summer Care this year! This new program allows us to continue providing the same high-quality, reliable care our families count on—even after the school year ends.

Over the past few weeks, priority registration has been given to our current Before & After School Care (BASC) families. Now, we're excited to open remaining spots to additional families from the schools where we currently provide care (Central, Cheam, Greendale, Robertson, Sardis, Unsworth and Vedder). This year, Summer Care will be hosted at Unsworth Elementary in the Annex building.

The Early Learning & Child Care team is looking forward to a summer full of friendships, play and lasting memories—and we can't wait to welcome your child! If you have any questions or would like more information, please reach out to the Early Learning & Child Care Coordinator Laura Callaghan at laura_callaghan@sd33.bc.ca

Registrations are also open for school-operated Before/After-School Care centres for the 2025-26 school year. Please follow this link for more information and to access request forms:

<https://earlylearning.sd33.bc.ca/after-school-care-sites>

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

Important Dates in May

- May 1 Class Photos
- May 9 Talent Show Dress Rehearsal
- May 10 Cheam 150 Carnival
- May 12 PAC Meeting
- May 16 Class Photos
- May 15 World Education Support Staff Appreciation Day/Hot Lunch
- May 16 Pro-D Day
- May 19 Victoria Day
- May 29 Break the Rules Day
- May 30 Pro-D Day

Important Dates in June

- June 3 Kindergarten Orientation
- June 6 Summer Fun Day/Hot Lunch
- June 13 Bridal Falls Water Park
- June 19 District Track and Field
- June 20 Nat'l Indigenous Peoples Day
- June 26 Last Day of School-Early Dismissal-Final Report Cards

PAC Meeting

The next PAC meeting is on Monday, May 12th, 7:00 pm at the school.

Pro-D Days and Long Weekend

Our next Professional Development Day is Friday, May 16th. This is an extra-long weekend as Victoria Day is on Monday, May 19th. Fingers crossed for nice weather! Our final pro-d day of the year is Friday, May 30th.

Cheam 150

Our 150th anniversary celebration is almost here (Saturday, May 10th, 11:00 am-3:00 pm). A full program will be published very shortly, but to tease your curiosity, here's a sample of what you can expect. We will have both an opening and closing ceremony (11:30 am and 2:30 pm), which will include our student choir and special guests. Our Talent Show will run in the gym throughout the afternoon, with additional performances sprinkled in by bands from Sardis Secondary. The gym will also feature several static displays of student work, representing the long, proud history of our school. We will also have a variety of 'old-school' carnival games for the kids around the playground and a concession stand with hot dogs and other treats for purchase. The main school building will also be open to tour.

My only real concern about the carnival is in regards to parking during the event. You are all quite aware of our limitations in that area. In the next couple of days, I will send out a link to an on-line form where you can sign-up for a preferred timeslot to visit. We won't hold people to this, and certainly we won't turn anyone away if they haven't signed up. However, if you would prefer to come at a quieter time, or if dealing with parking is a particular frustration for you, you'll be able to get a bit of a sense when the busiest times over the 4-hour period of the event will be. Thanks in advance for your patience and understanding.

In respect to the Talent Show and Choir performances, we will be holding a dress rehearsal at the school on May 9th. This performance will be for students only. However, the presentation will be filmed and shared afterwards with our community (via a password protected online platform).

Parking Lot- General Reminder

The safety of students, staff and community members is our number one concern in and around our parking lot. It is very important we all take time to periodically review the expectations at drop-off and pick-up.

All foot traffic through the lot should be contained to the sidewalks and painted crosswalks. If there is a line-up of cars, please wait until you can pull forward to the crosswalk before letting your child out. If you need to get out of your vehicle to assist your child, please park in a designated stall. It is also essential that drivers not enter the bus lane *unless directed by staff to do so*. The safe walking zone for students along the portables is minimal, so keeping cars out of that area is very important throughout the day.



YOU ARE INVITED

SAVE THE DATE

MAY 10, 2025



Come celebrate!
Join us for an afternoon of fun as we celebrate École Cheam Elementary's 150th Anniversary!

DAY Saturday, May 10
TIME 11:00am - 3:00pm
PLACE École Cheam Elementary

Watch for further details closer to the date.

Boundary Review Discussion...To Be Continued

For the sake of families who may not be fully aware of what this Boundary Review is all about, and what impact it has on our school, here is a basic outline of the proposed plan. The Ministry of Education announced in September 2023 that a new 500-student capacity elementary school would be built on the old Rosedale Elementary site (McGrath Road). The school was initially slated to open in September 2026, but this has recently been adjusted to one year later, September 2027.

The first step outlined in the preliminary boundary review plan is to move all of the K-5 students out of Rosedale Traditional Community School and bring them to the new elementary school. RTCS would then become a Middle School exclusively. This would leave the new elementary school and Rosedale Middle each with about 250 available spaces for students.

The next phase of this preliminary plan looks at moving the Early French Immersion program from Cheam to the new elementary site (and the Early and Late Immersion programs at Chilliwack Middle are also being considered for a move to Rosedale Middle). The District is also considering moving all our English program students to the new elementary site, as well. Cheam would effectively close as an elementary school, and the current catchment area would be redrawn. Most families would fall within the catchment of the new elementary school in Rosedale, but some would become part of either Strathcona Elementary or Little Mountain Elementary catchment areas. Students currently attending Cheam that would then fall within those other catchment areas would still be able to make the move with their classmates to the new school.

In February and March, District staff held preliminary discussions with all school staff and families that would be impacted by these changes.

These talks were just the beginning of a larger process to consult with everyone before a final decision is made. In April, District staff shared their initial planning with our School District Trustees, including all the feedback they received from staff and parents. Now the official process is getting set to begin. The specific details will be communicated soon.

In the meantime, if you have questions, reach out to me (iain_gardner@sd33.bc.ca), your PAC executive (cheam-pac@sd33.bc.ca), or the District Communications Manager (amy_dhanjal@sd33.bc.ca). You can also get further details and provide feedback through the District's 'Let's Talk' site: <https://www.letstalksd33.ca/>

T-Bird Ball Caps

As we head into Spring and the sun begins to shine, the time is right to start wearing hats to protect you from the sun. Why not look really sharp and support your school while doing it, too? T-Bird ball caps are on sale at the office. We have adult and youth sizes, \$20.00 each (discounts available if purchasing multiple units).

Happy Mother's Day

Last, but not least, on behalf of the staff, I'd like to wish all our moms out there a very happy Mother's Day on May 11th. Enjoy!