



# Chase River Elementary School Newsletter

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Tricia McKay, Principal

Tammy Trickett, Secretary

May 2016

## Greetings to all!

With six weeks left in the school year it is timely to remind parents of the importance of maintaining regular bedtimes and schedules for all children. Longer days combined with the amazing weather we are experiencing this year make it easy to lose track of time. In addition, ball season has started and lots of kids are involved in teams that play through the week well into the evening. The months of May and into June remain important learning time for children. Please support your children by continuing your now well established homework routines and home reading practice, if not every night at least three times a week. Teachers are starting their final assessments for the year and we are excited to see tremendous growth and improvements in many of our young readers.

I am delighted to let you know that Chase River School received an influx of updated technology for student use starting next year. The district made a decision to explore the use of other forms of technology for students to use rather than computers in a lab or laptops in classrooms. We now have a mobile charging cart containing 30 new Chromebooks. Staff were learning about them and how they differ from conventional computer lab systems during our May 13 Pro-D day. In addition, the PAC contributed \$5000.00 to purchase new technology for classrooms. This combined with school base funds will result in additional Chromebooks and or I-pads being added to each classroom. Staff are excited to learn more about incorporating technology into each students learning experience at school.

During May and June our grade 2 students will be attending swimming lessons once a week in Ladysmith. This opportunity is fully funded by our generous PAC and supported by parent drivers. In addition, our Grade 7 students will be participating in a new district wide Swim to Survive Plus Program. Research has shown that basic water survival skills can decrease drownings, and we also know that talking openly with youth about risk-taking behaviour can reduce accidents. This program will focus on both of these things with all our Grade 7's. As was the case with the Grade 3 program this program is fully funded through a partnership with the City of Nanaimo, Nanaimo-Ladysmith Public Schools, and the Lifesaving Society to ensure there are no barriers due to cost. We are grateful to have both of these opportunities for our students.

As our year end approaches please watch for notices of field trips and special events coming home. Our calendar is bursting with fun, educational things between now and the end of June. Hang on to your hats! Time is going to fly!

## PRINCIPAL'S COMMENTS

Kind Regards,  
*Tricia McKay*  
Principal

## TRIATHLON

### Swimming > Biking > Running

Date: Sunday June 26, 2016

We have reached 39 participants and aiming for at least 1 more for the in order to receive most participating school award, last year we only missed this by 2 students; how outstanding would it be to reach our goal. Please get you registrations in to the office right away.

Swim training starts: May 20<sup>th</sup>

Biking training starts: May 11<sup>th</sup>

Running training within school's running club

## Bussing Changes for

### Chase River School

During the Budget process this year for the Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools difficult decisions were made that will result is some changes to bussing for Chase River School. These changes are in two distinct areas.

The first is the loss of the bus from the South Wellington area. This bus route was added in the September following the closure of South Wellington Elementary School. The Board of the day agreed to provide bussing for a period of one year. We were fortunate that the bus remained for a total of three years. The decision has been made to discontinue this route as the catchment of the South Wellington neighbourhood remains that of the Cedar schools. Transportation will remain in place between South Wellington and the Cedar area schools. Children currently enrolled at Chase River School are

welcome to continue attending. In the event families require bussing it will be necessary to enroll children at Cedar Elementary school for

September 2016. This can be done by downloading a registration form from the district website or visiting Woodbank, NCI or Chase River schools to pick up a form that can be dropped off at Cedar Elementary.

The second change for Chase River School bussing for the 2016-17 school year impacts the Extension bus route. To accommodate changes to high school bell schedules it will be necessary to start the route pick-ups earlier. It is expected that the Extension bus will arrive at Chase River School at 7:55am. Parents can be reassured that adult supervision will be onsite for the arrival of the bus. The school and district are working to establish a plan to ensure a successful transition to this earlier bus arrival time. One possibility being explored is to start and end the school day earlier. If this schedule change is a viable option, parents will be consulted prior to final decisions being made. Please watch for information coming home regarding a parent meeting where myself and district staff will be on hand to answer questions and hopefully address any concerns.

Thank-you for your patience and understanding as the district strives to become financially sustainable in the face of declining enrollment.

### **Vandalism at Chase River School**

Some time on the evening of Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup> multiple windows were broken on the Cranberry Avenue side of the building and at the Kindergarten end by the staff room. The staff and students are saddened that someone would perform vandalism at our school. Our custodial staff were faced with a massive cleanup job in order to ensure our classroom surfaces were safe for students arriving on Tuesday. During a time of fiscal challenge in the district and province it is frustrating to everyone that we must spend money to repair this senseless damage. If you have any information on who is responsible for the damage done at the school during the extended May 13 – 16 weekend, please contact the Principal, Tricia McKay or our local RCMP. I encourage all our neighbours to keep a watchful eye and report any and all irregular activities surrounding the school. Together as a community we can work to deter this kind of irresponsible behaviour and hold those responsible accountable for their actions.

### **Track and Field**

Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup> is the Zone 5 track meet where Chase River will be competing against NCI, Woodbank, North Oyster, Hammond bay, Forest Park and Seaview. Our top four athletes in each of our school events will be invited to attend the day in preparation for the District Meet scheduled for Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. We expect to have about 70 students participate and encourage parents and families to come out and support our school athletes. Please watch for a permission slip coming home in the very near future.

## **It is Time for Kindergarten Registration**

It is registration time for fall, 2016. Children who turn five before January 1, 2017 can register for Kindergarten this September. If you know families living or moving into our area, please encourage them to register their children. The child's birth certificate and proof of address are needed to register. To obtain an assured space at our school, you must register by June 13, 2016. Out of bounds students needed to apply by March 31, 2016. Opportunities for out of catchment placements will be limited. Priority will be given to those who have siblings already registered at the requested school. All other requests will be honoured in the order in which they are received. More information is available on the school district website, [www.sd68.bc.ca](http://www.sd68.bc.ca)

### **Welcome to Kindergarten**

This is a by invitation opportunity for children registered to attend kindergarten at Chase River School in September, 2016. Children and parents participated in a variety of games and activities designed to introduce many of the important skills for school. This year we had 20 students attend a great event on May 18. Parents and children had the opportunity to meet several staff members who were lending a hand. All children left with a bag of practical supplies and activities that will further enhance their readiness for September. Many thanks to Mrs. Bunce for organizing this exciting event every year

### **Lost and Found**

Our bin and rack are FULL of things lost over the year. Our cool mornings and hot afternoons has resulted in a huge number of clothing items being brought in off the playground. Please take a moment to check out the collection to reclaim that which belongs at your house. We have run out of space and it will soon be necessary to bag up the contents and send it off to the Goodwill. It is always best when things can find their way home instead.



### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

May 23	Victoria day
May 27	Month end assembly
May 30	PAC meeting 6 pm
May 31	Zone track meet
June 9	District track meet
June 21	All school swim
June 29	FINAL DAY – Year end assembly