



Chase River Elementary School Newsletter

1503 Cranberry Avenue, Nanaimo, BC, V9R 6R7
Phone: 250-754-6983 Fax: 250-754-3354

Tricia McKay, Principal

Sandra Fox, Secretary

October, 2016 Volume Two

PRINCIPAL'S COMMENTS

Fall has arrived and with it the cooler weather and inevitable rain. Children are encouraged to dress for the outdoors everyday including rain gear as necessary. When the rain gear and warm jackets start to disappear from the closet remember to check the lost and found rack and bin in the hall way. We already have a number of forgotten items.

As you may be aware, big things are happening in British Columbia at the Ministry of Education. Over the past few years a new approach to teaching and learning has been introduced, researched and is now being implemented in Kindergarten to Grade 9.

This is being done so kids learn the skills they need to succeed in our changing world. With a redesigning of the curriculum we also need to develop a new approach to reporting.

The new provincial curriculum is designed to engage the passions and interests of our students to better meet their personalized needs. With these changes, quality assessment practices and communication of student learning takes on increased significance. The tools we are introducing this year to communicate student learning, will allow for more responsive ways to keep parents informed and involved in their child's school experience.

The district's goal is to design a reporting system that fully engages teachers, students and parents. It is no longer just about the three reporting periods or the report card, but more about how to authentically communicate student learning and support learners in reaching their potential.

School-based and district-wide parent information sessions will occur during the 2016-17 year. More details will be coming home soon about information meeting for Chase River School families.

Sincerely,

Kind Regards,

Tricia McKay
Principal

SCHOOL CLOSURE DUE TO SNOW



It is that time of year again, when the school district would like to remind parents about school closure procedures. The most common reasons that schools might be closed are dangerous road conditions due to a heavy snowfall or ice.

If you are wondering if schools are open on a particular day, for the most current updates listen to local radio stations (WAVE 102.3 FM and WOLF 106.9 FM) in the mornings.

We also attempt to put an announcement of any school closure on the school district website, www.sd68.bc.ca, and on Twitter and Facebook, but our ability to do so could be affected by such things as power outages and technical issues. If there is no announcement on the website or social media, please be sure to listen to local radio stations.

We would like to remind parents that it is their right to make the final decision as to whether it is safe for their children to travel to school on any given day. While the district strives to make the best decision possible for students across the district, there may be circumstances in your neighbourhood that lead you to decide to keep your children home, even though schools are open.



The Great British Columbia Shake Out!

On October 20th at 10:15 am Chase River Elementary will again participate in this GIGANTIC EARTHQUAKE DRILL. Like all schools in Nanaimo / Ladysmith, students practice the Drop, Cover and Hold-on procedure followed by a complete exit from the building. Students learn how to count until the shaking stops and discussed what to do in the event of an earthquake in a variety of circumstances. We encourage all our families to join in on this drill at home or at work. You should be able to tune into local radio stations to follow along.

Parent /Teacher Interviews

Parent / Teacher interviews are scheduled for **Monday, Oct. 17 to Thursday, Oct. 20**. Children are dismissed at the **regular time, 1:27pm, on Monday and 1:07pm for the rest of the week**. Friday is a Professional Development day so the children stay home. Letters have gone home to confirm meeting times. If you are unable to make the assigned meeting time, please contact the school to arrange a mutually agreeable time and dated. Teachers are looking forward to meeting with you to briefly discuss your child/children's progress to date. We hope you will work with your child to establish some social and educational goals for our first term and the year.

Criminal Record Check required for ALL volunteer work in schools!

If you have not already done so, please remember to apply for your free on-line criminal record check well in advance of any planned school activities or trips. All volunteers MUST have a clear CRC from now on in School District 68. CRC's are valid for 5 years total. If you would like to complete an on line application you can find a link on both the district website and Chase River School site. The process is straight forward and requires you correctly answer a series of confidential questions pertaining to your personal history. In most cases the CRC is completed in a few days and the approval is sent to the district office. From there it is forwarded to the school. If however, the applicant's name and or date of birth coincides with another individual who has a criminal record the applicant will be notified by the RCMP that they require further steps to have their CRC approved. The district is not notified when this occurs. Many thanks to those parents who have already completed the process in expectation they will be driving for field trips or helping in the school. As mentioned previously, parents who completed a CRC last year are cleared for 5 years from the date of their approval.

Thanks for helping to support the safety of all our children.

PARKING

One of the big challenges we face at Chase River School is an ongoing lack of safe convenient parking. Drop off and pick-up after school combined with our bus route creates a challenging situation. Sharing the street with the school are homes and small businesses. On several occasions our neighbours have reported collisions, dents and scratches that resulted when parents reverse out of a parking spot and back onto the road. At the end of the day there are many children crossing the road with and without a parent to get to a waiting car, putting themselves at risk. In an effort to create a safer situation at the front of the school I would like to ask parents to reverse into parking spots so that they are driving forward onto the road. Thank you for not parking in the staff parking area. This is not a safe area for students to be moving about. We continue to look at ways to better accommodate the bus and parking situation at the front of the school.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Students in grade 6 and 7 have the opportunity to contribute to the effective day to day running of Chase River School by taking responsibility for a variety of scheduled duties through-out the school and playground. Participation is required for grade 7 students and voluntary for grade 6's. Jobs include tasks like daily announcement, lunch hour office monitor, putting out the flags and road signs. Their contribution makes a difference every day and they are learning important skills like public speaking, answering the phone in a professional manner, and demonstrating responsibility. **Many Thanks!** - to our student leaders.

Chase River Library

Welcome to another school year ☐

It has been fun to see all the students from last year and to say hello to the new ones, some of whom were at my other school last year.

Every class has now visited the library, so you should have seen a book by now. Please help them to remember to keep their books in a safe spot, away from food, drink, pets and younger siblings. A plastic bag goes a long way in ensuring that the books in the back pack don't get damaged by leaking water bottles, lunches and rain.

Some students may also be bringing home a notice for books that have not yet been returned. As of today, there are still over \$300 worth of books that are unaccounted for. If they have been lost, please remit payment for the item to the LIBRARY so the account can be cleared. If payment for lost books is made and the book then found and returned this year, your payment will be refunded. Books and payments for other schools in the district can also be given to me; I will send them to the proper place in the school courier.

I am here on Tuesday afternoons and Friday mornings. Please feel free to pop in if you have any questions.

Div. 6,7 & 8 (Schlitz, Eyres and Preston) have library on Tuesday. All other classes see me on Friday.

Heidi Fargo

Teacher Librarian:

Chase River School, 250-754-6983

CHASE RIVER PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Chase River School Parent Advisory Council would like to invite you to have a look at the PAC board that is set up in the hallway just outside the library. PAC meeting dates will be set later this week and will be posted on this board. They invite all parents to attend the meetings and to be a part of the PAC team. The members are excited to work with you to support the students of Chase River School. Our next PAC meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 19 at 6:30pm in the Library.

2016/17 PAC Executive

Christina Scott- President
Katja Geiger / Jeraldine Marshall –Treasurer
Leah Godfreyson- Secretary
Marley Heiberg - Fundraising Chair

Janeen Teare - Member at Large
Jeanette McGonigle - Member at Large
Joanna Reed - Member at Large
Julie Addison - Member at Large



DAYCARE ARRANGMENTS

On the new Student Information Sheets introduced this year, there was not an opportunity to update changes in family daycare arrangements. This is important information for the school to have in the event of an emergency. If there are changes in your child's afterschool care arrangements, please notify Secretary Sandra Fox with the updates.



*Message from
Education Minister Mike Bernier*

October 4, 2016

Dear Parent,

I'm writing today to ask you to share your opinions with the Ministry of Education as we work to update student reporting in kindergarten through Grade 9. Students in these grades are experiencing B.C.'s new curriculum in classrooms in every part of the province.

We are adapting the curriculum in B.C. schools so kids learn the skills they need to succeed in our changing world. This means we also need to develop a new reporting approach. Right now the progress of your child is reported in many different ways, including report cards, parent teacher meetings, and regular student/parent/teacher check-ins.

Reporting is all about keeping parents like you informed, and we want you to tell us HOW you want to be informed and keep track of your child's progress. Until February 28 next year you can submit your thoughts online at engage.gov.bc.ca/yourkidsprogress.

As well, community meetings will be held in 10 communities across the province over the coming months so parents can ask questions and share their input. Check the website for times and locations as they are scheduled.

The ultimate goal of this engagement is to develop a student reporting process that gives families a deeper understanding of their child's progress at school through timely and comprehensive information. We'll gather the feedback and share our plan next June.

Our education system is one of the most highly ranked in the world. Students are finding success in music, in academics, in sports – and in every subject in between. Together parents, teachers, and the education system are making sure we build on that for an even better tomorrow.

For more details on our new curriculum, please visit www.curriculum.gov.bc.ca.

Thanks for your help,

Mike Bernier
Minister of Education



(Help reduce our carbon footprints)

Parent Emails

We sent notices home this week, hoping to update and confirm all parents email addresses.

By communicating our notices and newsletters via email, it will allow a significant cost savings to our paper supplies and ensure that parents receive pertinent information from our school.

If you would like to receive communications from our school via your email please fill out your current email address in the box provided on the notice return it to our school or visit our Chase River school [website at http://www.sd68.bc.ca](http://www.sd68.bc.ca) to enroll.

If you have already signed up to receive school information electronically, you will begin to receive information via email shortly.

Thank you very much



DATES TO REMEMBER

- October 10 Thanksgiving
- October 11 Picture Day
- October 17–20 Parent/Teacher Interviews (early dismissal)
- October 21 ProD Day
- October 28 Month End Assembly
- October 31st Costume Parade 9:30am and Dance 12:15-1:20pm

DATES TO REMEMBER

- November 8 Photo Retakes 1:00 pm
- November 10 Remembrance Day Assembly
- November 11 Remembrance Day
- November 25 Month End Assembly