

# CHASE RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1503 Cranberry Avenue

Nanaimo, BC V9R 6R7

Phone: 250-754-6983

Mr. David Cooper, Principal

Mrs. Christine De Vries, Secretary

September 2020

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the entire Chase River Staff, a big welcome back to all of our returning families and a big welcome to Chase River to our new families. As a staff, we are delighted to be back in session and are looking forward to getting things underway. This is going to be a different year for all us. COVID-19 has changed the way we all do things in our day to day lives. This will be true for our schools as well, but one thing I have learned is that kids are resilient and often they are the ones to teach us how to do the right thing. 😊

This newsletter is to give families more information about what school will be like this year. Next Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup> another newsletter will be sent to families that will provide general information about the year ahead.

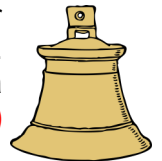
Sincerely,

David Cooper



## 2020-2021 BELL SCHEDULE

Our bell schedule has changed this year. This year our bell schedule is the same all five days! 8:35-2:15 Monday to Friday. A friendly reminder that supervision begins 15 minutes before each morning bell, and ends 15 minutes after the dismissal bells daily. Students should not be left unsupervised by a parent or guardian outside of these times. Students should *not* arrive at school before the official supervision begins for safety reasons unless they have a practice or rehearsal in the morning. **Due to COVID we ask students be dropped off (or arrive by walking/bike) as close to 8:35 as possible and leave as close to 2:15 as possible.**



Day	Start	am Recess	Lunch	End
Monday – Friday	8:35	10:15-10:30	11:45 - 12:20	2:15

## START-UP & OPENING DAYS

**THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> STUDENTS IN GRADES 1-7 (LAST NAME A-L) AND FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> (LAST NAME M-Z) ATTEND SCHOOL FROM 8:35-10:35 AM. IF YOUR FAMILY HAS BLENDED NAMES, WHERE ONE CHILD'S LAST NAME ENDS IN THE A-L RANGE, AND ANOTHER IN THE M-Z RANGE, SEND THEM ON THE A-L DAY (THURSDAY) SO YOU'RE NOT STRADDLING BOTH DAYS WITH YOUR FAMILY. WE WILL BE NOTIFYING FAMILIES WHERE THEIR CHILD NEEDS TO LINE UP AS SOON AS WE HAVE THIS INFORMATION FINALIZED.**

KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS HAVE A GRADUAL ENTRY PLAN THAT HAS BEEN SHARED WITH FAMILIES.



## STAFFING UPDATE

We would like to welcome all of our returning staff members and welcome the following people to Chase River:

- Ms. Jordan Ross (Classroom teacher – here until January 25<sup>th</sup> – then Ms. Aspen returns)
- Ms. Carolyn Broadhurst (Counselor)
- Mrs. Lauren Baetz (SST – part time)
- Ms. Lara Nikitas (school psychologist)

## CLASSROOM PLACEMENTS

This year, due to COVID-19 and the learning group model it is anticipated students will be walking into their 2020-2021 assigned class placement on either Thursday September 10<sup>th</sup> or Friday September 11<sup>th</sup>. Please be aware that depending on our final enrollment this could be changed.

### Educational Criteria for Assigning Students to Classes

The placement of students is determined by the school team of sending teachers, administration and professional staff and is based on the best educational fit for the student, the class and for the school. Our teachers work together with the Principal, student support teachers and the counselor to put classes together. This is a long process for staff and we appreciate parents for trusting staff and the integrity of the process used to create divisions at Chase River while accommodating new students at the same time. Parents must recognize that their letters of student placement request are considered but may not be granted. A thorough process takes place when considering placing students into classes for the year, the following criteria are followed:

- Instructional groupings that are best suited to the learning needs of all students.
- NLPS Inclusion Policies and Procedures
- Provincial and local Collective Agreement language re: class size and composition
- Social and cultural issues including student independence, interactions with other students, leadership opportunities
- Social-emotional and behavioral considerations
- Physical and social maturation
- Learning strengths & needs balanced with teaching strategies and styles
- Social groupings



## PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

The District will be providing two reusable masks for each staff member and student. Masks are not required within learning groups; however individuals may choose to wear them. Adults will adhere to the physical distancing measures and will wear masks or establish a physical barrier when interacting with individuals outside their learning cohorts. Students will need to refrain from physical contact, including during recess outside.



Social distance, please



## GENERAL ORGANIZATION

As per the Ministry of Education's directions, we will be organizing our divisions into learning cohorts of a maximum of 60. As much as we have been able, we have grouped students into grade-like learning cohorts. Remember that most of the time your child is inside the school, your child will just be interacting with their classmates and classroom teacher.



## HEALTH CHECKS

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____
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We are asking parents/guardians to do a health check of your child(ren) before leaving home every morning. **If your child is feeling unwell (has a temperature, cough, chills, nasal congestion, headache, fatigue, sore muscles, running nose, sneezing, sore throat, hoarseness, wheezing, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, diarrhea, vomiting) please keep them home until they are well and do not have any other symptoms.** Note: if any of these symptoms are due to a verified pre-existing medical condition (ie. Asthma or allergies), the child is welcome to come to school.

Parents will be required to sign a form indicating that they will facilitate a daily health check with their child(ren) each day before school coming soon.

Students who fall ill while at school will be supervised in an isolated area. Parents or parental designate will need to come immediately to pick up their child. Siblings will not be sent home unless that is parental choice. If a student has cold, influenza, or COVID-19 like symptoms, the parents should seek assessment by a health care provider, follow their advice AND self-isolate while they await the results. If a family is unsure if a child should self-isolate or be tested for COVID-19, please use the BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool <https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en>

If still concerned, please phone 8-1-1 or the local public health unit for further input.

## VISITING THE SCHOOL

As much as we enjoy having parents and visitors in our building, we are not be able to open our doors to you at this time. Rather call us at 250-754-6983 and we will assist you as best we can. If you need to speak with your child's teacher you can email them or **leave a phone message at the office for a call back.**



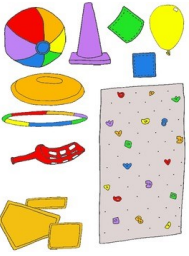
## INSIDE SHOES

Please provide inside shoes for your child(ren) to wear inside the school and gym. They should be either white soled or non-marking soles. Inside shoes may be kept inside each student's cubby.



## GYM/PE

Classes will be using the gym for Physical Education occasionally. PE will be outside as much as possible. Students are encouraged to bring their own equipment to school for their own use during gym and recess. More information to come later about this.



## WATER BOTTLES

Students are encouraged to bring a full water bottle with them each day. They can use the water fill station, but all water fountains will be closed.



## LIBRARY AND MUSIC

Until further notice, Library/Book Exchange and Music will take place in the general classrooms. Students will not travel to the library or music room.



## FOOD/TREATS

Unfortunately for health and safety reasons, there is no sharing of food amongst students. This means families cannot send birthday treats to share with classmates. The school will not be able to provide snacks until further notice.

Please ensure that your child(ren) have a snack and lunch with them every day.



## SCHOOL SUPPLIES



A reminder that the school has purchased school supplies for students. Families will receive information about payment to the school in the near future.

*We will see you on Thursday or Friday*



back to  
School

