



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 2022

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

It was so wonderful to see Chase River students return to the building last week. We are looking forward to a new year of learning and fun. Students are getting settled into their classes and being reminded of expectations in the classroom and school as a whole.

As usual in September, staff are taking time to get to know their new class and build relationships. Staff will also be assessing where students are in the core academic areas to determine their learning needs for the year. It is always important for there to be a bridge between home and school. Please take time each day to support your child's learning by asking questions about what they are learning and having them demonstrate that learning. Reading nightly is an essential part of a child's education and they are never too old to read with their parents or guardians.

This year has a bit more normalcy than the last couple of start ups. Although there is not as much direct discussion about COVID, we are still reminding students about good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette. We still ask that if your child is feeling sick to please keep them home from school.

I look forward to another great year at Chase River.

Welcome and all the best this school year.

Sincerely,

David Cooper



2022-2023 BELL SCHEDULE

Our bell schedule remains the same as last year, 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.



ARRIVING LATE

The beginning of each school day is a very valuable time. Being late to class can impact your child's day as critical information (ie shape of the day) is covered early on, as are the morning announcements. Being late can also cause distractions for students and staff.

Please ensure your child arrives to school by 8:35 to maximize their learning at school.

WE ARE GLAD YOU
CAME TO SCHOOL



EARLY DETECTION—PHONING IN ABSENCES



The early detection system is for the safety of all students at Chase River. We have a 24-hr voice mail so please report students who will be absent or late as early as possible in the morning (or even the night before). This program is for the safety of your child. **All absences and lates should be called in.** When leaving a message please state your child's name, teacher name, division and if they are ill, at an appointment, or on vacation. If a call is not made, families will receive an automated call from School Messenger to check on your child. Please respond to this call by phoning the school office to confirm your child's absence or lateness.



SAFETY DRILLS

Throughout the year we conduct numerous safety drills to ensure students and staff will know what to do in the event we ever have an emergency. There are three different kinds of drills we practice:



Fire Drills: after an alarm is sounded the students line up in a quiet fashion and exit the building through the closest door. Classes gather on the back hockey court and check in their attendance to ensure all staff and students are accounted for. There are six drills a year. We are holding our first one on Friday, September 16.

Earthquake Drills: an announcement is placed on the school PA system and the sounds of an earthquake are played for 60 seconds. Students get under their desks, cover their heads, and are instructed to face away from windows. During this time, they count until the sound effect has stopped. They then count to 60 again to account for any aftershocks or possible falling debris. After this time, students are taught to carefully move from under their desks and prepare to exit the building. Classes gather on the back hockey court and check in their attendance to ensure all staff and students are accounted for. There are two drills a year. We are planning to hold a full earthquake drill on September 27. More details about this drill will be shared soon.

Lockdown Drills: are intended to be used in response to an imminent and serious safety or security threat. A lockdown drill requires all staff and students to stay in their classrooms with the doors locked. Any students that are not in their class at the time would report to the closest classroom. During a lockdown all doors of the school are locked and no one will be granted access to the school until an "All Clear" signal can be given. There are two drills a year. After we complete a lockdown drill a letter is always sent to families with details of the drill.

CELL PHONES/ELECTRONICS

As a school staff, we understand the importance of phone communication between parents and students before and after school. We have a "bell-to-bell" policy for cell phones. Cell phones brought to school must be turned off and stored in a backpack, prior to entering the building. Cell phones must be stored in backpacks and are not permitted to be brought out at any point during the school day-unless specifically asked to by their teacher for educational purposes. This is the responsibility of the student possessing the phone. After school, phones may be turned on and used outside of the school building. Cell phones are not to be removed from backpacks or used in hallways, classrooms, foyers or anywhere within the school building.



We understand that there may be times when parents need to immediately contact their children. At Chase River, it is always possible for parents to communicate with their children in an emergency, via the main office.

There should be no electronics like personal gaming devices brought to school.

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

ONLINE PAYMENT SYSTEM

School District 68 has gone cashless. All transactions will now be through online payment. Cash and personal cheques can be made to the office if you do not have online access. Parents will need to sign up for an account in order to access this system. Anything requiring payment will be put on the site for online payment.



SCHOOL SUPPLIES/PLANNERS

The cost per student this year will be one fee of \$50.00 that includes both the supplies and the planner.

Online payment for this is available now. Cash and cheques to the office are also acceptable. Please make cheques payable to SD68.

NEWSLETTERS AND NOTICES

Monthly newsletters will be sent out via email and posted on the school's website on the third Thursday of the month. In addition, Mr. Cooper sends out a weekly email on Friday with information for the following week. Mr. Cooper or Mrs. De Vries may send out email messages during the week to share information as needed.



IMPORTANT DATES

These are key dates at this time. We will update families about events as they arise. Also check the school website regularly. Our calendar there is updated frequently.



Terry Fox Run	Thur. Sept 22
Picture Day	Fri, Sept 23
Orange Shirt Day	Thur. Sept 29
National Day of Truth and Reconciliation	Thur. Sept 30
Thanksgiving (Students do not attend)	Mon. Oct 10
Photo Retakes	Mon. Oct 17
Parent/Teacher Conferences-Early Dismissal	Wed. Oct 19
Parent/Teacher Conferences-Early Dismissal	Thur. Oct 20
Pro-D (Province-wide) (Students do not attend)	Fri. Oct 21
Pro-D (Students do not attend)	Mon. Oct 24
Remembrance Day (Students do no attend)	Fri. Nov 11
Last Day before Holiday	Fri. Dec 16
First Day Back	Tues. Jan 3
Professional Day (Students do not attend)	Mon. Feb 6
Professional Day (Students do not attend)	Tues. Feb 7
BC Family Day (Students do not attend)	Mon. Feb 20
Pink Shirt Day	Wed. Feb 22
Last Day before Spring Break	Fri. Mar 10
First Day Back after Spring Break	Mon. Mar 27
Parent/Teacher Conferences-Early Dismissal	Wed. Apr 5
Parent/Teacher Conferences-Early Dismissal	Thur. Apr 6
Good Friday	Fri. Apr 7
Easter Monday	Mon. Apr 10
Curriculum Implementation Day—School Closed	Thur. May 11
Professional Day (Students do not attend)	Fri. May 12
Victoria Day (Students do not attend)	Mon. May 22
Last Day of School (Dismissal at 2:15)	Wed. Jun 29
Administration Day	Fri. Jun 30

VISITORS

Visitors are welcome to be in the school, but they must have a pre-arranged appointment. Visitors will need to sign in at the office. Please do not come into the school if you are feeling sick.



There are times throughout the year where volunteers are needed.

The following is needed in order to volunteer at the school:

- ◆ Volunteer Form—available at the office; school website or district website
- ◆ Driver Volunteer Form—available at the office; school website or district website
- ◆ Driver Abstract—available from ICBC online
- ◆ Criminal Record Check: All volunteers have to have a Criminal Record Check done using the following link <https://justice.gov.bc.ca/criminalrecordcheck> and the access code you need to enter is: UQ4T7XXBHE.—Information sheet available from the school office.

BUS PASS UPDATE



SD68 School Bus Passes—(Z-pass) have been delayed. Distribution will be in October, in the meantime all registered riders can travel on the school bus without the pass. Once passes are distributed all students will have to scan the Z-pass every time they enter or exit a bus.

CHASE RIVER WEBSITE

We want to bring to your attention our school website. Our calendar is kept up to date and all of our newsletters are posted there. Check us out at: <https://cr.schools.sd68.bc.ca/>



Have a Wonderful Month