



Chase River Elementary School Newsletter

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School Goals – 2008/2009

Goal #1 – To improve student achievement in reading.

Goal #2 – To maintain and increase the level of respect, courtesy, cooperation, and responsibility in all students from Kindergarten to Grade 7. We endeavour to continue to create a safe and responsible learning environment.

PRINCIPAL'S COMMENTS

On behalf of the staff of Chase River School, I would like to extend a hearty welcome to all Chase River pupils and parents. Hopefully, you have enjoyed a restful and memorable summer vacation. I would also like to extend an especially warm welcome to those families that are new to the school and the community. We look forward to the experience of working with your children.

I am excited to meet you and work energetically together with you, the students, and our committed staff, making learning priority #1 at the school. I feel privileged to be able to work together with such a dedicated staff team and together we will work hard to help your child become the most successful and compassionate learner he or she can be this year! Together with you we want to see your child make strong progress this year, especially in our school goal areas of literacy and social responsibility. If we are to do this we need to work actively together with you. It is my belief that optimal educational growth for students is promoted by an active partnership between the school and the home. I'd encourage parents to make the effort to get to know their child's teacher(s) and to get involved in activities around the school. Feel free to come by the office to introduce yourself.

I look forward to plenty of memorable learning experiences for students and staff alike.
- Larry Dean

A BIG THANK YOU

While most of us were away on vacation, others were busy cleaning and preparing the school for start up. Our caretaker, Graham Fisher did a superb job of cleaning and polishing our hallways and classrooms—the school looks great!

FIRST WEEK

All of us – parents, teachers and principals – want to get students settled into their permanent classes as soon as possible. The ideal situation would be if we could know on the first day of school what class your child will be assigned to and what teacher he or she will have. Unfortunately, that is often not possible.

It takes us several days after school starts to know exactly how many students we will have enrolled this year. Some families may have moved away during the summer, and other families are on waiting lists hoping that their children can be enrolled at our school.

Because of uncertainty of enrollments, the children were kept in grade groupings this morning to let us get a handle on new registrations. We will continue to use these grade groupings for the next few days. Adjustments will be made to the tentative class lists and students will receive class placements as soon as possible. Therefore, tomorrow morning, students are asked to report to the same grade level location as today. Please do not bring supplies until class placements have been completed.

Thank you in advance for your understanding as we work to do what is best for all.

STAFFING

Please take time to get to know our skilled and caring staff members at Chase River. We welcome the following new staff to Chase River: Educational Assistants Wendy MacDonald, Vanessa Betcher, Rowan Butler and Annina Cavezza, Aboriginal Educational Assistant Joann Heath, and Counsellor Dave Cutts.

We welcome back the teachers Mr. Russell Greenway, Mrs. Susan Schlitz, Mrs. Maureen Arabsky, Mrs. Carol Lepage, Mrs. Cyndy Avender, Mrs. Yvonne Bunce, and Mrs. Elsa Armstrong (Learning Assistance).

We are pleased to have Mrs. Janice Brantner back as our librarian and Mrs. Susan Latour back as our music teacher. Mrs. Latour will also teach in a primary room every 2nd Friday.

We welcome back Educational Assistants Mrs. Jan Turner, and Mrs. Linda Timmermans.

We are very pleased to have Laura Read back in the office keeping things running smoothly, Graham Fisher as our custodian keeping the school looking great and Holly Robertshaw keeping our school safe during the noon hour break.

CHASE RIVER PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Chase River School Parent Advisory Council would like to invite all parents and guardians to our first general meeting of the 2008/09 school term on Monday, Sept. 15th at 6:30 p.m. Babysitting will be provided.

OPEN HOUSE

Our school will be having an Open House on Wednesday, September 24th, 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. We hope that all of you will be able to attend.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

Please be reminded that SCHOOL WILL NOT BE IN SESSION ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22nd.



SCHOOL HOURS

* Please note times for early dismissal on Wednesdays.

8:45 a.m.	First bell (students enter class)
8:50 a.m.	School begins
11:20 a.m.	Lunch recess
11:59 a.m.	Start of classes (students eat lunch)
1:20 – 1:35 p.m.	PM Recess
1:30 p.m.	Wednesday dismissal
2:40 p.m.	Dismissal (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday)

VISITORS WELCOME

At Chase River we are committed to making sure that all guests enjoy their visit and will return in the future. Guests include such people as retired individuals, parents, student teachers, work experience students, district personnel as well as members of our college/universities. We need your help to make your visit a success. For each visit, please follow this routine:

1. Check in at the office – sign the white sign-in sheet and be sure to include all information (this is helpful in the event of such emergencies as earthquakes and fires or for important phone messages).
2. From the office, find a name tag (wearing this quickly identifies you as someone who belongs in our school).
3. When your visit is complete, please return your tag, and sign out on the sign-in sheet (again, during emergencies this is very helpful).

Bus Schedule for 2008/09



Route #9

Extension to Chase River Elementary

1877 Nanaimo River Road	7:58 am
Twilight/Nanaimo River Road	8:00 am
Nanaimo River Rd./McDonald Rd.	8:04 am
White Rapids/Nanaimo River Rd.	8:09 am
Steelhead Trail/River Terrace	8:11 am
Godfrey Road/Welding Shop	8:14 am
Extension Elementary	8:18 am
Chase River Elementary	8:25 am
Leave Chase River School	2:50 pm
Wednesday	1:30 pm

KINDERGARTEN IMMUNIZATION CLINICS

Keep your child healthy and prevent the spread of vaccine-preventable diseases to other children. For an appointment, call 755-3342, Nanaimo Health Centre, 1665 Grant Avenue.

If you need to have your child's record requested from an outside region or doctor's office, please call early 755-3342. (Call if transportation is a difficulty).

BACK TO SCHOOL TIPS TO KEEP KIDS SAFE

All Students

- * Find a safe route to and from school and practice the route with your children.
- * Discuss traffic safety issues like crossing the street and safely boarding the school bus.
- * Identify safe places along the route such as a friend's house or a store your children can go to if they encounter trouble.
- * Discuss how to safely interact with strangers.

Intermediate Students

- * Help your children pack their backpacks and ensure that they are no more than 10 to 20 per cent of the child's bodyweight.
- * Make sure children always use both shoulder straps. Slings a backpack over one shoulder can strain muscles and may increase curvature of the spine.
- * Talk to them about appropriate behaviour at school and what to do if they encounter an instance of bullying behaviour.
- * Discuss their route to school and note any changes in safe places as friends move to or from the neighbourhood.
- * Ensure that they always wear a helmet when riding a bicycle or scooter.
- * Help your kids understand how to safely surf the Internet and how to protect their privacy.



BACK TO SCHOOL TIPS FOR HEALTHY STUDENTS

All Students:

- * Insist on breakfast. It helps maintain a healthy weight and

provides necessary fuel for the brain to learn.

- * Make it easy. Keep nutritional snacks, like cut-up fruit and vegetables, cheese sticks, low-fat yogurt and butter-free popcorn, on hand.

- * Schedule regular medical and dental checkups.

Primary Students

- * Encourage your children to eat a variety of fruits and vegetables by packing healthy snacks in their lunches.
- * Let them help pack their lunch so they can learn to make healthy choices early on.
- * Encourage your children to choose milk and water at meal times.
- * Introduce your children to active games they can play on their own. This can include inventing new dances, jump rope, or hopscotch. When there are more children, they can play tag, frisbee, baseball or soccer.
- * Set a regular teeth-brushing routine.

Intermediate Students

- * Continue to encourage healthy eating habits. Teenagers have different nutritional needs, so be sure to consult the Canada Food Guide.
- * Encourage your children to walk or ride their bike instead of getting a ride in the car whenever feasible.
- * Take the dog for a walk before and after school.
- * Teach your children to eat less-nutritious foods infrequently and in moderation.

BACK TO SCHOOL TIPS TO IMPROVE LITERACY

Primary Students

- * Let your children see you read, and set aside time each day for family reading.
- * Ask your children to read to you from a storybook while you cook dinner. Talk to them about what they read.
- * Help your children get a library card and take weekly trips to the library.
- * Encourage your children to keep a journal. Younger students can use pictures instead of words.

Intermediate Students

- * Set up a homework area away from the TV with adequate supplies and lighting.
- * When it is time for them to do homework, do yours. Balance your cheque book, pay your bills, or immerse yourself in a book. It will reinforce strong study habits.
- * Help your children figure out what is challenging homework and what is easy homework. Do the difficult work first so they will be most alert when facing the biggest challenges. Easy material will seem to go fast when fatigue begins to set in.
- * Be available to answer questions and offer assistance, but never do a child's homework for them.
- * Ask your children questions about what they read to encourage them to explain what they have just read.
- * Encourage your children to write stories and poetry.

“WRAPPERLESS FOOD”

Our environment is a precious commodity. We must do all we can to save it now! Our school believes very strongly that we establish a life long concern for the environment in each and every student. One way we accomplish this is to train the students to think in terms of REDUCING the amount of garbage they produce.

At Chase River, we will be encouraging a “wrapperless food” program outside at recess and at lunch. Students are encouraged to take reusable containers (Tupperware or thermos) outside or have their juice at lunchtime while they are in their classroom. We invite you to help with the “garbage free” lunches that students are being encouraged to bring to school. Together we can make a difference. We must all become part of the solution and not part of the problem.

SEPTEMBER SPORTS/ACTIVITIES

Girls soccer: Bantam and Peewee

Boys Flag football: Bantam and Peewee

Cross country: open to all students

Students will have the opportunity to sign-up to participate in the first week of school.

STUDENT INFORMATION FORMS

A student information form will be sent home with students at the end of the week. It is important that **both sides** of this form are completed accurately, signed and returned to the school as soon as possible.

SCHOOL DIST. #68 TERRY FOX MARATHON OF HOPE

On Friday, September 12th our school will be participating in our traditional Terry Fox Run. Parents and extended family members are invited to join us for our symbolic Terry Fox Run.

Starting Sept. 3rd until September 12th students will be encouraged to bring money in for cancer research. Two containers will be set up by the office, one for the boys and the other for the girls. If any parents can assist with collecting, rolling and counting coins for this event it certainly would be appreciated. Please contact the office if you can help. We are also looking for traffic control assistance for the whole school Terry Fox Run, please contact Mr. Dean if you can provide any assistance.

On Monday, September 8th, we will be having an assembly about the Terry Fox Run at 2:00 p.m. Parents and extended family are welcome to attend this assembly.

LUNCHTIME PROCEDURES

Just a reminder to students and parents, students will be dismissed for lunch at 11:20 a.m. and return to class at 11:59 a.m. to eat lunch. As students eat lunch classroom teachers will be reading to them.



NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION AND COMMENT SLIP

Rather than send newsletters home with every child in the school, after this newsletter we will be sending them with only the youngest child in each family. This way you will not receive duplicate notices and we will be conserving paper. At the end of each newsletter, you will notice a tear-off slip for you to sign and return to the school with your child. This will assist us in monitoring whether or not our newsletters are arriving in your home. The tear-off also has a section where you may include comments that you have regarding the information in the newsletter. Prompt return of your comment slip will make you eligible for a draw to win a \$10 gift certificate to Chapters Book store. If parents/businesses wish to donate any prizes for future comment slip draws, please feel free to contact the office.

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

This year the students and staff of Chase River Elementary will be participating in a fundraising campaign in order to earn money for student activities. In early October, we will be starting the Magazine Subscription Campaign. More information will be sent home with the students later in September. If any parents could assist collecting subscriptions from students and counting money, please contact the office. On behalf of the students and staff, thank you in advance for your participation.

STUDENT PHOTOS

Individual photos will be taken on Monday, September 29th. Information will be sent home before that date.



GETTING A GREAT START TO MAKE YOUR CHILD'S YEAR A SUCCESS

How you start the school year can determine how well the rest of the year will go. Teachers, counselors and parents say doing these things helps ensure children get off to a great start:

- * Review safety lessons – how to walk to school safely or ride the bus; classroom and school rules for behaviour.
- * Provide the supplies. Let your child go with you to buy them. This will help him/her get excited about school.
- * Put your child's name on things so they won't get lost.
- * Set the scene for homework. Match the environment to your child's work style. Some children need quiet. Others are helped by a little sound – like classical music.
- * Start your morning at night. Help your child choose the days clothes. Pack lunch. Gather homework and sign school papers. Line up breakfast.
- * Establish bedtime and homework routines. Pick a time that your child will do homework and go to bed. Then stick to it.
- * Don't overschedule your child. Give him/her time to unwind after school – especially during the first few weeks of adjusting. Make sure he/she has free time to just play every day.
- * Meet your child's teacher. How can you help him/her? Ask about homework. How can you help your child at home.
- * Teach respect by showing respect. Say "please" and "thank you" to your child.
- * Be genuinely interested in your child's school work. Ask about school every day. Ask him/her to teach you what he's/she's learning.
- * Say at least one positive thing to your child each day.
 - * Insist that your child try hard to be a good student. If school is important to you, it will be important to him/her.

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 2	School Opens
	Student Registration from 11:00 – 12:00
September 3	First day of classes (Grades 1 – 7)
September 8	Terry Fox assembly 2pm
September 12	Terry Fox Run
September 15	PAC Meeting at 6:30pm
September 22	Pro D Day (no school)
September 24	Wacky Wednesday—Crazy Hat Day!
September 24	Month end assembly
September 24	Open House from 6:30 – 7:30pm
September 29	Student Photos

Parent Volunteer Form

At Chase River Elementary, we view the educational process as a shared commitment between the school and the home. It is vital that close contacts be maintained. As an important component of this process, we encourage parents to volunteer their time and talents at the school it at all possible. Please look over the list and indicate any areas where you would be able to help out during the coming school year. Please return the list to your child's teacher as soon as possible.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent Health Team | <input type="checkbox"/> Block Parent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Library Helper | <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Helper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Listening to kids read | <input type="checkbox"/> Baking for school lunches/functions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Making classroom material | <input type="checkbox"/> Class parent – for Mr(s) _____ class |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helping with hot lunches | <input type="checkbox"/> Coaching sports teams (Sport _____) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helping on a parent committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Bulletin boards (set up) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bug Busting team | |

Are there days you cannot help? Please list: _____

Child's name: _____

Div. _____

Parent's name: _____

Phone _____

Chase River School Comment Slip

Newsletter No. 1 It is important that all comment slips are signed and returned to the school to indicate that you have received this letter. If you have any comments regarding the information in this newsletter, you may also include them below. Thank you.

Student's Name: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

Slips returned will be included in a draw for a \$10 gift certificate from Chapters Books.