

# Eye of the Cyclone

## Cilaire Elementary School

25 Cilaire Drive  
Nanaimo BC V9S 3C9  
School website:

Telephone: 758-7941  
Fax: 751-8840  
<http://schools.sd68.bc.ca/cilaire>



September 20, 2010

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome back to Cilaire! The staff of Cilaire are excited and looking forward to another wonderful year with you and your children. I would like to welcome all the new students and families to Cilaire.

As we start the new year we do have a few changes at Cilaire. As many of you are aware, Mrs. Carlson and Mrs. Rogers did not return to Cilaire. Mr. Chantrell will be teaching the grade 5/6 class with Mr. Ireland. At this time we have not learned who the successful candidate for the grade 3/4 class is (teaching one day a week in Mr. Hird's class) but I am hopeful that we will find out early this week.

I look forward to another great year and working together with you and the whole community. Your involvement in your child's daily school experiences are vital. Be sure to take the time to chat with your child each day about his/her classroom activities, provide a regular homework and reading time, and check their planners for information from school. Working together, we will strive to provide the best possible education for your children.

At last count we have 145 families as part of the Cilaire school community. To save paper and to get information to you in a timely fashion, I would like to continue to send out newsletters and some other notices electronically via email. If you would like to sign up for this option, please indicate this on the tear-off slip at the end of this newsletter. Please note that if you received your newsletters, etc electronically last year, you will continue to receive them in this format unless you contact us to change this option.

Once again, on behalf of the entire team at Cilaire, welcome back!

Mr. Mike Ireland  
Principal

### STAFF FOR 2010-11

Mr. Mike Ireland	Principal
Mrs. Darlene Ludvigson	Secretary
Mr. Al Drexhage	Classroom Teacher
Mr. Mike Silvertown	Classroom Teacher
Mr. Gary Chantrell	Classroom Teacher
Mrs. Deirdre Glaros	Classroom Teacher

Mr. Ken Hird	Classroom Teacher
Mr. Ken Gillies	Classroom Teacher
Mrs. Diane Jensen	Classroom Teacher
Ms. Elisa Orton	Classroom Teacher
Mrs. Maureen Hancock	Learning Support Teacher
Mrs. Cathy Fowler	Librarian/Classroom Teacher
Mrs. Lonnie Moddle	Music
Mrs. Barb Jubenville	Grade 7 Band
Mrs. Paula Kuffler	Counsellor
Ms. Wendy deGraff	Speech/Language
Mrs. Karen Lewis	Educational Assistant
Ms. Capri Koster	Educational Assistant
Ms. Saralee Stremel	Educational Assistant
Ms. Laura Langstaff	Aboriginal Educational Assistant

### PRO-D DAY

Our first Professional Development Day is on Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. This day will be different from previous September PD days in that all school staff of School District #68 will meet at Dover Bay Secondary in the morning. In the afternoon, the staff at Cilaire will be return to the school and focus on how to better implement our school growth plan. September 27<sup>th</sup> is a day students are not in attendance.

### PHOTO DAY

Individual photographs for Cilaire students will be taken on September 21<sup>st</sup>, beginning at 9:00 am. Information should have been received at home last week.

### OPEN HOUSE

We invite each and every parent to the Open House which will be held on Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 pm. This is an opportunity for everyone to come and meet all their children's teachers. It is a marvelous opportunity for parents, children, and staff to meet each other.

Please remember, this is an evening for general discussion, it is not an evening to discuss individual children. If you have any specific questions about your child, please do not hesitate to make an appointment with the teacher for a mutually convenient time.

## **SCHOOL GOALS**

This year at Cilaire we have chosen one main area where we would like to focus our attention: Literacy (Making Connections).

Goal #1: Improving the skill of "Visualization" – To increase students' ability to 'visualize' while they are reading to increase their understanding (comprehension) in what they read in all curricular areas. As well, we want to improve our students' writing ability through the implicit teaching of writing skills

## **LATES**

Last year there was a large number of students who were late on a consistent basis. To promote responsibility and a value for education, we will be enforcing a stricter policy in regards to late arrival at school. When students are late, they often miss information given first thing in the morning, basic directions on a task, and disrupt the learning environment of the rest of the class. Sometimes students are late due to medical, dental or other appointments, these are the exceptions and we understand they will occur. Outlined below is the policy in regards to all other lates, please review it carefully with your child(ren).

*"It is a matter of common courtesy to arrive for classes at the proper time and students are encouraged to develop lifelong habits of promptness.*

*Students who arrive late often disrupt the operation of the classroom by requiring the attention of their teachers or classmates to assist them in getting started on their assignments or to re-teach all or part of a lesson.*

*To encourage and promote responsibility, students who are late for school will be asked to make up missed time on Thursday and Friday at Small recess for 15 minutes of silent reading. Chronic cases will be documented with a letter home and contact with the family to come up with a plan to reduce the number of lates."*

Thank you in advance for your support with helping us develop responsible student citizens at Cilaire Elementary School.

## **STUDENT FORMS**

During the first few of weeks, students will come home with a number of important forms to be filled out and returned to the school. The student information form is used to update all of our information which is required by the Ministry of Education. In addition, we collect information related to parental permission, volunteer drivers, and medical information. The gathering of medical information is vital if there are any medic-alert or medical administration needs which the school will need to address. Please complete and return these forms

immediately. Additional forms requesting further information will be distributed upon the medical condition being dealt with.

## **CONTACTING THE SCHOOL**

Throughout the year, if problems or concerns arise, or if you have any suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact the school promptly. The telephone number is 758-7941.

If, at any time, you wish to make an appointment to meet with any of the teachers please contact the school secretary, Mrs. Ludvigson, who will arrange a meeting time that is mutually convenient for both you and the teacher.

## **STUDENT EXPECTATIONS/BEHAVIOUR**

During the first few weeks of a new school term, it is very important for students to review and to understand what will be the expected behaviour both in the classroom and on the playground. Throughout the year the following will be emphasized so that a safe and non-threatening environment can be maintained.

Students are expected to:

- Act in a safe and responsible manner, recognizing and respecting the rights of others as well as their own.
- Develop the use of self-discipline.
- Be courteous at all times; and
- Achieve to the best of their ability.

## **LUNCH HOUR EXPECTATIONS**

Students are encouraged to go home for lunch whenever possible, particularly if they are within walking distance of the school. However, it is understood and appreciated that many students will need to remain at school over the lunch period. ***Pupils eating lunch at school must adhere to the classroom lunch expectations and are not able to leave the school grounds during the noon hour without permission from their teacher(s) and written parental permission.*** We strongly urge parents to not give permission for their child(ren) to go to the mall or Tim Horton's.

Expectations for pupils remaining at school over the lunch break requires everyone's understanding. The following is basically the system that will be used and with cooperation from all, can be effective. Pupils will:

- play outdoors from 12:03 noon until 12:45 p.m. Mondays – Thursdays and 11:33 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. on Fridays
- eat their lunch after the play period
- remain in their respective seats to eat their lunch. This is a good habit to develop as it

usually reflects the positive pattern set at home for the eating of meals.

- Speak only at a normal conversational level of voice should they wish to talk to a neighbour in their immediate seating area.

Consequences for failure to meet these expectations will be implemented. Parents will be informed of inappropriate behaviour. The consequences will be escalated to where a student may lose the privilege of remaining at school for lunch for a period of time.

## **SCHOOL HANDBOOK**

The current school parent/pupil handbook (for grades 1 – 4) has been included in the student day planners. Basic school policies, procedures and programs are outlined in these introductory pages. For grades 5 – 7 we will be sending this home as a separate booklet. ***Please note, the Cilaire School Code of Conduct is provided in the student handbook. Please be sure to review this with your child, we will be going over it in class also. Thank you.*** We hope that this format will serve as a useful reference for use throughout the school year.

## **STUDENT SAFETY**

If your child rides a bicycle to school, please review the rules of the road with him/her and ensure he/she has a bike lock. Bicycle helmets are mandatory for all riders. It is a good idea to have your child's name on the helmet. Also, students walking to and from school must use designated sidewalks and crosswalks.

For students crossing Brechin Road, School District 68 has hired Mrs. Joyce as a crossing guard. Please ensure your child(ren) follow her instructions at all times. As well, students on bikes and skateboards MUST dismount prior to crossing this extremely busy intersection.

## **STUDENT PROPERTY**

To assist the school with the return of any student property, should the need arise, it would be greatly appreciated if all school items and articles of clothing such as jackets, hats and gym strip were labeled with your child's name. Please check the Lost and Found periodically for lost items. Thank you.

## **CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY**

Students are issued with several textbooks, supplies, equipment, etc., throughout the school year. It is the pupil's responsibility to take care of any item that is on loan to him/her. A school has a very limited budget for the replacement of materials and resources. Pupils who lose, deliberately deface or destroy school property will be expected to replace the same.

## **CELL PHONES & OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

Just a reminder to parents and caregivers of the school electronic policy: All student cell phones, smartphones, etc will be turned off and placed in the student's backpack between the hours of 8:45 to 2:45. Electronic gaming devices will not be allowed at school.

### Consequences for a violation of this policy

The electronic device will be taken away from the student and be given to the principal; the principal will phone home to notify the parent/caregiver of the violation; and, the parent/caregiver will have to come to the school to pick up the student's electronic device.

If a student needs to use a phone during the day, the student phone is available in the office area. If a parent needs to contact a student in an emergency, please call the office.

## **STUDENT DAY PLANNERS/ALTERNATIVES**

Teachers continue to stress the importance of preparing for today's world by teaching the skills of organization and time management. The student journal/planner is an effective tool in realizing these goals as it encourages interaction and communication between the child, the parent and the teacher.

Students in grades 1 to 4 will use a planner to arrange, organize and co-ordinate all their assignments and correspondence between home and the school, while students in grades 5 to 7 will be encouraged to use an alternate of their choice.

These Planners can be very useful in the areas such as:

- goal setting – home and school (long and short term)
- planning for future events
- keeping track of homework
- communication between home and students

Students can make good use of their Planners by being responsible for:

- having them at school on their desk or table, every day
- recording their homework
- recording their long and short range goals
- recording "coming events" reminders

Parents can help by:

- reviewing the Planner with your child(ren) (there are other useful parts of the book – times tables, calendars, math and spelling information, tips, etc.)
- looking at the daily entries and initializing the Planner
- writing a comment to the teacher if needed

At school, teachers will assist by:

- reviewing the Planner with the class - talking to students about goal setting
- checking the Planners regularly - allowing a few minutes at the end of the day for students to complete their Planners.

### **DRESS CODE REMINDER**

The school is a place to work and learn and as such students are expected to dress in a manner that is conducive to this expectation. At school we rely on the good sense of students and their parents rather than a strict code as to what is suitable to wear to school.

- Hats are not worn in the building.
- Beach wear or clothes that are revealing (low cut tops, spaghetti straps, muscle T-shirts, halter tops, bare midriffs and backs are not acceptable).
- Items of clothing that display offensive graphics/writing are not appropriate for school.
- Clothing needs to be suitable for the season (i.e. warm tops in winter).
- Tops must meet bottoms

The appearance of any young person is primarily the responsibility of that individual and his/her parents. We expect students to maintain the type of appearance that is not distracting to teachers or other students to the detriment of the educational process of the school.

When a student's appearance is felt to be detrimental, the parent/guardian will be contacted and asked to bring appropriate clothing for the student. If the problem persists, a parent/administrator conference may be required.

We would appreciate parental support for this policy by helping your child(ren) make appropriate choices for clothing worn to school. Thank you for your cooperation.

### **DOORS**

To ensure safe movement within our school, and to avoid congestion at any one door, we have assigned specific doors for entrance and exit for all students. Your help in following this plan is greatly appreciated:

Before School:

- Self-Managers may come in through the front door to go to their classrooms – each classroom teacher will let their class know what days and times they may come in early. It is also important to note that self-managers may come in to read, work on class projects, or get caught up on homework, but it is not intended to be a social gathering place.

Morning Bell, Recess Bell, Lunch Bell:

- Mr. Silverton, Mr. Drexhage, and Mr. Ireland/TBA's classes – line up by the outside stairs and enter via the outside staircase
- Ms. Orton, Mrs. Jensen, and Mr. Gillies' classes – line up under the small covered patio and come up via the far stairwell
- Mrs. Glaros, Ms. Scott and Mr. Hird's classes – line up under the large covered patio and come up the gym stairwell

All Dismissal times:

- students on the upper floor are to dismiss via the outside stairwell only
- students on the main floor are to dismiss via the exterior door by the Kindergarten room or through either bottom floor doors

\*\*\* Please note, we have asked that students do not dismiss through the front door at any time. This door is used for parents, other individuals coming in for meetings, deliveries, and other guests – students exiting through here can cause a congestion that we would like to avoid.

### **BACK TO SCHOOL TIPS TO HELP STUDENTS SUCCEED**

VICTORIA - Families across the province are getting ready for Sept 7<sup>th</sup>, when B.C.'s students and teachers head back to school. Here are some tips to help families with the start of the school year:

Developing good study habits early plays a factor in student achievement. Parents can help their children study by:

Primary Students

- Let your children see you read, and set aside time each day for family reading.
- Get your children excited about reading by taking turns reading pages or acting out the characters.
- Ask your children to read to you while you prepare a meal.
- Talk to your children about what they read. Ask them questions that require them to read between the lines and think about what they've just read for better comprehension.
- Help your children get a library card and take weekly trips to the library.

Intermediate Students

- Establish a daily homework routine. Set up an area away from distractions such as the television and the Internet, with adequate supplies and lighting.
- When it is time for your children to do homework, it will reinforce strong study habits to

do yours: balance your chequebook, pay your bills, or immerse yourself in a book. Help your children identify difficult and easy homework tasks and get them to tackle the difficult items first.

- Be available to answer questions and offer assistance, but never do a child's homework for them.
- Ask your children questions and have them explain what they have just read.
- Encourage your children to write stories and poetry.

Parents play an active role in the school year by keeping students safe and healthy. Some ways to achieve this are:

- Give your children's minds the fuel they need - make sure they eat breakfast.
- Make it easy. Keep nutritional snacks, such as cut-up fruit and vegetables, cheese sticks, low-fat yogurt and butter-free popcorn, on hand.
- Schedule regular medical and dental checkups.
- Ensure that backpacks are no more than 10 to 20 per cent of the student's bodyweight and that students use both shoulder straps.
- Make sure your children know safe routes to and from school.

### **BACK TO SCHOOL TIPS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

At School:

- Encourage children to use refillable bottles at school, instead of relying on bottled water.
- Produce waste-free lunches for your children by sending food in reusable containers and bags, and by avoiding pre-packaged and processed foods.

At Home:

- Clean waxed paper, plastic bags and tinfoil can be reused several times, and instead of including pre-packaged drinks in school lunches, a small thermos of cold milk or juice will cut down on unnecessary packaging.
- Buy good-quality, long-lasting products that can be handed down to younger children.
- Use cold water when washing clothing.
- Encourage children to take shorter showers, using a restricted-flow shower head.
- Turn off taps when brushing their teeth instead of wasting water.
- Turn off lights, electronic devices and computers when not in use.

On the Road:

- Walk or cycle with your children to school, instead of driving, to reduce vehicle emissions.
- Join an existing Walking School Bus or Bicycle Train in your neighbourhood to get your children safely to school, or co-ordinate your own.
- Join a car-sharing co-operative for school commutes instead of owning a car.
- If you must drive children to school, incorporate short-distance errands in the trip.
- Maintain proper tire inflation, check your tires weekly, and schedule regular maintenance checks for your car.

### **OPEN LETTER TO PARENTS FROM BC'S MINISTER OF EDUCATION**

VICTORIA - As your child heads back to school this year, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the important role you, as parents, play in the success of all the children and young people in our education system.

Research has shown that when parents are involved and engaged, it not only helps their own child, it helps other children in the school. The evidence is consistent and convincing: parent engagement is one of the key factors identified by researchers in high-performing schools, and families have a major influence on their child's achievement in school and through life.

I really encourage parents, when thinking about back to school, to talk to their child's teacher. Really get to know your child's teacher. Offer to volunteer. Become part of the parent advisory committee. You need to know what's happening in the classroom to support your child.

Keep in touch with your school and discuss your child's education. The close co-operation between home and school contributes significantly to creating a positive learning environment for children.

Learning is an active social process. You are your child's first and most important teacher. Your role in their education remains as important today as it was when they were saying their first words or learning to walk.

As your child heads back to school, please get engaged to ensure all our children have a successful education experience. We can't do it without you.

Margaret MacDiarmid  
Minister of Education

## DATES TO REMEMBER

September 7	First Day of School
September 15	PAC Mtg. – 3:00 pm – Library
September 17	School wide Westwood Lake Run & Picnic
September 21	Photo Day
September 23	Open House – 6:30 – 7:30 pm
September 24	Terry Fox Run
September 27	Pro-d Day – students <u>not</u> in attendance
October 1	PAC – Welcome to Cilaire Family Day
October 11	Thanksgiving – schools closed
October 13	PAC Mtg. – 7:00 pm – Library
October 18 - 21	Parent /Teacher Conference Week –students dismiss at 1:45 pm all week
October 22	Pro-d Day – students <u>not</u> in attendance
October 27	Small Schools, North Zone Cross-Country Meet
October 28	PAC sponsored Family Hallowe'en Dance
October 31	Hallowe'en
November 4	District Cross-Country Meet
November 10	Remembrance Day Assembly
November 11	Remembrance Day – schools closed
November 17	PAC Mtg. – 3:00 pm – Library
December 4	First Term Reports go home
December 8	PAC Mtg. – 7:00 pm – Library
December 16	Christmas Concert
December 17	Movie Day???
December 17	Last day of classes

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## NEWSLETTER RESPONSE SLIP

The newspaper response slip will be used to draw 3 names for prizes each month. Once you have read the newsletter, return the slip below with your son/daughter to put it in the draw box, three names will be drawn at the month end assembly. If you have any questions or comments regarding the information in this newsletter, you may also include them below. Thank you☺

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Division: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Yes, I would like to receive the Cilaire newsletter, etc via email. My email address is:**

Comments:

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