

Eye of the Cyclone



Cilaire Elementary School

25 Cilaire Drive
Nanaimo BC V9S 3C9
School website:

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<http://schools.sd68.bc.ca/cila>

Principal: Mr. M. Ireland
Secretary: Mrs. D. Ludvigson

September 8, 2009

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 number of changes at Cilaire. As many of you are aware, Mrs. Westmacott retired and Mrs. McCuish took an assignment at Cinnabar Valley – we wish them well. New to the Cilaire staff this year are: Mrs. Carlson, who comes to us from Uplands and Pauline Haarer, will be teaching grade 5/6 with me; Mrs. Fowler, who has been on leave, will be our new librarian and will teach in the grade 1/2 class; Mrs. Jubenville, the new grade 7 band teacher; and Mrs. Henocho, a new EA. As well, we will have a new teacher (tba) that will be teaching one day a week in Mr. Hird's class. Welcome to Cilaire!

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 work to provide the best possible education for your children.

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

CLASS PLACEMENT

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 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.

The task of placing students in classrooms has been made more complicated by Bill 33, which sets out class size limits. Not only must our school meet class size limit guidelines, our school district as a whole must also meet class size averages. For example, while our school can have no more than 22 students in a Kindergarten class, across the district the average size of Kindergarten classes can be no more than 19 students. It is a complicated process to make sure that across all 31 elementary schools in our district we have not exceeded the class size averages. Sometimes that process requires schools to make changes to their class assignments during September.

While it is our sincere hope that we can establish permanent classes as quickly as possible, and that we will not have to do any further reorganization after the first few days, unfortunately, this is not always the case. Thank in advance for your understanding as we work to do what is best for all.

The placement of new students who arrive during the course of the year will be further complicated as part of the changes to the consultation process required to assign children to a particular classroom. The consultation may occur over a two day period in order to

ensure that the school staff has carefully and fully considered the most appropriate class placement.

STAFF FOR 2008-09

Mr. Mike Ireland	Principal
Mrs. Darlene Ludvigson	Secretary
Mr. Al Drexhage	Classroom Teacher
Mr. Mike Silverton	Classroom Teacher
Mrs. Lorraine Carlson	Classroom Teacher
Mrs. Deirdre Glaros	Classroom Teacher
Mr. Ken Hird	Classroom Teacher
Mr. Ken Gillies	Classroom Teacher
Mrs. Diane Jensen	Classroom Teacher
Mrs. Ronda Williams	Classroom Teacher
Mrs. Maureen Hancock	Learning Support Teacher and Lead Literacy
Mrs. Cathy Fowler	Librarian/Classroom Teacher
Mrs. Lonnie Moddle	Music
Mrs. Barb Jubenville	Grade 7 Band
Mrs. Louise Schulz	Counsellor
Ms. Wendy deGraff	Speech/Language
Mrs. Karen Lewis	Educational Assistant
Ms. Capri Koster	Educational Assistant
Ms. Trish Nessman	Educational Assistant
Ms. Saralee Stremel	Educational Assistant
Mrs. Barbara Henoach	Educational Assistant
Ms. Laura Langstaff	Aboriginal Educational Assistant

H1N1 FLU INFORMATION

As you are aware the possibility of H1N1 Flu pandemic has dominated the news recently. Influenza, or the "flu," is a common respiratory disease caused by a virus. Every year, the flu virus causes outbreaks in fall and winter. This is because each year, the flu virus changes a little so the protection, or immunity, our bodies have built up against previous viruses is not as effective.

Flu pandemics happen when a new kind of influenza virus, that is able to spread easily from person to person appears, and spreads quickly around the world. Since people have no protection against the new virus, it will likely cause more illnesses and a larger number of deaths than the seasonal flu.

We have been assured by the health authority that with precautions, the risk of acquiring the H1N1 flu can be lessened and the effects of it minimized. Later this week, the school will be sending home with your child, a package of information that will explain precautions, etc that you will need to follow, as well answer many of the questions that may have. If you do become ill, you can find out further information by dialing 811 (HealthLink BC).

PRO-D DAY

Our first Professional Development Day is on Monday, September 28th. The staff at Cilaire will be staying at the

school and doing sessions focusing on Accelerated Reader, computer, and writing. September 28th is a day students are not in attendance.

PHOTO DAY

Individual photographs for Cilaire students will be taken on September 24th, beginning at 9:00 am. More information and order forms will be sent home closer to that date.

OPEN HOUSE

We invite each and every parent to the Open House which will be held on Thursday, September 24th 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 two main areas where we would like to focus our attention: Literacy (Making Connections), and Social Responsibility (Healthy Schools).

Goal #1: Asking Good Questions – To increase students' ability to 'ask good questions' while they are reading and to 'make inferences' during and after reading to increase their understanding (comprehension) in what they read in all curricular areas.

Goal #2: Healthy Schools - To continue to develop an understanding of the many benefits of a healthy lifestyle (i.e. nutrition, physical activity, sleep, etc.)

STUDENT FORMS

During the first couple 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 12:00 noon until 12:45 p.m. Mondays – Thursdays and 11:30 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. Bernier as a crossing guard. Please ensure your child(ren) follow her instructions at all times.

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

As technology continues to advance, we are seeing students at schools with cell phones, gameboys, iPods, etc. If your child has any of these at school, please remind him/her that they are to be turned off and in his/her backpack throughout the school day.

Also, the school will not be responsible for loss or damage to these items so care needs to be taken with putting them away securely. If a student needs to use the 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. Thank you for your support.

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.

LATES

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 Friday afternoons for 15 mins. 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.

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 Mrs. Carlson/Mr. Ireland's classes – line up by the outside stairs and enter via the outside staircase
- Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Jensen, and Mr. Gillies' classes – line up under the small covered patio and come up via the far stairwell
- Mrs. Glaros 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 8th, 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:

Start your children on their school-day routine before the first day. Consider having them shift to their school bedtime and wake-up routine the week before school begins.

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.

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 8	First Day of School
September 16	PAC Mtg. – 3:00 pm – Library
September 18	School wide Westwood Lake Run & Picnic
September 24	Open House – 6:30 – 7:30 pm
September 24	Photo Day
September 25	Terry Fox Run
September 28	Pro-d Day – students <u>not</u> in attendance
October 16	1:30 pm – Fine Arts Performance – Norman Foote
October 14	PAC Mtg. – 3:00 pm – Library
October 12	Thanksgiving – schools closed
October 19 - 22	Parent /Teacher Conference Week –students dismiss at 1:45 pm all week
October 23	Pro-d Day – students <u>not</u> in attendance
October 27	Small Schools, North Zone Cross-Country Meet
October 31	Hallowe'en
November 6	District Cross-Country Meet
November 10	Remembrance Day Assembly
November 11	Remembrance Day – schools closed
November 18 (???)	PAC Mtg. – 3:00 pm – Library
November 19	Ready Set Learn
December 2 or 7	9:00 am – Fine Arts Performance – Axis Theatre
December 4	First Term Reports go home
December 9	PAC Mtg. – 3:00 pm – Library
December 15	Christmas Concert
December 18	Movie Day???
December 18	Last day of classes

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:

