

November 2020, Vol. 3

THE GROVE

Cedar Grove Elementary School's Monthly Newsletter



DIV 2 GNOMES

NOVEMBER KEY DATES

- Photo Retakes - Tuesday, 3rd
- PAC Meeting @ 7pm - Wednesday, 4th
- Option 2 students return - Monday, 9th
- Remembrance Day - Wednesday, 11th - NO SCHOOL
- Pro-D Day - Monday, 23rd - NO SCHOOL
- Term 1 Reports - Friday, 27th

It's hard to believe that we are already here – in standard time – at the start of November. While we have settled back into our routines here at Cedar Grove, we have done so very differently with safety and public health orders and recommendations at the heart of every decision we make. This past month our students engaged in an adapted version of the Turkey Trot (instead of trotting they did an in-class turkey hunt) and had an amazing at-school Halloween on the eve of the 31st. Children in grade 7 pivoted from the traditional Fun Fair and presented a spooky walk behind the school (I sense a new tradition). We also had the Grove's first annual Halloween Dance-a-Thon during which each cohort came to the gym to dance, play with glow-sticks, wiggle, squeal, and have fun (definitely happening again). A huge thank you to Sophie and Steve Olson (Escher's folks) for decorating and bringing a very Disney pumpkin show, and to David Hallstead (Lucia's dad) for bringing lights, music, and teaching me how to be a DJ. Great memories were made in October!

As principal, I have the pleasure of talking with and learning from all children at the Grove. I have read the journal entries that make one snort laugh, witnessed young ones learning their letter sounds, and have danced the macarena in music class. Underneath their masks and the mountain of new policies, the staff at Cedar Grove have been doing an exceptional job and, as always, are setting the bar very high. Your children are in good hands. During this round of pandemic schooling the absence of special adults (the parents, grandparents, aunties, uncles, and other caregivers) in our building can be felt. We miss having our learners' special adults in our building and look forward to having congested hallways again when it is safe to do so. If you have any concerns or just want to connect, please don't hesitate to contact any of us by phone or email.

Have a wonderful November, fams!
OLWEN COWAN, PRINCIPAL

LATE OR ABSENT

If your child will be absent or late, please call the school office at 604.886.7818 to let us know or leave a message on the machine. If your child is late, even by a few minutes, they will need to "sign in" at the office (after arriving to their class through the assigned door) and no phone call will be made home. Please call the office, even if you have already advised the teacher, so that we do not bother you at home.

WEST COAST RECESS!



A reminder that all children will be outside for long portions of the day this year. As in years past, please send your children to school with appropriate outdoor clothing. Some kids (you know who you are) may benefit from keeping a change of clothes in their classroom.

PEANUT FREE CLASSROOMS



Divisions 10 (Favro/Radford), 7 (Valenta), and our SCAS rooms are peanut-free classes. Please do not send your child to school with any peanut products if they are in these rooms.

NEWS FROM OUR PAC

Yearbooks: Every year we ask parents to contribute photos of students around the school and on field trips for our CGE Yearbook. This year it's harder for us to get many photos, but if you do have any from after school time on the playground, please upload them here for consideration in our yearbook (please include the students division number in the file name): <https://www.smugmug.com/upload/gkcjZV/cedar> The link can also be found on our webpage cedargrovecapac.com in the Links & Resources section. We have also asked teachers to share as many photos as possible for the yearbook.

Meetings: Our next meeting will take place using Zoom on Wednesday November 4th at 7pm. The meeting in December will be attended by SD46 Superintendent Patrick Bocking. He would like to connect to discuss what parents are thinking of the return to school in this particular year and what the district can do to support PACs and families during this time.

Fundraisers: We have lots of upcoming fundraisers including our annual Purdy's Chocolates fundraiser: fundraising.purdys.com/join.aspx/8769-78853. Orders are due November 25 and delivery to the school is December 9th. We will be selling advent calendars from La Petite Souris Chocolate again this year. Also watch for our Cedar Grove Gear Flash Sale coming up!

Hot Lunch: So happy to see our hot lunch program is back with Sushi Mondays and Subway Fridays. Plus our hot lunch 50/50 tickets are for sale on the hot lunch website. You can already put your orders in for December at cedargrove.hotlunches.net

HALLOWEEN FUN AT THE GROVE!





CEDAR GROVE'S QUICK SHEET

FAQ

Is there COVID-19 Protocol Training for students and staff?

All school district staff will receive COVID-19 Protocol Training. This will include topics such as: handwashing, proper mask usage, signs and symptoms and specific Cedar Grove protocols. Students will also receive instruction around these topics.

Will other adults besides my child's classroom teacher be part of the learning group?

There may be staff such as support teachers, counsellors, library and music teachers, the principal, and district staff who work across learning groups. These adults will be physically distancing, and wearing non-medical masks. There are spots in our school with plexi-glass

Does my child need to wear a non-medical mask?

Elementary school students are not required to wear masks. With that said, we know many students will be wearing them. As always, we support and encourage individual choices at school. You be you!

Are visitors & parents able to access the school?

We are limiting visitor access. Please connect with us by email or over the phone. Visitors entering the school will be required to complete a health screen. All visitors will need the authorization of the principal. Meetings with parents will be held over zoom.

Have there been changes to riding the bus?

Yes, buses have been equipped to protect the driver and passengers. Students within the walking boundary will need to find transport to school. There is no courtesy riding.

Is there additional cleaning and disinfecting?

Yes, we are following guidelines outlined by the Ministries of Education and Health.

WHAT IS A LEARNING GROUP?

A learning group (or cohort) is a group of students and staff grouped together throughout a school term or year and who spend most of their time with each other.

Some examples of learning groups include: one classroom that does all its learning together; a group of students from two separate classes who come together for activities like recess and lunch

Our learning groups may be a maximum of 60.



SCHOOL NAVIGATION

Students will enter/ exit our building through specific doors & wash hands in their classrooms.

Our recess and lunch times will be staggered.

Learning Groups (see above) will have their times scheduled together and are asked to remain 2 metres from non-learning group friends.

- Students are to take recesses and lunch breaks outdoors – please dress for activity and all weather. As always we practice "West Coast Recess"
- There will be no free hallway access.

DAILY HEALTH CHECK

To stop the spread of COVID-19, daily health screening is mandatory for students and staff.

Parents are asked to utilize the screening check-list prior to sending their kid(s) each day.

Students and staff who are unwell must not enter the school.

Key Symptoms:

- Fever
- Chills
- Cough or worsening of chronic cough
- Shortness of breath
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Diarrhea
- Nausea and vomiting

If you answered "YES" to one of the questions included under 'Key Symptoms' (excluding fever), you should stay home for 24 hours from when the symptom started. If the symptom improves, you may return to school when you feel well enough. If the symptom persists or worsens, seek a health assessment.

If you answered "YES" to two or more of the questions included under 'Key Symptoms' or you have a fever, seek a health assessment. A health assessment includes calling 8-1-1, or a primary care provider. If a health assessment is required, you should not return to school until COVID-19 has been excluded and your symptoms have improved.

Have you or anyone in your household returned from travel outside Canada in the last 14 days?

Are you or is anyone in your home a confirmed contact of a person confirmed to have COVID-19?

If you answered "YES" to the above questions, use the COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool to determine if you should be tested for COVID-19.

