

September 2020, Vol. 1

THE GROVE

Cedar Grove Elementary School's Monthly Newsletter

Welcome back to another year at the Best of the Coast (aka: Cedar Grove). The last week has been an absolute joy as we didn't see many of our students this past June. You will know from talking to your children that school looks different and some of our processes have changed, but one thing has remained the same - the feeling. Our school has plenty of heart and spirit. Students and staff are ready to dig deep with their learning and build community.

Last Spring our staff worked very hard at composing this year's classrooms. We want you to know that our number one concern for this coming school year was first and foremost safety. Followed by the social and emotional well being of our learners. There is not one class in our school that we are not proud of. Countless of hours went into the composition of our classrooms following the composition language parameters established by the Ministry of Education. It's a lot! But we take it seriously. We will of course welcome our transition - option 2 - students back when they return with open air hugs.

Parents and caregivers, as you know, non-staff member adults are not allowed in the building at this time. We will always be open to chatting with you on the phone or over zoom. All you need to do is give us a call or an email.

Welcome back - we've missed you all!

Air hugs,

OLWEN COWAN, PRINCIPAL



KEY DATES

- PAC Meeting @ 7pm - Wednesday, September 16th on Zoom
- Professional Development Day - Monday, September 28th - NO SCHOOL
- Orange Shirt Day - Wednesday, September 30th World Teachers Day - Friday, October 2nd
- PAC Meeting @ 7pm - Wednesday, October 7th on zoom
- Thanksgiving Day - Monday, October 12th - NO SCHOOL

PAC CORNER

Hello everyone and welcome back. For those families new to Cedar Grove, welcome! Wondering who we are and what we do? We are the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) which includes all parents and guardians of all Cedar Grove students. Our purpose is to represent parents with the goal of enhancing the education and well being of students at Cedar Grove Elementary School. You are welcome to attend PAC meetings to get involved or just to stay informed. Check out our website at www.cedargrovecpac.com, follow us on Facebook @cedargrovecpac or Instagram at cedargrovecpac. Our first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday September 16th at 7pm using Zoom. Following this, our meetings will take place the first Wednesday of every month, next meeting being Wednesday October 7th. Meeting details will be emailed out by the school the day prior to the meeting. Thanks to everyone who supported our Growing Smiles fall fundraiser! Flowers will arrive on Wednesday September 16th with pick-up starting at 2:45pm to 5:30pm outside the school!

2020/2021 PAC

Chair: Tracy Aiken

Vice-Chair: Vacant

Secretary: Christine Hardt

Treasurer: June Metz

Members at Large: Tara Robens & Nick Weber

DPAC Rep: Scott Davis

Breakfast Program Coordinators: Courtney

Facchin & Denielle Lachance-Macdonald

Hot Lunch Coordinator: Courtney Facchin

Fundraiser Coordinator: Tamara Hedden

Volunteer Coordinator: Karen Graves



Important

LATE OR ABSENT

Cedar Grove Elementary, like all other elementary schools on the Coast, has a "safe arrival program". This means that if a child is marked absent, but the office has not received a note or a telephone call from the parent advising of the absence/tardiness, a phone call home will be made to ensure the child is safe. 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.

ARE YOU AN OPTION 2 "TRANSITION" FAMILY?

As mentioned in previous communication, children can return every 2 weeks. The first round being Sept. 14, then the 28th, and so on. Ms. Cowan needs to be informed regarding your intention to return to school this year. It is our hope that all of our students will be back in school by November. This short term option will be supported with grade appropriate materials developed by a district team that parents will use to support their children's learning.

Ms. Cowan will be checking in with you periodically to see how your child (and you!) are doing.

OUR SUPERHERO TEAM MEMBERS!

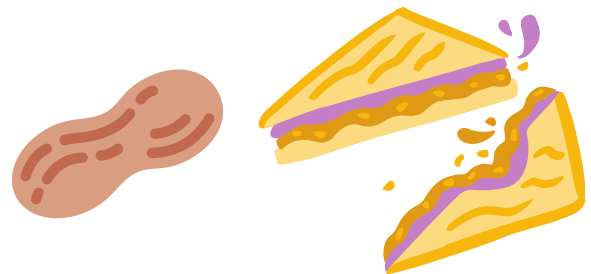
Jen MacInnes - Div. 1, Grade 7
Gordon Tultz - Div. 2, Grades 5&6
Kate Haxton - Div. 3, Grades 5&6
Signy Bjarnason - Div. 4, Grades 4&5
Giselle Hood - Div. 5, Grades 3&4
Michele Curry - Div. 6, Grade 3
Robyn Valenta - Div. 7, Grade 2
Robert Emerson - Div. 8, Grades 1&2
Karen Van Bommel - Div. 9, Grade 1
Lorraine Radford & Veronica Favro - Div. 10 - K
Jackson Berger - Field Program Teacher
Katie Mitchell - Share Program Teacher
TBD - Shine Program Teacher
Jennifer Marquis - Inclusion Support Teacher
Suzanne Diamond - District Counsellor
Jacqueline Reid - Teacher Librarian
Meredith Bingham - Music Teacher
Hilary Prince - Literacy Support Teacher
Gustav Guzek - Indigenous Support Teacher
Melissa Lyons - Education Assistant
Claudia Hovden - Education Assistant
Anneke Van Swieten - Education Assistant
Tracey Adams - Education Assistant
Fiorella Nygren - Education Assistant, Field
Trina Giesbrecht - Child & Youth Worker, Share
Jodi Conlin - Education Assistant, Share
Mia Stracker - Education Assistant, Shine
Debbi Carey - Education Assistant, Shine
Kathleen Clover - Education Assistant, Shine
Karina Morris - Education Assistant, Shine
Marilyn Jares - Library Assistant
Bernice Hill - Custodian
Lisa Parker-Jervis - Custodian
Theresa Whalen - Administration Assistant
Olwen Cowan - Principal

A NOTE ABOUT MUSIC



Ms. Bingham is happy and excited to be back this year to teach Music at Cedar Grove. She would like you to know that there will be some things the same, but Music class will look and sound different this year. Student and staff safety comes first. There is no Band for students in Grade 6 and 7 planned. Students who choose to bring a mask to school are invited to wear it in Music. We will not be singing inside or sitting in circles, at this time. We will continue to play some musical instruments, but will limit sharing and we will wash our hands before and after class. Students can expect to move and dance to music, learn music literacy, music history, and music appreciation.

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 classes.

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.

Common Symptoms:

- Fever
- Chills
- Cough or worsening of chronic cough
- Shortness of breath
- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Diarrhea
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea and vomiting
- Muscle aches

Less common symptoms:

- Stuffy nose
- Conjunctivitis (pink eye)
- Dizziness, confusion
- Abdominal pain
- Skin rashes or discolouration of fingers or toes.

If a child has any of the symptoms above and they are not related to a pre-existing condition (e.g. allergies) they should NOT come to school. If they are experiencing any symptoms of illness, contact a health-care provider for further assessment. This includes 8-1-1, or a primary care provider like a physician or nurse practitioner.

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.