



Christ Church Cathedral School

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September 10, 2015



Dear Parents and Guardians,

What a great start to the school year! The students arrived on Tuesday eager to meet their friends and teachers. Our Parent Support Group provided coffee, muffins and other refreshments to help welcome students and parents as they arrived at the playground. The School itself was ready for the big day after our Memorial Hall underwent a major renovation to the centre section of the school building, the long planned seismic upgrade, thanks to the financial support of the Cathedral Parish and the hard work of some skilled local contractors.

As you read in the letter sent out to all families on September 3rd, this year marks the 25th anniversary of the school. We have come a long way from the first school year in 1990 when we occupied only a couple of rooms in Memorial Hall. Over the years we have grown steadily, expanding our programs, adding more space, more teachers, and improving our playground. Thanks to your generous donations from last year's Annual Campaign, we will be able to undertake the playground resurfacing this year. Thank you to all our parents, staff, and other supporters for helping us continue to improve and grow to meet the needs of our students, now and for the future. To celebrate the start of our 25th year, and to thank the Parish for their generous support of the seismic upgrading, we will be holding a ribbon cutting ceremony on Monday, September 14th, beginning at 2:30 pm in the gym. Please join us if you are able to.

On the enrolment front we are almost full with only a spot or two open in Kindergarten, grades 2, 3, and 5. I believe our parents recognize and appreciate the quality of education offered by our caring and professional staff as well as our continued focus on program improvements. Our excellent student achievement levels are well known in the community and yet we are inclusive and still very affordable. This reality reflects our founding mission as a school offering an excellent education for everyone – our founders have much to smile about. Changes are coming to the BC curriculum that you, as parents, should be aware of. A letter from the Ministry of Education outlining these changes is attached with this newsletter. We see these changes as a welcome shift in focus and believe they will result in even more student engagement and achievement.

September is Christ Church Cathedral School's month of recognition in the Cathedral. Parishioners will be told about our school and asked to support us. Attending on Sundays this month is especially important and we hope to see many CCCS families there. Students are encouraged to represent our school proudly by wearing their uniform. Christ Church Cathedral is a very welcoming and inclusive community and part of our extended school community. The service at 9:15am this Sunday, September 13th includes the popular *blessing of the backpacks*.

I hope to see many of you at the ribbon cutting ceremony on Monday, September 14th. Also mark your calendars for that important triple header event (PSG BBQ and meeting, followed by Curriculum Evening) on September 17th.

Sincerely,

Stuart Hall, Head of School

A note about newsletters:

For those families new to CCCS, we would like to let you know that you will receive a newsletter every Thursday via email. The first newsletter of the month will highlight the recent activities and accomplishments of our students in colourful detail, including photos, as well as outlining the important upcoming activities and events for the entire month. The other weekly newsletters will be in a simpler, letter format with reminders and detailed information for the week ahead. Today's newsletter is of the latter format, even though it is the first Thursday of the month, since school has only been in session for a few days.

As always, to keep yourself up to date with all the news about CCCS, our website is an excellent resource. You will find an updated school calendar at the bottom of the home page: www.cathedralschool.ca. Should you have further questions or want to get in touch, Bev and Liisa in the office are happy to assist you.

Office contact information:

Phone: 250-383-5125

Bev's email: cathedralschool@cathedralschool.ca | Liisa's email: office@cathedralschool.ca

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES & EVENTS:

Blessing of the Backpacks: Sunday, September 13 — All students are welcome to attend the "Sundae Sunday" service at the Cathedral featuring a "blessing of the backpacks". The service begins at 9:15 am in the CNJ (Chapel of the New Jerusalem), followed by ice cream treats. Registration for Sunday School will be available.



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony: Monday, September 14 — All parents are invited to join us to recognize two significant achievements: The seismic upgrading of the centre of the school building, and Cathedral School's 25 years! A special ceremony starts at 2:30 pm in the gym, followed by the ribbon cutting outside of the playground doors. Following that, coffee and cake will be served in the gym for parents and parishioners.

Thursday, September 17 — **5:00 pm: Parent Support Group BBQ (Volunteers Needed!)**
6 - 6:30 pm PSG Meeting
6:30 - 7:30 pm Curriculum Evening (see below)

The Curriculum Evening: All parents are strongly encouraged to attend and hear the outline of the education your child will be receiving this year. We will gather in the auditorium for introductions at 6:30 pm, following the PSG BBQ and meeting. This will be followed by presentations in the classroom. Child minding will be available.

Soccer Jamboree for grades 4 & 5 – Friday, September 18

Camp Thunderbird — Grade 4 & 5 students will attend Camp Thunderbird for the day on Tuesday, September 15. Middle School students will attend Camp Thunderbird September 23 - 25.

Internet Safety Presentation with Darren Laur: Wednesday, September 23 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm

An important, not-to-be-missed information session for parents of students in grade 4 - 8. Parents are welcome to bring a friend as well. This session will help parents be informed and proactive as their children begin using internet technologies and smart phones. Childminding will be available during this parents-only presentation.

Parents Welcome to Chapel — Ms. Anke would like to let all parents know they are welcome to join us for the Chapel service in Christ Church Cathedral Wednesday mornings from 9:30 - 10:00.

Thrifty Foods Smile Cards

The JK and the main campus Thrifty's Smile Card fundraising programs are back on! Please come to the office to pick up your card. A percentage of your regular shopping purchases goes back to the school when you use your card to pay for groceries. The main campus has a total of \$3,000.00 to raise by June 18 and the JK's goal is \$1,000 by June 18. The funds go toward outdoor education (main campus) and playground equipment (JK).

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SPORTS UPDATE

Swim Club

Swim club will begin Monday, October 5 and runs until Tuesday, November 24. Interested parents are asked to sign up outside the grade 2 classroom no later than Tuesday, September 15.

Children will leave the school by bus shortly after 3:00 pm and are to be picked up at Crystal Pool by 4:20 pm.

Only those children in full time Lux Mundi care will return to school on the school bus. **Swim club is limited to 25 students from Kindergarten to grade 4.**

Cross Country

Students from grades 3-7 are invited to join the cross country running team. Practices will be held on Wednesdays and Fridays at lunch, beginning on September 16. Meets will be held after school every Monday from September 21 to October 5, with one meet on Wednesday, October 14. The Championship Meet will be on Monday, October 19.

Karate

Fall sessions with Victoria Renshikan Karate will be held after school on Mondays, beginning on September 28. For more information about this program, please visit www.vrkarate.com.

Soccer

Students in grades 6 to 8 are invited to join the soccer teams. Practice for boys and girls starts on Thursday, September 17 at 3:15 pm. Please stay tuned for more information and a game schedule.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Student Information: The start of a new school year is a good time to ensure that we have received any address changes, doctor information, etc. necessary to update your child's file. Therefore, your child is bringing home our computer printout of information that we need for his/her file. **Please check this verification sheet and make any changes necessary, complete the 4 paragraphs at the bottom of the page, sign and date in the space provided and return to your child's teacher or the office.** For parents of children new to Cathedral School we mailed a 'Student Record' form to you during the summer. If you have not already done so, please return the completed form to your child's teacher or the school office as soon as possible.

Earthquake/Emergency Preparedness: We are also sending home a sheet entitled "Student Information for Emergency Procedures". This form is going home to all families (new & returning) so that we can have one form completed for each child in the school. We understand that within the first 24 hours it is critically important to keep phone lines open for emergency response efforts and we will only use these contact numbers in case of a life threatening emergency. We would like to have names and contact numbers for people, **including parents**, who are close by the school and would be able to pick up your child in the event of such an emergency. We have emergency kits for all students.

MEDICAL INFORMATION

Allergies: We have a number of students in the School who are allergic to peanuts and other food items. These allergies are potentially life-threatening so we are sending home more information with students in those classes most affected. Please remember that we are a **PEANUT FREE, NUT FREE & SEAFOOD FREE SCHOOL** no matter what class your child is in. SEAFOOD FREE means no fish or shellfish of any kind.

Note: The Ministry of Education is now requiring that we keep on file documentation from a doctor or allergist if your child has any allergies. Please provide this to the office.

Epi Pens: It is Christ Church Cathedral School policy to have 2 Epi-pens for each child requiring this item. One will be kept in a central location and the other is to be carried with the child at all times.

Medication: Please note that in order for a teacher to administer medication to a child at school, a consent form must be completed. This includes children's aspirin, Tylenol, and prescription medications.

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Hot Lunch Forms: The hot lunch order forms will be going home with your children on Thursday, September 17. Please watch for the hot lunch calendar (also viewable online), pizza/wrap/milk order form and the Subway order form. The lunch program is optional. If you have any questions please contact Todd in person or email at luxmundi@cathedralschool.ca

Homework Club: For grades 4 and up from 3:15 - 4:00 pm starting next week.

Drop Off and Pick Up Routines: We have designated *Drop & Go* and *Drive Through* lanes in our parking lot. Please do not leave your vehicle by the playground gates as this causes vehicles to back up and block Vancouver Street. Also, our school bus is often leaving or returning at the end of the day and cannot be blocked due to vehicles left in the drop off zone. Thank you for cooperation to ensure everyone's safety!

Aprons requested for Home Ec: Our Home Economics classes are in need of full-size aprons. If you are able to donate any, please bring them to the office. Thank you!

THE PSG POST

Dear Parents,

- The Parent Support Group BBQ and first meeting are coming up on Thursday, September 17th starting at 5:30pm prior to the Curriculum Evening. Volunteers are needed! Please contact the PSG by email: psg@cathedralschool.ca

- Coming up soon there will be a chance to participate in this year's Parent Support Group. Sign-up sheets will be posted shortly! You may also email us at psg@cathedralschool.ca

Sincerely,

CCCS Parents Support Group