

"Celebrating Our Diversity As Learners"

Mrs. S. Loat
Principal

Mrs. E. Alderson
Vice Principal

COOK COUGARS



NEWSLETTER

September 16th, 2019

Issue #1

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

We are excited to start another school year. We have lots of new staff to welcome to Cook. We know they will help make Cook an even better place for learning! Thank you for your patience as we took some extra time to move into our new classes this year. The delay was due to our construction and seismic upgrading project. We are excited to finally be able to occupy our new 10 room addition!



SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

We have 22 divisions in our school again this year. As usual, we lost a number of students who moved over the summer and we gained a number of students who moved into our catchment area. We are starting the school year with 494 students. In creating our classes, each child's placement has been carefully considered from academic, social and emotional perspectives. Grade combinations and gender balance have also been considered. We believe it will be a great school year for all! Below is our school organization:

Div. 18	1	Ms. Araki
Div. 19	K/1	Ms. Gallagher
Div. 20	K	Ms. Syed
Div. 21	K	Ms. Bailey
Div. 22	K	Ms. Yuen



New Members Are Joining

Division	Grade	Teacher
Div. 1	6/7	Ms. Tennant
Div. 2	6/7	Mrs. Ornai
Div. 3	6/7	Ms. Khangura
Div. 4	6/7	Ms. Naka
Div. 5	5/6	Ms. Rollo
Div. 6	5/6	Mr. Hawke
Div. 7	4/5	Ms. Borden/Ms. John
Div. 8	4/5	Ms. Brown
Div. 9	3/4	Ms. Verkade
Div. 10	3/4	Ms. Houston / Ms. Lee
Div. 11	2/3	Ms. Benedet
Div. 12	2/3	Ms. Trahey
Div. 13	2/3	Ms. Hodder
Div. 14	1/2	Ms. Ky
Div. 15	1/2	Ms. Byrne
Div. 16	1/2	Ms. Tan
Div. 17	1/2	Mrs. Tham

MEET THE TEACHER OPEN HOUSE

On Wednesday, September 18th we invite all parents to our Open House at 6:30 – 7:30pm. Classrooms will be open for parents to visit. Some teachers will have activities for parents to do, some will have presentations and some teachers will have students lead parents around. It's a great opportunity for families to see the classrooms in action.

PRO-D DAY – MONDAY SEPTEMBER 23rd

Each year there are 6 Professional Development Days (Pro-D Days) allowed by the Ministry of Education. Students do not attend school on these days. Teachers attend workshops designed to help them learn new approaches to teaching and improve their practice. Cook School will be closed for all Pro-D days. See schedule of Pro-D days on our school website.

PARKING AT COOK

Once again this year we are asking parents to respect the restrictions we have with our parking lot. All parents and students are encouraged to walk to and from school. Our parking lot is open in the morning for parents to drop off their children. Please do so at the south end of the parking lot in the DROP OFF ZONE. If parents want to walk their child to class they **must park outside on the street**. Please park in the neighbourhood and walk to the school to meet your child.

Warning-No Parking on Cook Gate at 2:45.

Parents are once again reminded that the street directly opposite the front entrance of the school (Cook Gate) is a NO STANDING/NO PARKING area. You cannot park on this roadway. If you wish to park and then walk into the school to pick up your child please park on **Cook Rd** or on **Spires Rd** in designated parking areas. The City of Richmond will be enforcing these parking rules from next week. **Parents will be ticketed for parking on Cook Gate.**

Thank you for your cooperation with this request.

SCHOOL FORMS

A package of school forms will be going home on Monday, September 16th. These forms consist of:

*** SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

As a service to families of students in elementary school, the Richmond School District has purchased school supplies at significantly reduced prices. Students are charged \$30 for school supplies which include items such as glue sticks, pencils, pens, notebooks, duotangs, crayons, pencil crayons, felts, rules, etc. The supplies purchased should last the year, but families might be asked to purchase extra glue sticks or felts later in the year.

Families may choose to purchase their own school supplies rather than take advantage of the school district order. In our experience the school district prices are much more reasonable. In addition, students in grades 2 – 7 have the opportunity to purchase a school agenda which is an important organizational tool for students. The cost of the agenda is \$6 and it is specially designed for student use. It is also personalized for Cook School. Some classes may not be purchasing an agenda if the teacher is not going to use one. Your teacher will let you know if this is a required item.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAM

Each year we participate in the Fruit and Vegetable Program sponsored by the BC Agriculture Association. They deliver fresh fruits or vegetables to our school 13 times through the school year. Students get a chance to try new foods. If you **do not want your child to participate in this program or your child has specific food allergies** we should know about, please indicate this on the form.

COOK SCHOOL HOT LUNCH DAYS

Our own school PAC provides a hot lunch twice a month for interested students. Twice a month Pizza, Sushi or Subway will be offered. The PAC will advertise the dates once they are set.

WALKING FIELD TRIP PERMISSION FORM

There are times when teachers want to take their students on short walking tours around the neighbourhood to reinforce concepts taught in class. We ask all parents to consider signing this permission form and returning it to the school as soon as possible. Without this written permission, your child will not be able to participate in these walks.

STUDENT VERIFICATION FORM

Parents, please review this form with your child's information. Please make any changes **right on the form** and return this form to your teacher.



Please note that in the next few months Cook will be sending our monthly newsletters and other important information home via email. **There will no longer be paper copies of many notices.** If you wish to receive our school newsletters and other important information, please ensure that you check off the **“RECEIVE EMAIL”** box on the verification form and include your current email address.

DOOR ACCESS AT COOK SCHOOL

Student safety is important to our school district. Our school has an automated system installed on five of our outside doors. These doors open automatically in the morning before school at 8:30 and most lock automatically during instructional hours. Any doors not on this automated system remain locked through the day. The front door near the office remains open 8:00am – 4:00pm on weekdays. If you come across a locked door

while trying to come into the school, please enter through the front door. This will allow us to monitor who enters the school.

MORNING BELL SCHEDULE:

Please note the following are our morning bell schedule.

8:30- Doors open/first bell

8:40 – Warning bell- students should be in class

8:45 – School begin

We have noticed that there are many signing in late at the office each morning. It important that students get to school on time. Thank you!

EARLY WARNING!

To help ensure the safety of all children on their way to school, we check attendance first thing in the morning. Please call the school if your child will be absent. A message can be left on our **Early Warning Line – 604-668-6461**.

When phoning the Early Warning Line, please leave the following information:

- 1)Child's Name
- 2)Teacher's Name or Division
- 3)Reason for Absence
- 4)Length of Absence

Of course you can also speak to a staff member directly, after 8:00 am or before 4:00 pm.

SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS

Students are allowed in the school at the 8:30am bell. Administration and staff will be circulating around the school starting at 8:30am to provide supervision. Recess supervision is done by all teaching staff on a weekly schedule. There are 5 teachers on duty each recess. Lunch hour recess supervision is provided by our four noon hour supervisors. Similar to last year, we expect all students to respond respectfully to their guidance.

Students are not permitted to leave the school grounds without written parent permission during recess and lunch times, unless they go home for lunch. **Students are not permitted to go to a friend's home for lunch unless both families have given written permission to the Principal.**

At 2:45pm students are expected to make their

way home. We have no staff to supervise students after school so please ensure you pick up your child promptly.

COOK SCHOOL'S FOOD PROGRAMS

Breakfast Club

Each year we provide a Breakfast Club three mornings a week for our students. This year breakfast club will start on Monday, September 16th. It will run on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:00 to 8:30am in the gym.

The Breakfast Club is open to any students in the school. Staff and parent volunteers serve a variety of foods to students that could include toast, cereal, yogurt, grilled cheese sandwiches, fruit and juice. The gym is open for play activities after students have eaten. It is a lovely way to start the day and helps ensure everyone has a healthy start! Breakfast Club began today.

In addition, we have food available for students who forget to bring their lunches to school and cannot contact a parent. Students know to ask a noon hour supervisor for food if they need it.

Funding for Breakfast Club and Lunch Cupboard

Breakfast Club is offered Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:00-8:30am in the gym. It will start on Monday, September 16th. All students are welcome! Staff and parent volunteers serve a variety of foods to students that could include toast, cereal, yogurt, grilled cheese sandwiches, fruit and juice. The gym is open for play activities after students have eaten. It is a lovely way to start the day and helps ensure everyone has a healthy start.

In addition, we have food available for students who forgot to bring their lunches to school and cannot contact a parent. Students know to ask a noon hour supervisor for a bagged lunch if they need it.

Thank you to President's Choice Children's Charity, Feed-U-Cate and private donors for their generous grants that fund our Breakfast Club and Lunch Cupboard.

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

The beginning of the school year is an important time to discuss the following basic safety precautions with your child.

- Review routes to and from school with special attention to street crossings. You may want to practice walking these routes with your child on occasion.

- Have your children come straight home after school and “check-in” before starting after-school activities.
- Review with your child what should be done if approached by a stranger.
- Children riding their bicycles to school should wear a helmet and lock the bicycle in the racks provided. Roller blades or skateboards should not be used.

COOK CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

As many of you are aware we have completed the first year of our construction project at Cook in which we will have a new 10 room addition added on to our school as well as completing a full seismic upgrade so that the school is also Earthquake safe. Please make sure that you pay attention to the fenced off areas for the safety of both staff, students and parents. We appreciate your cooperation!

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (P.A.C.)

All parents/guardians of students at Cook are part of the PAC and are encouraged to join our parent group meetings. We will hold regular meetings to discuss events related to the school and school district that directly affect your children. School programs, school plans, food days, fund raising events, and volunteer helpers are regular topics of discussion. Please contact Laura Margolin our PAC Chair if you are interested in becoming a member of the PAC.

SETTLEMENT WORKERS IN SCHOOLS

Our SWIS workers at Cook School can assist newcomer students and their families to access community resources such as recreation services and after school activities. They can also help families adapt to the local school system. Please contact them during school hours. Ms. Marlyn Dadural will be here every Tuesday all day and Iris Lim, will be at Cook every Thursday afternoon.

COOK EARLY LEARNING CENTRE

At the Cook Early Learning Center we offer 3 programs:

1. Together Time which operates on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:15-11:15am.
2. The Cook Early Learning Program which operates on Tuesday - Friday from 1:30-3:30pm, and

3. Families who speak Chinese can participate in CAP-C on Thursdays 9:30 – 11:15am.

For information on this specialized program please call 604-207-5028. Both programs are free, drop-in, parent participation programs for preschool aged children and their siblings. We offer a safe and friendly environment where you and your child can explore, play and learn together. We provide materials and activities that provoke curiosity, wonder and interaction with others. Activities are facilitated by an Early Childhood Educator and include stories, songs, art, sensory play and much more! Our goal is to become a resource and support for families and children.

Come visit us in Portable 4.

City Centre Community Centre also has a registered program on Tuesday and Friday mornings: Two's Time. For more information: 604-204-8588

INSIDE/OUTSIDE DAYS AT COOK

Just a reminder that at Cook school we ask that students go outside to play at recess and lunch. Students will be permitted to stay inside **only** if it raining heavily outside. Please make sure your child wears appropriate clothing to school so they can be warm and dry when going outside. Some teachers may request a change of clothes be sent to school in case student get wet when playing outside so they have dry clothes to change into. If you have any questions please see your classroom teacher.