

COOK COUGARS

June 24, 2020

**NEWSLETTER****Message from the Administration:**

What can you say about the past few months of this school year: unprecedented, uncertain, and unpredictable. However, we've made it through this chapter of the pandemic and one of the positive things that was evident is how our community responded. The care and commitment to make sure we were all safe and thriving while staying connected through phone calls, e-mails, e-portfolios and Zoom sessions were impressive. I am so proud of our teachers for the amazing learning plans they provided for their students. I also want to thank you as families. I know this online learning experience has had its ups and downs. Never before have we needed to ask so much of parents, and I wanted you to know how much your efforts have been appreciated.

September will bring new challenges and new opportunities. I wish I could tell you more at this time what school will look like next year. I do know that we all need to trust in the people making those difficult decisions and be confident that when school re-opens in September that we will be safe and able to learn and play together as a caring community once again. We look forward to seeing you all in our newly finished school building!

I wish you and your family a wonderfully safe and happy summer!

**A CARING COMMUNITY
MAKES A DIFFERENCE**

With donations from our school staff, community and members of the public, we have been able to offer over \$10,000 of grocery donations to almost 30 families within our Cook Community. This is a tremendous amount of money that was raised to support those in need during COVID-19. We would like to thank those that donated. These donations have made a huge impact for the families in need.

We would like to notify you that cash donations can be accessed through KEV (School Cash Online) via Credit Card or e-Cheque. Parents can now go to the school's website and click on School Cash Online in the right-hand column and once you are in, you can click on the "Make a Donation" button to donate. If a member of the public (family or friends) who are not signed up for KEV account and would like to make a donation, they can go to

the Richmond School District's Donation Landing page and will be able to follow simple steps to donate.

[https://www.sd38.bc.ca/Pages/donations.aspx#/=">](https://www.sd38.bc.ca/Pages/donations.aspx#/=)

The funds that are donated will be used to support families in our community that are in need. Supporting our community at this time is of utmost importance to us. If you require support of any kind or have any questions about how to donate, please call the school at 604-668-6454 and speak with Mrs. Loat.

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

The last day of school for Cook students is **Thursday, June 25th**. If you have not picked up your child's belongings please do so by Friday, June 26th. Please call the office to make an appointment to pick up your child's belongings.

SUMMER SCHOOL HOURS

School Office Hours:

June 29th – July 3rd: 8:00am – 4:00pm

(Closed July 1st – Happy Canada Day)

August 29th – September 5th: 8:00am – 4:00pm

(Other dates the school will be closed.)

Please call the school ahead of time to make an appointment to come in.



SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR NEXT YEAR

As a service to families of students in elementary school, the Richmond School District has purchased school supplies at significantly reduced prices. Students will be charged \$30 for school supplies which include items such as glue sticks, pencils, pens, notebooks, duo tangs, crayons, pencil crayons, felts, rulers, 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 1 - 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.

We will send a notice home at the beginning of the school year requesting payment for these supplies.



FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL



Tuesday, September 8th.

Students returning to the school:

(Grades 1 – 6) will attend 9:00am – 10:00am and go to their last year's classroom.

Students new to the school will attend 1:00pm – 2:00pm.

All new students will report to the Multipurpose room.

Kindergarten students will receive a letter in July describing the phase-in schedule through the first two weeks of September. Notices will also be posted around the school just before the long weekend in September.

COOK COMMUNITY GARDEN SUMMER 2020 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



The students and staff have worked hard to maintain our Cook Community Garden this school year along with the Richmond Food Society. We are asking families to volunteer to take care of it over the summer. Families would come to the school to water the garden (about twice per week or more if hot), pick weeds, harvest the produce as it is ready, and monitor the gardens to prevent vandalism.

Please consider volunteering for one week this summer! A volunteer form, with available weeks is at the office. Please call the school at 604-668-6454 to make arrangements.

STAFF CHANGES

Each year we have staff members who leave us and other staff members who join us. Although it's hard to say goodbye to such great people, it is also invigorating to have new staff members bring their ideas to us.

This year we will be saying good-bye to Mrs. Gosling, an Educational Assistant who will be retiring after 30 years here at Cook. We will miss her free hugs and big smiles in the hallways at Cook! We love you Mother Goose!

Mrs. Shawna Borden will be leaving Cook to teach at Brighthouse Elementary and Ms. Shelley John will be teaching at Woodward Elementary school in the fall. Mrs. Natasha Tam and Mrs. Stephanie Rubio will be taking a year off for maternity leave. Ms. Sarah Jimenez will be continuing her maternity leave with baby number #2 due in July 2020.

Other staff leaving Cook are Ms. Aisha Syed and Mrs. Nicole Matter.

We are also saying good-bye to two of our Educational Assistants. Ms. Shahana Buksh and Ms. Aliona Shepliov who will be leaving us to work at other schools in Richmond.

Last but not least, we are saying goodbye to Mrs. Erin Alderson our Vice Principal who is going to be taking a leave and moving to Australia with her family. We thank her for her leadership and laughter for the past two years here at Cook.

We wish everyone well and hope they come back and visit as soon as they can!

We would like to welcome a number of new staff to Cook School. We would like to welcome Ms. Taryn Laronge, Ms. Allisa Musil, Mr. David Lee, and Ms. Mika Collins who will start in September 2020.

We would like to also welcome our new Vice Principal Ms. Nichole Kusch. She is coming to us from Spul'u'kwuks Elementary. She has been the Vice Principal there for the past three years. We are excited to welcome her to our Cook community!



ELECTION OF 2020/2021 PAC EXECUTIVE

Chair – Laura Margolin

Treasurer – Rose Schumacher

Secretary – Jody Kovacs

Special Events Co-ordinator: Elaheh Shavalian

Members at Large: Alfred Kong, Erika Thomas

We encourage you to join us next year and be involved in whatever capacity this “new schooling” will look like in September. We look forward to your continued support in any way, shape or form, none of this could be accomplished without volunteers! This PAC is not just about fundraising but building new friendships and of course - supporting our children!

LASTLY...

Please enjoy a [special video](#) featuring some of our Cook staff wishing you and your families a wonderful summer!

