

COOK COUGARS



NEWSLETTER

September 22nd, 2020

Issue #1

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

We are excited to start another school year! We know that there have been many challenges this past spring and COVID-19 remains a reality this fall as well. We are happy to see 65% of our student population back at school and will continue to support our students that are learning from home during our transitional learning sessions. We have a few new staff to welcome to Cook. We know they will help make Cook an even better place for learning! We are pleased to announce that our school construction project is almost complete. We still have some painting to complete and landscaping to finish off, we are almost there! We have a new parking lot and there will be important information shared in this newsletter about new parking rules.



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.

SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

We have 23 divisions in our school 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 502 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:

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. Collins
Div. 8	4/5	Ms. Brown
Div. 9	3/4	Ms. Verkade
Div. 10	3/4	Mrs. Lee/Houston
Div. 11	3/4	Mr. Lee
Div. 12	2/3	Ms. Gallagher
Div. 13	2/3	Ms. Hodder
Div. 14	2/3	Ms. Benedet
Div. 15	1/2	Ms. Byrne

Div. 16	1/2	Ms. Tan
Div. 17	1/2	Ms. Ky
Div. 18	1/2	Ms. Uhrig
Div. 19	1	Ms. Musil
Div. 20	K	Ms. Lo
Div. 21	K	Mrs. Bailey
Div. 22	K	Ms. Yuen
Div. 23	K	Ms. Lau



MRS. KUSCH - NEW VICE PRINCIPAL

As you may be aware Mrs. Alderson our Vice Principal for the last two years has moved to Australia.

Replacing her is Mrs. Nichole Kusch. Mrs. Kusch has been a Vice Principal for the past 5 years, working at Spul’u’kwuks and Gilmore Elementary schools. She is excited to become a part of the Cook community and get to know your children.

MORNING BELL SCHEDULE

Please note the following as our morning bell schedule.

8:40- Doors open/Warning bell- students should be in class

8:45 – School begins

Students should be dropped off and picked up from their outside classroom door or designated door. It is important that students get to school on time. If your child is late they should come to the office with their parent where they will sign in and be taken to class.

RECESS AND LUNCH BREAKS AT COOK

Just a reminder that at Cook School due to COVID-19 we ask that all students go outside to play at recess and lunch. 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 students get wet when playing outside so they have dry clothes to change into. If you have any questions please speak with your classroom teacher.

SUPERVISION AT SCHOOL

Recess supervision is done by all teaching staff during the week. Lunch hour supervision is provided by our four noon hour supervisors. Similar to last year, we expect all students to respond respectfully to their guidance. **No food is permitted to be dropped off at the school for students this year. We have snacks and food items available for students who forget to bring a lunch or recess snack.** At 2:45pm students are expected to be picked up by parents or make their way home. We have no staff to supervise students after school so please ensure you pick up your child promptly. **Children should not be congregating in groups after school.** Student safety is important to our school. Our school has an automated system installed on five of our outside doors. Due to COVID-19 all doors will be locked automatically during instructional hours. The office is open 8:00am – 4:00pm. Adults are not permitted in the school at this time. Please call to make an appointment if necessary.

OTHER 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.
- 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.

PARKING AT COOK

We are asking parents to respect the restrictions we have with our new parking lot. All parents and students are encouraged to walk to and from school. Our parking lot is available for parents to drop off their children in the **DROP OFF ZONES** which are clearly



marked in yellow. Parents may also park if needed, in the lot on the northwest side, closest to the green playground in spots that are **not** marked STAFF.

The parking lot on the northeast side of the school is out of bounds for parent parking or drive through.

If you are dropping off or picking up your child from one of the drop off zones please exit promptly without detouring through the staff parking lot, as this will cause undo congestion during our busy times of the day. Please remind your children to use the cross walks and sidewalks to keep them safe.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in keeping everyone safe!

SCHOOL FORMS

A package of school forms will be going home this week. Please return the **white, blue and green form as ONE** to the classroom teacher. These forms consist of:



1. STUDENT VERIFICATION (white)

Parents, please review this form with your child's information. Please make any changes **right on the form** and **sign off** at the bottom of the back side of the form.

2. SCHOOL SUPPLIES (pink)



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.

****All school supply fees are due by September 30th at schoolcashionline****

3. PERSONAL INFORMATION CONSENT FORM (blue)

Please take time to read through the Responsible Technology Use



information sheet. Please make sure you **check off the consent boxes** to the right hand side on both sides of the form and **sign off** on the back side of the form. A Chinese translation of the form is available at the office.

4. WALKING FIELD TRIP PERMISSION FORM (green)

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.

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (P.A.C.)

All parents/guardians of students at Cook are encouraged to join our parent group. We are hoping to have regular meetings to discuss events related to the school and school district that directly affect your children. If you would like to hear about PAC volunteer opportunities or receive PAC information, please send an email to laura_margolin@hotmail.com.

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 and Iris Lim, will be at Cook every Thursday.

EARLY LEARNING CENTRE PROGRAMS:

We have truly enjoyed offering a variety of programs to our community, however we will no longer be able to host these programs in a portable with no running water. Therefore, the decision was made to move the programs to a school nearby. The Early Learning Center has moved to General Currie Elementary School. Please contact them at 604-668-6440 to inquire about the Early Learning programs being offered this fall.

PRO-D DAY – MONDAY SEPTEMBER 28th

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 the schedule of Pro-D days on our school website.

MRS. ARAKI RETIRED!

After 44 years of teaching Mrs. Araki has retired! Mrs. Araki has been a pillar to Cook School, with her many contributions in making our Cook community what it is today. She embodies what it truly means to be a great teacher, through her dedication to her students, her support for her colleagues, and all the help she has given to our community through the Breakfast Program. We will miss her kindness, sense of humor, selflessness, and compassion! We wish her all the best in her retirement!

