



# Cedar Grove Elementary

## NEWSLETTER

Sept. 21, 2012

PO Box 1130, Gibsons, BC V0N1V0  
1196 Chaster Road, Gibsons, BC V0N1V4  
Phone: 604-886-7818 Fax: 604-886-3715

### Important Dates

Pro-D Day  
September 24  
(non instructional)

PAC Meeting  
September 26 7:00pm

School Terry Fox Run  
September 27 11:25am

School Photo Day  
Friday, October 5

Thanksgiving Day  
Mon, Oct. 8th - no school

### Principal's Message

On behalf of the entire staff at CGE, welcome to the 2012/2013 school year! We are so happy to be working with you and your child(ren) this year. We look forward to many exciting learning opportunities, meeting new challenges, and working together for the academic and personal success of the students. I want to express my gratitude to our teachers and support staff for their care and efforts in making our start-up successful. Thank you as well to parents for your patience and support as we get the new year up and running. I am enjoying meeting everyone - and I know I have many more folks to get to know. I am impressed with everything from the cleanliness of the school, to the politeness of the students, to the learning they are doing already. Often the transition to a new classroom can be an exciting, yet anxious time for children. Your positive encouragement in helping your child through this time of making new friends and meeting new opportunities and challenges is so important. We are all part of the school community. We work together. Continuing to communicate in a positive, collaborative way is how we build relationships and accomplish our goals together.

**Warm regards, Ms. Kerry Mahlman**

#### Welcome to New Staff

A very warm welcome to some staff members who are new or returning to Cedar Grove Elementary:

Ms. Signy Bjarnason, Division 1 on Mondays, Division 3 on Thursdays;

Ms. Michelle McLeod, Division 2 on Mondays and Tuesdays;

Ms. Katharine Mann, Division 9 on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays;

Welcome to our new music teacher Ms. Sara Douglas and our new Grade 6 and 7 band teacher Mr. Michael Grice. We look forward to a year of learning, success and fun at CGE!

#### Welcome to Our Kindergarten Students!

Welcome to our new Kindergarten students, who are joining us for the first time - for full days! It is exciting for us to have you as part of our learning community. Welcome to parents who are having children enter the school system for the first time. We look forward to your partnership with us.

## Student Information Sheets

Each student in the school has received a bright green Student Information Sheet. May we ask your help in returning our bright green Student Information Sheets, which we require to be filled in for every student at CGE, as soon as possible. This provides us with vital information, should an emergency or urgent situation occur. A huge thank you to parents/students who worked together to get these forms back to us so quickly!



## School Goals

Our mission is to provide a safe, respectful, and positive learning environment where every child can reach their personal best and we plan on achieving this through working together as a team. We invite you to be part of our team. Every year, with the help of our school planning council, we develop school goals. Based on data, we target an area that we all feel needs further attention in raising the overall achievement of our students. This year our school goals include helping students to become better readers and writers, encouraging students to enjoy and participate in visual and performing arts, and encouraging students to take leadership and responsibility (Social Responsibility). Our staff will be working on these goals collectively and we always appreciate the help of parents and the community in achieving these goals.

## Anaphylaxis - Cedar Grove is a Nut/Peanut Free School

If your child has an anaphylactic condition, please notify the school office so that plans can be in place to promote the health and safety of such children while at our school. To date, three families have notified the school of their child experiencing anaphylaxis.

### What is Anaphylaxis?

As defined in School District NO. 46's Regulation 1080: [a] anaphylaxis refers to a collection of symptoms affecting multiple systems in the body. The most dangerous symptoms include breathing difficulties and a drop in blood pressure or shock, all of which are potentially fatal. Common examples of potentially life-threatening allergies are those to foods (eg. peanuts) and stinging insects.

How does anaphylaxis impact our school community? Students have been identified who have an anaphylactic condition related to peanuts and other foods. Accordingly, there are certain measures we must put in place at Cedar Grove Elementary. For these children's safety, all students in are requested not to bring peanuts or food containing any nut or peanut products to school (e.g. peanut butter, Nutella, peanut butter cookies, other foods containing any form of nuts or peanuts). Parental co-operation is essential so please remember this when considering what to send for your child in terms of snacks, lunches and special treats.

Due to the seriousness of an anaphylactic condition, jokes, threats and teasing about nuts/peanuts must not be directed toward the student having a nut/peanut allergy. In fact, in accordance with the District regulation, "threatening to expose the child with anaphylaxis to the allergen will be dealt with in the same manner as a weapons threat." To read the full regulation on anaphylaxis, go to [Http://www.sd46.bc.ca/governance/1080.pdf](http://www.sd46.bc.ca/governance/1080.pdf)

## Student Absence

We are entering what is typically a cold/flu season. Our advice from public health and from our District Medical Health Officer is: 1) to review hand washing with students and encourage hand washing several times a day and 2) To request that, when students are not feeling well and/or still have symptoms of a cold or flu, they remain at home until symptoms (runny nose, cough, aches etc.) are gone. If your child is ill or will be absent from school, may we ask that you please let us know at the office as soon as possible in the morning - (604) 886-7818. This greatly assists us in making sure that all students are accounted for and safe. Thank you.



### **Buses/After School Supervision**

**Please note: Outside supervision ends when our last bus leaves, between 2:40 and 2:45. Please be aware that the general office is not staffed after 3:00 pm and, to ensure the safety of students, all students should have begun walking home, been picked up or supervised by parents, or be on their bus ride home by 2:45. In the event of an emergency, parents can phone 604-885-8345 to reach the principal.**

***Please note that our after school KidzClub is not responsible for any students that are not registered with the KidzClub Program. Younger students who are not part of the KidzClub Program should not be left on their own at CGE after school with the expectation that the KidzClub staff will look out for them - this is a parent responsibility.***

### **Volunteers**

**Parent volunteers are always welcome and very much appreciated. All parents who volunteer as parent drivers, help with supervising on extended experiences, work with individual students listening to them read etc. are required to have a completed RCMP Criminal Record Check on file with the School District. We are pleased to offer the forms to complete this process at the office.**

### **After School Arrangements**

**We ask that students make after school social arrangements the day before, and to jot a note to the teacher in the planner, particularly if plans involve going with another parent, or a change in usual bus arrangements. This assists us greatly in helping to keep students safe. Student medical, dental appointments/parent pick-up should be noted in the planner as well. Thank you for assisting us!!**

### **Terry Fox Run**

**This year's Terry Fox Run will take place on Thursday, September 27th at 11:25 a.m. We would appreciate parent volunteers to assist with this event for students. Contact the school if you can help. Each year our school raises money in support of this very worthwhile cause. Hats off to Ms. McAllister for her leadership and effort in planning this event, and to our senior students, who we rely on to assist with younger students, set up, etc. - your leadership and role modeling makes a very positive difference in our school.**



### **Dropping Children Off In The Morning and Picking them Up After School**

**For everyone's safety, if you are taking your child out of class early, please report to the office. Please also keep in mind that children are to arrive at 8:30 a.m. in the morning as limited supervision is available from 8:15 - 8:30 a.m. School is in session until 2:30pm.**

### **Beginning and Ending the School Day**

**The beginning of the day is very important to setting the tone for the rest of the day, so dropping your child off to their classroom quickly is helpful. Once your child is feeling comfortable in the classroom we kindly ask parents to leave the classrooms and hallways so that the work scheduled for the school day can begin. The end of the day can be a very busy one as teachers are trying to keep children focused as they deliver homework, messages and notes that are to be sent home. Many times students are coming back from the gym, music or library and the hallways can get very congested. As always we thank you so much for your cooperation. We also ask that parents respect papers, items that are on a teacher's desk or table as many items are confidential. As a community, we need to be supportive and encouraging of all children. Respecting confidentiality - and the privacy of families as each one works with the school to support their children as needed - is an important aspect of acting as a supportive community. Children are encouraged to walk to and from school in groups or with a parent. Students riding to school on bicycles must dismount & walk from the sidewalk onto the school grounds. There is no riding of these items on school grounds or in the staff parking lot. Safety helmets should be worn when riding. Your child's safety is important to everyone; please report any unsafe situations to the office. In consideration of the health and well being of our students, we encourage parents to leave their dogs at home.**

## FRIENDLY REMINDER TO PARENTS - Parking/Student Pick-Up & Drop-Off

Please, if you are visiting or volunteering in our school, or if you are dropping off or picking up your children, please do not park in the staff parking lot at the back of the school. We ask that you please use the lot at the front of the school. When dropping students off in the morning, please assist in keeping the flow of traffic moving. There is a marked Fire Lane - please do not park in this area or the drop-off area. If you are coming into the school, even for a very short time frame, please park in marked stall, NOT in the pull through lane or school bus/fire lane area. Thank you in advance for your help and support.



## Earthquake, Fire and Lockdown Drills

The school will be reviewing earthquake, fire and lockdown procedures through drills in the weeks ahead. We will plan at least 6 drills of each procedure throughout the year, and when possible we will time the drills to correspond with community and provincial awareness programs, such as the Great British Columbia Shakeout on October 18<sup>th</sup> and Fire Prevention Week October 7 – 18<sup>th</sup>. Please review with your children the importance of cooperating with these drills. Families can get involved, too! Check out [www.ShakeOutBC.ca](http://www.ShakeOutBC.ca) concerning Earthquake information and to register.

## Medical Information and the Request For Administration of Medication form

If your child has a medical condition diagnosed by a physician that may require precautionary treatment at school, please make sure that has been noted on the green Student Information Sheet. If your child requires medication to be given at school, the Administration of Medication form must be completed and on file at the school before personnel can give your child medication. Please return the forms to the school as soon as possible. It is very important for families to promptly make sure the school has all important information concerning each student's health. It allows us to help keep students well and safe while learning at Cedar Grove.

The public health nurse, upon request, will assist school personnel and parents in reviewing the information and developing care plans.

## Riding the School Bus

The school district has regulations concerning student behaviour on school buses. (Regulation 1320 can be found on the school district web site: [www.sd46.bc.ca](http://www.sd46.bc.ca).) Parents of students who ride the bus are requested to review the regulation and to talk with your children about behaviour expectations – including the safety rationale behind them.

A summary of the regulation will be sent home soon with regular bus riders.

## New Web Site Coming!

The school district is switching over to a new carrier for all of the school web sites. This requires us to re-build all of the information on the new site. Please bear with us as we do this. We will notify you as soon as the new school web site is up and running.

Best wishes for a wonderful year - we look forward to sharing student successes!

**Sunshine Coast StrongStart Opening September 10, 2012!**

StrongStart Centres welcome all parents and caregivers with children five and under to join us at the following locations and times:

- Gibsons Elementary** (9:30 am – 12:30 pm) 783 School Road, Gibsons
- Roberts Creek Elementary** (9 am – 12 pm) 1088 Roberts Creek Road, Roberts Creek
- Sechelt Learning Centre** (10 am – 1 pm) 5338 Sharncliffe Avenue, Sechelt (across from the Library & Swimming Pool)
- Halfmoon Bay Elementary** (10 am – 1 pm) 8084 Northwood Road, Halfmoon Bay
- Madeira Park Elementary** (10 am – 1 pm) (Tues.) 1130 am – 2:30 pm 5012 Gonzalez Road, Madeira Park

**StrongStart Outreach Tiny Town** (10 am – 11:15 am)

Sechelt Learning Centre, 5338 Sharncliffe Avenue, Sechelt

"Tiny Town" is a child-sized "town" located in the Sechelt Learning Centre. The "Tiny Town" provides lots of joyful learning and imaginative experiences, as the children play in the tiny markets, post office, cafe, barn, home, and farm! Bring your little ones for BIG fun in TinyTown!

**WonderWheels** – Going where no StrongStart has gone before! The WonderWheels Bus is a mobile StrongStart program and play space. WonderWheels brings the StrongStart program to communities along our coast from Egmont to Langdale on a regular weekly schedule.

- Tuesdays:** WonderWheels will be in the Pender Harbour Area all day! Find us at the Pender Harbour Pool for Songs, Stories and Swimming from 9:30 am – 11 am
- Wednesdays:** In the Sechelt Area all day – WonderWheels will be at the Sechelt Learning Centre for Songs & Stories on the Bus! at 11:15 am
- Thursdays:** WonderWheels will then be with the Sechelt Indian Band from 12 pm – 2:30 pm
- Thursdays:** At the beach in Davis Bay from 12:30 pm – 2 pm for "Wee Sing by the Sea" and then with the Learning & Parent Program (L&P) from 2 pm – 3 pm
- Fridays:** In the Langdale/Gibsons Area all day – find WonderWheels in the FamilyZone Room in Langdale Elementary 9 am – 11 am and at Gibsons Elementary 12 pm – 1 pm

StrongStart Centres are open on days when school is in session and your child can explore, play and learn in an environment that is friendly, supportive and inspiring! All programs are free of charge and a snack will be served daily!

For more information, please call 888-8787 or check our website: [www.sd46bc.ca](http://www.sd46bc.ca)

**No pre-registration necessary – just drop-in!**

School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast)