

November 2024

Jason Kemp, Principal | Chris Falk, Vice Principal | Andrea Spedding, Vice Principal | https://stitos.sd33.bc.ca

Message from the Admin Team...

As we wrap up October, I'd like to take a moment to celebrate some wonderful accomplishments and share a few reminders.

First, we're thrilled to announce that our school raised an impressive \$2,150 for the Terry Fox Foundation! A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the students, parents, and staff who donated and supported this meaningful cause. It's inspiring to see our community come together to make a difference.

We've also had a fantastic Fall Sports season! From exciting games to impressive teamwork, our student-athletes have shown dedication and spirit. A huge thank you to our amazing coaches for their time, guidance, and encouragement. Your hard work truly makes a difference!

Recently, we hosted our Parent-Teacher Conferences, and it was wonderful to connect with so many of you. These conversations are invaluable as we work together to support your child's learning journey. If you were unable to attend or have additional questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher. Open communication is key, and we're here to support you.

As the weather changes, please remember to send your child dressed for the season. Proper clothing will help them enjoy their outdoor time comfortably, regardless of the elements.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. Here's to a successful month ahead!



Remembrance Day Assembly Poppies

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 295 Chilliwack-Vedder has graciously dropped off poppies for our students to wear at our Remembrance Day Assembly on November $7^{\rm th}$. Our school will be collecting donations for the poppies for the Royal Canadian Legion and any contribution would be appreciated.

Unfortunately, with the size of our school the Remembrance Assembly will be for staff & students only and unable to accommodate parents/guardians at this time.

Important Dates to Remember...

November 1st Assessment & Evaluation (No School for Students)

November 8th Non-Instructional Day (No School for Students)

November 11th Remembrance Day (Stat Holiday – No School)

November 15th Rock Your Mocks Day November 21st PAC Meeting @ 7 pm

December 4th Term 2 Begins
December 6th Entrepreneur Fair
December 11th Winter Band Concert
December 16th Grade 6 Immunizations

December 18th Learning Update #1 Goes Home Today

December 18th Winter Elementary Concert

December 20th Last Day of Classes Before Christmas Break

January 6th School Reopens from Break

January 23rd PAC Meeting @ 7 pm

January 24th Assessment & Evaluation (No School for Students)
February 14th Non-Instructional Day (No School for Students)
February 17th Family Day (Stat Holiday – No School)

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February 20th PAC Meeting @ 7 pm

February 26th Pink Shirt Day

February 28th Early Dismissal @ 11:31 am

Athletics Update

Our middle school basketball season will soon begin, and we are asking for help from our school community of parents and guardians. We currently are in need of additional help in several areas:

- Gr 8 Girls Basketball Coach for a potential second team
- Basketball Helpers for Grade 7 & 8 Boys
- Basketball Coaches and Helpers for Grade 6 (in February & March)
- Referees

If you are able to help, please contact Erin Hartfield at erin_hartfield@sd33.bc.ca or our school administration.

Also, **CONGRATULATIONS** to our fall athletes for their excellent seasons. We had several teams that participated in the league playoffs and EVAA zone championships. Way to go Stitó:s! Thank you as well to the teachers and parents who volunteered their time to coach and support our teams.

Fair Notice Letter

The Chilliwack School District is committed to a safe and supportive environment for all. All schools take all threatening comments and behaviour seriously. There are specific protocols and procedures followed to address threat-making behaviour in order to keep students, staff, and the community safe. The <u>District's Fair Notice</u> document provides information on how the district and school respond to threat-making behaviour that occur in schools.

Carving Supplies

Stitó:s is very thankful and honoured to receive a donation of carving tools and supplies from the family of Sharon Mayo. Sharon, who sadly passed away this past summer, was an avid carver and used her talents to bring joy to others with her work. We will use these tools and supplies in our woodshop program to carry forward the joy and passion Sharon had for woodworking. Thank you to Sharon's family, William Senger and Andrea Mahoney for this wonderful donation.

Lost & Found

Our lost and found is overflowing with student clothing and other items. If your child is missing clothing, please stop by to take a look or ask your child to take a look.

Early Pick-Ups

If you need to pick up your child early, please call the school to let us know first thing in the morning so that we can let classroom teachers know in advance. Often, our classes are in the community exploring the outdoors and not in the classrooms all day so students may not be onsite for 'spontaneous pick ups.'

Any students (K-8) that are leaving early <u>MUST</u> be picked up and signed out at the office.

Here are some reasons why the practice of signing your student out at the office is important:

Safety & Accountability – when parents sign their children out, it ensures that the child is leaving with an authorized person. This helps maintain safety and accountability within the school premises.

Attendance Tracking – signing out allows schools to accurately track attendance. It helps administrators know who is present in the building at any given time.

Emergency Situations – in case of emergencies (e.g., fire drills, lockdowns, natural disasters), knowing who is present and who has left the premises is crucial for student safety.

Consent for Leaving Early – if a child needs to leave school early (for appointments, family emergencies, illness, etc.), the sign-out process ensures that parents are aware and have given consent.



Learning Commons

For information about all things books, including new book recommendations and what's happening in the Library Learning Commons please visit this <u>link</u>. You can also find the monthly newsletter posted on our school website under Learning Commons, "Check It Out".

Winter Gear Drive

Please bring new socks, toques, mittens & gloves to your Core classroom, starting October 28th. Adult sizes only please.

All donations will be given to Ruth & Naomi's to benefit those in need in our community.





Inclement Weather Information

Inclement weather conditions such as freezing rain, significant snowfall or high wind can occur during the fall and winter months. In such conditions, decisions on the opening or closure of school district facilities are made by the Superintendent of Schools, in consultation with management and supervisory staff, who have checked first-hand on the driving conditions, walking/sidewalk conditions, and general condition of buildings and accessibility to sites.

While service to students and parents is a priority and schools will be kept open as much as is reasonably possible, student and staff safety is the primary consideration.

In the event of extreme weather conditions, parents are urged to check the School District Website (http://www.sd33.bc.ca) or tune into radio stations STAR FM (98.3 FM) or JR COUNTRY (89.5 FM), to receive up-to-date information on school closures and information on the buses. Reports will start after 6:00 am and will be repeated often. There is no need to call your school, the School District Office, or the radio station.

When there is extreme weather and schools remain open, student attendance is the parent/guardians' decision.

Counsellors' Corner

Here is the latest information from Family Smart. There are in-person sessions as well as online sessions to help support our children with big emotions.

Check out this link for more info:

https://mailchi.mp/familysmart/join-us-for-child-youth-mental-health-day-16993461?e=b9661643f5

Did You Know You Can Access...

School Information

Looking to see what is on the school calendar, what the bell schedule is for your child, or view the newsletter online??? Check out the School Information section on the school website.

Athletics Calendar

Looking to see when the next practice or game is??? Check out the school Athletics Calendar on the school website.

Counsellor Corner

Looking for loads of resources for families??? Check out the school Counsellor Corner section on the school website.

Learning Commons

Looking to see what activities and events are taking place in the Learning Commons??? Check out the Learning Commons section on the school website.

PAC Information

Looking to see who is your 2024/2025 PAC Executive or when the next PAC meeting is??? Check out the Parent Information section on the school website.

https://stitos.sd33.bc.ca/

STITO:S PAC INVITES YOU TO

How to Support Your Anxious Child/Youth

Join us for this info session with our school counsellors. Learn easy tips and strategies to support your child/youth.

Facilitators:

Cathy Preibisch Marie Amos

Wed. Nov. 20, 2024

6:00 - 7:00pm

Free Childcare for age 3+



Parent Advisory Committee

The next PAC Meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, November 21st at 7:00 pm**. Did you know that you are a member of the PAC? Every single person that has a child attending Stitó:s Lá:lém Totí:lt Elementary / Middle is a member of the PAC and has a vote in what our PAC does.



World Mental Health Day @ Stitó:s

Written by London & Arwen (Gr 8 Green Crew Leadership Students)

On October 10th, we celebrated World Mental Health Day! The Stitó:s Green Crew did this by spreading the word around the school asking staff and students what they do for their mental health. We filmed it and made it into a video to show each class. At break we set up tables giving away free mental health stickers. Some were sensory stickers, and others were supporting mental health.

We also set up a table for a bake sale to raise money for the Chilliwack Youth Health Centre. We raised \$420! The CYHC provides free and confidential counselling and medical services to youth ages 12-16. We are lucky to have 2 CYHC counselling interns who volunteer in our school 2 days a week with our counsellors.

The Stitó:s Green Crew is a small team of students and teachers who help spread awareness about mental health in our school. Stay tuned for more exciting things happening this year!







THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 33 (CHILLIWACK)



Administrative Procedure

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE 318: STUDENT CELL PHONE AND DIGITAL DEVICE USE

The Chilliwack School District (the "District") is dedicated to fostering a positive and productive learning environment, prioritizing academic achievement and appropriate socialization. The use of cell phones and personal digital devices is a privilege that comes with the responsibility of maintaining this environment. Our classroom and school-wide expectations are designed, in alignment with Ministerial Order 276/07, to uphold this commitment with the recognition that the student use guidelines align with students' developmental stage and age:

All Students:

- To contact a student during instructional time, call the school office's number.
- Students who have accessibility or accommodation needs, where a personal digital device is needed to ensure equity of learning, will have access.
- Students with medical or health-related reasons who require a personal digital device will also have access.
- For privacy considerations, unauthorized taking of pictures, videos, or recordings at school or during school activities (including riding the school bus) is strictly prohibited as per Administrative Procedure 481: Audio / Video Recordings, Photography and Live Streaming.
- Headphones or earbuds must not be worn or visible during instructional time, including assemblies, unless the teacher has allowed them.

Elementary/Middle Students:

- During break and lunch periods, students are encouraged to be active and socialize with friends. Students are not permitted to use their cell phones and other devices during this time.
- Students are to store their devices in a designated area identified by staff.
- Your child's teacher may permit cell phones or personal digital devices in class for educational reasons.

Secondary Students:

- During break and lunch periods, students are encouraged to be active and socialize with friends. They are also encouraged to put their cell phones and other devices away.
- During instructional times, students will silence their devices and store them in their bag, locker or a designated space provided by staff.
- Your child's teachers will decide if students can use their cell phones or digital devices during class time for educational purposes.

Related Legislation: Ministerial Order 276/07

Related Contract Article: Nil Adopted: June 13, 2024

Amended: xxxx

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THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 33 (CHILLIWACK)



Administrative Procedure

Unauthorized use of electronic devices is not tolerated. If a student is found using a device without permission, it will be confiscated and returned at the end of the class or day as determined by school staff.

For repeated offences, the device(s) will be given to the office who may return the device(s) to the student and/or contact the parents if the issue persists. Students may then be asked to turn their cell phone in the office each morning and pick it up at the end of the day or to leave it at home.

Related Legislation: Ministerial Order 276/07

Related Contract Article: Nil Adopted: June 13, 2024

Amended: xxxx

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