Stitó:s Lá:lém Totí:lt Elementary / Middle School Newsletter



September 2025

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

Message from the Admin Team...

Welcome Back, Spa:th Families!

Welcome to the 2025/2026 school year at Stitó:s Lá:lém Totí:lt Elementary/Middle School! We hope you enjoyed a wonderful summer and are as excited as we are to embark on another fantastic year of learning and growth.

This year, we are proud to share that our school has grown again and now serves over 970 students. This is an incredible milestone and a reflection of the strong community and support we are so fortunate to have. With our school now officially at full capacity, we are committed to maximizing our facilities and resources to ensure that all students continue to receive the best possible educational experience.

I would also like to take a moment to share how class placements are determined at Stitó:s Lá:lém Totí:lt. With nearly 1,000 students, this process is both complex and thoughtful. Our team works closely with last year's classroom teachers, students, and our Learning Services staff to create classes that meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of every learner. At the same time, we must ensure that each class remains balanced and in line with staffing agreements. Because of the careful consideration that goes into this process, changes to class placements will not be made unless there are exceptional circumstances and a clear educational reason. We truly appreciate your trust and support as we work to create the best learning environment for every child in our school.

Our dedicated staff is eager to welcome your children back into classrooms full of curiosity, creativity, and care. We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead—filled with enriching activities, meaningful academic challenges, and many opportunities for personal growth.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing partnership. Together, we will make 2025/2026 another successful and inspiring year of learning at Stitó:s Lá:lém Totí:lt.

Police Information Check (PIC)

All volunteers with the Chilliwack School District are required to complete a Vulnerable Police Information Check (PIC) through the Criminal Records Review Program (CRRP). These PIC's are effective for 5 years and there is no cost associated with the online form.

Please visit the link below to complete your Police Information Check (PIC). The access code is also required when proceeding with the online submission. In order to assist in successful completion, please read the guide below and have all your documents ready before clicking on the link.

Link To CRC Applicant Process Video:

https://youtu.be/RP58Vipb-hI?si=KrpXorgtJPFUFxIk

Online Link:

https://justice.gov.bc.ca/criminalrecordcheck

Access Code: **UKAGZSBMJ2**

Important Dates to Remember...

September 2 nd September 3 rd	First Day of School (8:26 – 10:31 am) Term 1 Begins – Day 1
September 10 th	Grade 6 Band Information Night @ 6 pm
September 17 th	Meet the Teacher Night (5:30 – 6:30 pm)
September 18 th	PAC Meeting @ 6:30 pm
September 19 th	Picture Day
September 26 th	Orange Shirt Day
September 29 th	Non-Instructional Day – No School for
	Students Today!
September 30 th	Truth & Reconciliation Day (Stat) – No
	School!
October 10 th	Drop Everything and Read
October 10 th	World Mental Health Day
October 13 th	Thanksgiving (Stat) – No School!
October 22 nd	Parent / Teacher Conferences – Details to
	Follow Closer to Event
October 23 rd	Early Dismissal at 11:31 am
October 24 th	Non-Instructional Day – No School for
	Students Today!
October 29 th	Picture Retake Day

Messages / Lunches / Packages for Students

During class time we make it a practice to minimize classroom disruptions to teachers and students. Learning time is important. If you have a message or lunch for your child during instructional time, please leave it at the office and we will page them down at the next instructional break. If you drop off lunch for your child, please make sure their first & last name is on it.

Cell Phone and Digital Device Use

The Chilliwack School 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 use.

At Stitó:s, all student cell phone will be handed in to the teacher at the beginning of the day and locked in a secure cupboard until the end of the school day.

Please read the District Administrative Procedure 318: Student Cell Phone and Digital Device Use attached at the end of the newsletter.

Medical Alerts

If you require the school to administer any kind of medication to your child, an authorization form must be completed first. Please see the office to get the forms, which must be signed by the family doctor and parent.

As we have students with severe allergies to nuts, our school is **Nut Aware**.

Picture Day - September 19th

Get ready to smile! Student individual photos will be taken on Friday, September 19th. Further details on ordering pictures will be coming home with students.

Save the Date – Meet & Greet

September 17th from 5:30 – 6:30 pm will be our opportunity to welcome you officially into the school and have tours of our building. We anticipate this to be a busy evening and look forward to showcasing the facilities and staff to you.

Reporting a Student Absence

To report your child absent we have a District Safe Arrival program. These options are available 24 hours / day, 7 days a week. Future absences can be reported at any time. You can use one of the following options to report your child's absent:

Option 1: Download and install the SchoolMessenger app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store. The first time you use the app, select Sign Up to create your account. Select Attendance then Report an Absence.

Option 2: Use the SafeArrival website at https://www.sd33.bc.ca/safe-arrival. The first time you use the website, select Sign Up to create your account. Select Attendance then Report an Absence.

Option 3: Call the toll-free number 1-833-698-6567 to report an absence using the automated phone system.

Grade 6 Band Information Night September 10th @ 6 pm

Field Trip Consent Forms

All student field trip consent / permission forms for students in Grades K-8 must be completed electronically through QuickPay. This applies to all field trips, regardless of cost, as well as team sports consent forms.

Exception: A paper copy of the **Walking Field Trip** form will be sent home by teachers during the first week of school. Please complete and return it as soon as possible.

To complete a form:

- 1. Log in to your student's QuickPay account.
- Locate the form under the "Field Trip Forms" heading.
- 3. Select the appropriate form, fill out all required fields, and click **Submit**.

If the field trip has a cost, the charge will be automatically added to your child's account for payment.

Important...

- All fields must be fully completed.
- If there is a fee, it must be paid at the time of submission.
- Forms cannot be submitted without completing both the form and payment together.
- Students will not be permitted to attend the field trip if the form is not received.

Stitó:s PAC

Did you know that you are a member of the PAC? All parents are members of our PAC and encouraged to attend the PAC meeting. PAC meetings provide parents with information about our school, a chance to ask questions or raise concerns and a chance to become involved with our school. The next PAC meeting will be **Thursday, September 18th @ 6:30 pm**.

School Supplies and Fees

School Supplies for the 2025 / 2026 school year have been purchased for <u>ALL</u> students in Kindergarten to Grade 8. We will be collecting money from families to cover the cost of the supplies for your child – **Kindergarten \$60**, **Grades 1** – **5 \$65 and Grades 6** – **8 \$70**. Supply Fees and other fees can be paid online through our school website under <u>SD33</u> <u>QuickPay</u>. For students in Grades 3 – 6, there will be an additional \$8 cost for the school planner.

This year we will also ask for Student Activity Fees, which will cover some of our guest speakers and student events. There is also an optional Parent Advisory Council Fee, which provides our PAC with some funds to provide our students with additional experiences. These fees can also be paid online through <u>SD33 QuickPay</u>.

Middle Athletic Fees will be collected per sport during the season.

Bell Schedule 2025-2026

Elementary		Middle		
Time	Period	Time	Period	
8:26 Warning Bell				
8:31 am -	Instructional	8:31 am -	Period 1	
10:31am	(120 Minutes)	9:45 am	(74 Minutes)	
10:31 am/-	Recess	9:45 am -	Period 2	
10:46 am	(15 Minutes)	11:00 am	(75 Minutes)	
10:46 am -	Instructional	11:00 am -	Break	
11:46 am	(60 Minutes)	11:15 am	(15 Minutes)	
11:46 am –	Eating	11:15 am -	Period 3	
12:01 pm	(15 minutes)	12:29 pm	(74 Minutes)	
12:01 pm -	Playing	12:29 pm -	Playing	
12:26 pm	(25 Minutes)	12:54 pm	(25 Minutes)	
12:26 pm -	Instructional	12:54 pm -	Eating	
2:24 pm	(118 Minutes)	1:09 pm	(15 Minutes)	
/	nom	1:09 pm -	Period 4	
		2:24 pm	(75 Minutes)	

Food Service – Stitó:s Servery

Lunch Orders will need to be placed in the classroom each morning by 9:00 am for the lunch to be provided that same day. Please include the exact change with the order form in a zip lock bag and a classroom runner will bring them down to the office. Order forms and menus are available on the school website under the Top Tab 'Stitó:s Servery,' however if you are unable to print off the order form the Servery will accept a piece of paper with your child's first & last name, classroom teacher / division and the items ordered with the money in a zip lock bag.

If your child has any dietary needs, please contact Sandra at sandrabertrand67@icloud.com.



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 2025/2026 PAC Executive or when the next PAC meeting is??? Check out the Parent Information section on the school website.

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

School Parking

To ensure a safe and efficient experience for everyone during drop-off and pick-up times, please take note of the following parking procedures:

Parent Parking Lot & Drop-Off Lane

The first parking lot is designed for parent parking. If you're dropping off your child quickly, please use the "stop and go" lane. This lane is intended for brief stops only – please keep it moving to avoid congestion. If you need to have a longer conversation or enter the school, kindly park in the marked stalls.

Bus Loop Restrictions

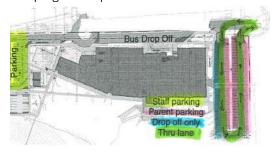
No parking is allowed in the bus loop during school hours. This area must remain clear for school buses and emergency access.

Off-Ground Parking Enforcement

Parking outside of school grounds is **prohibited and strictly monitored** by UFV Impark and the City of Chilliwack Bylaws. Unauthorized parking will result in a ticket.

Free public parking is available within walking distance at the Vedder River Dog Park. Additionally, the UFV red zone parking on Petawawa Rd is permitted during special events (Concerts, Meet the Teacher Night, etc.) as well as during the before and after school drop-off / pick-up rush hour.

Thank you for helping us keep our school safe and accessible for all!







2025-2026 School Calendar

Days in Session	187
Number of Instructional Days	177
Number of Non-Instructional Days	10
Schools Open	September 2
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY #1 (Pro-D Day)	September 29
Truth and Reconciliation Day – Statutory Holiday	September 30
Thanksgiving Day - Statutory Holiday	October 13
Early Dismissal Day #1	October 23
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY #2 (Pro-D Day)	October 24 (Provincial)
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY #3 (A&E Day #1)	November 3
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY #4 (Pro-D Day)	November 10
Remembrance Day - Statutory Holiday	November 11
Last Day of School before Christmas Holidays	December 19
Christmas Holidays	December 22 to January 2
Schools Reopens after Christmas Holidays	January 5
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY #5 (A&E Day #2)	January 23
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY #6 (Pro-D Day)	February 13
Family Day - Statutory Holiday	February 16
Early Dismissal Day #2	February 27
Last Day of School before Spring Vacation	March 13
Spring Vacation Period	March 16 - March 27
Schools Reopens after Spring Vacation	March 30
Good Friday - Statutory Holiday	April 3
Easter Monday - Holiday	April 6
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY #7 (Pro-D Day)	April 24 (CTA)
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY #8 (Pro-D Day)	May 15
Victoria Day - Statutory Holiday	May 18
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY #9 (A&E Day #3)	May 29
Last Day for Students / Early Dismissal #3	June 25
Administrative Day	June 26
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Fair Notice

Common programs and integrated services shall provide information to those who receive or are affected by their services. This is referred to as Fair Notice that such a multi-agency program/initiative exists. The Chilliwack School District is committed to providing a safe and inclusive environment for all staff, clients, students and community members, and as such, is a member of the Chilliwack Community Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA or ARTO) Protocol.

WHAT IS A VIOLENCE THREAT RISK ASSESSMENT (VTRA) PROTOCOL?

The protocol is designed to enhance communication between all partners. It is incumbent upon the partners to share necessary and appropriate information that may initiate or facilitate the Assessment of Risk to Others (ARTO) process. It is a trauma-informed and equity-inclusion guided practice that utilizes and Assessment of Risk to Others (ARTO) process to:

- . To ensure the safety of all individuals,
- Begin to understand the factors that contribute to the Individual of Concern's (IOC's) threatening or high-risk behaviour.
- . View the Individual of Concern (IOC) as in need of intervention and support rather than discipline.
- Be proactive in developing an intervention plan that addresses the emotional and physical safety of the Individual of Concern (IOC). It may include disciplinary action but will include appropriate supports to aid in the Individual of Concern (IOC) in developing and using more appropriate strategies,
- · Promotes the emotional and physical safety of all.

It is NOT a Disciplinary tool or response.

WHAT IS A THREAT?

A threat is an expression of intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something. Threats may be verbal, written drawn, posted on the Internet, or made by gesture. Threats must be taken seriously, investigated, and responded to appropriately.

DUTY TO REPORT?

Often when we hear in the media about a violent incident, we learn that the Individual of Concern had made threats in advance of acting violently. To keep our communities safe, staff community members, students, and parents all need to act responsibly and report all threat-related behaviours and high-risk activities. This report can be made to any community partner of the Chilliwack VTRA/ARTO Protocol.

When a report of a threat is received by any member of this protocol, and upon screening it is determined the threshold for the "Categories of Action" is met, the Chilliwack VTRA/ARTO Protocol.will be activated.

"Categories for Action" may include, but are not limited to:

- · Serious violence or violence with intent to kill,
- · Violence with intent to do serious bodily harm,
- · Verbal/written threats to kill others ("clear, direct and plausible"),
- Verbal/written threats to do serious bodily harm ("clear, direct and plausible").
- Social Media/Technology generated threats to harm/kill others,
- · Possession of weapons (including replicas),
- Bomb threats (making and/or detonating explosive devices),
- · Fire setting,
- · Sexual intimidation or assault,
- · Ongoing pervasive and targeted bullying and/or harassment,
- · Gang related intimidation and violence,
- Hate incidents motivated by factors including, but not limited to, race, culture, religion, and/or sexual and gender diversity.
- Suicidal ideation or attempts as related to "Fluidity" or "Conspiracy to Two or More".

CAN I REFUSE TO PARTICIPATE?

It is important for all parties to engage in the process. If for some reason there is a reluctance to participate in the process, by either the Individual of Concern or parent/guardian, the threat assessment will continue in order to ensure and restore a safe and inclusive environment for all.

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

1

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





NO AUDIO / VIDEO RECORDINGS, PHOTOGRAPHY or LIVE STREAMING

The Chilliwack School District takes the privacy of our students, staff, visitors, and trustees seriously.

Outside audio / video recordings, photos and / or live streaming is NOT permitted on School District Property.

Exceptions will only be made at authorized events, as outlined in <u>Administrative Procedure 481</u>.

Posting information about events held on School District property may constitute an invasion of privacy.

If asked by a School District Representative to stop recording, failure to comply may result in an Exclusion Order (under Section 177 of the School Act).

Thank you for complying with Chilliwack School District Procedures!