



September 2017 Newsletter

Important Dates for September

11 - Breakfast for Learning starts

15 - School pictures

20 - Terry Fox Run (1:00); Back to School BBQ (5:00); Band Instrument Rental (6:00)

Oct. 2 - Parent Council Meeting

Welcome back newsletter

“Summer’s too short! Summer’s too long!” We’ve heard it all this week. Either way, we’re pretty sure there’s more school and more summer to satisfy all. We would like to welcome everyone to our school community. We have several new students this year that have come to us from far and wide. We hope that everyone new to our building, as well as those seasoned veterans, all feel the warm and welcoming environment that we are known for.



Communication

Look forward to a face to face, or voice to voice meeting, with your child’s homeroom teacher before the end of September. Our back to school BBQ/meet the teacher/band rental night is on September 20th. Our parent teacher interview nights are in October and March. In many cases, parents don’t request parent teacher interview night because they have been in regular contact with their child’s teacher. This can happen via the phone, informal meetings, and emails. If you haven’t heard from us, feel free to touch base anytime.

One of the things I most clearly remember as a dad were the stories that my kids brought home from school. I’m so glad that most of those stories could be boiled down to perception. You may find it hard to imagine that their perception was not the same as

the teacher's! Imagine your child stating "Mr. Collin hates me. He yells at us all the time!" I suspect you would want to know a little more about this statement. The filter with which we listen to our children is working over- time – especially with middle schooler's. If you have questions or concerns about the goings on at school, listen to your children, then feel free to ask our thoughts on any situation. We all love kids and, just like you, only ever want the best for them.

At Deer Meadow we have many years of experience teaching adolescents. Beyond all else, we pride ourselves on understanding middle years children very well. As a parent, you may be wondering who this person living with you has become! Rest assured. They are fine little beings and they only get better with our love and support. If you want to understand more about middle years children, click on the link below. It gives a nice summary of common social, emotional, intellectual, and physical characteristics of our kids. [Middle Years Info](#)

When's School Open?

The school doors will be open at 8:15. Please don't send your children before that time as there is no supervision in or around the school. Our first bell is at 8:40. For most of the year we will offer a Breakfast for Learning program where breakfast is offered for those who feel they need it. The gym is also open most days for students who want to shoot some hoops and visit with their pals before class starts. All of these before school opportunities are operated on donations and volunteers.

Breakfast for Learning

This is a program offered completely by volunteer groups in town. If you or your business are interested in offering a morning per week or a morning per month (about a one hour commitment), please let us know. If you're scared of adolescents, it's a great way to connect with them and realize that they're actually not that scary!

Parent Council

We are looking for more keen and interested parents to join our council. We meet on the first Monday of the month at noon in the conference room. Our parent council is traditionally very engaged in the school, and they usually get involved in all the fun stuff. If you are interested in the kind of things parent council is involved in, please contact me at 403.556.1003. Our next meeting and elections will be October 2nd.

Website

See www.deermeadow.ca for all of the happenings in and around the school and in the community. Most inquiries at the school from parents are regarding times and dates. All of that can be found on the website. Check the Calendar of Events on the bottom right for dates. To know more about what's happening at EDMS, click on "What's Up?" on the left side below the Titan logo. This is also where we place upcoming community events (if you wanted us to advertise that your dance academy is having a sign-up day or there is an open house for the swimming club, etc.). And, if you want the real goods on Deer

Meadow, click on a couple of the video links to take you to clips such as “The Meadow is”.

Safety

Before anything else, your child needs to be safe at school. Please help us by:

- Dropping your kids off at school where they DO NOT have to cross a road. Middle school minds and distracted driving is a recipe for an oops,
Parents, please please please DO NOT come into the school without checking in at the office,
- Letting us know of any severe medical issues as soon as possible,
- Reminding your child of their obligation to be safe and keep others safe, whether that’s coming to school on a bus, walking, or being in the halls of EDMS.

School focus

Our school-wide focus is on literacy. Research tells us that the best indicator of future success in school and beyond, is the ability to read and comprehend grade level material. Our teachers focus on screening and identifying all students. Accommodations are made, and programming adjusted, when we determine students are reading below grade level. We cannot overstate the importance of helping your child be a reader while at home. Newspapers, magazines, fiction, non-fiction – it doesn’t really matter. If your child finds something that interests them, encourage them to read. And, read with them.

Reporting Student Achievement

Please read the [Report Card Start-Up Letter](#) for more information

Challenging, encouraging and believing in every student

A Message from the Board of Education

Welcome to a new year of learning together in Chinook’s Edge School Division! Our Board is very proud to lead the team of devoted and caring professionals in this division, where everyone is working together toward student wellness and success.

Our dedicated staff are creating learning environments that ensure every child succeeds. We share a focus on four key goals in all of our schools - Literacy, Academic Excellence, Career and Post-Secondary Transitions, and Social Emotional Outcomes. Ensuring this foundation of quality learning will allow our students to continue to achieve higher levels of success throughout their lifetime.

With the support of the Board and the Central Office Leadership Team, our school professionals continue to challenge, encourage and believe in each one of our students every day. We wish everyone an exciting year of learning in Chinook’s Edge, *where students come first!*

Colleen Butler
Chair