Champlain Heights Newsletter – Oct. 2026

6955 Frontenac Street
Vancouver, British Columbia, V5S 3T4
604.713.4760
Administrative Assistant: Ms. Shamaine Ference
Principal (Main and Annex): Sarah McAlister
Vice-Principal (Annex): Tim Oftebro
Director of Instruction: Shannon Burton
School Trustee: Christopher Richardson
Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Chair: Cassie Rodriguez mailto: pac.champlain@gmail.com

Hello Champlain Heights Families! Happy Fall! We hope that everyone has a restful Thanksgiving long weekend.

Important Dates to Note

- Oct. 12 – Thanksgiving (school not in session)
- Oct. 13 and 15 – 2pm Early dismissal for parent teacher conferences
- Oct. 14 – PAC meeting 6:30pm at the Main school
- Oct. 20 – Trout Lake Cross Country Meet
- Oct. 23 – Professional Development Day (school not in session)
- Oct. 28 – PAC Halloween Dance 4-6pm
- Oct. 29 – M.A.D.D. presentation for Grade 7 students
- Nov. 6 – Individual Photo Retake Day
- Nov. 11 – Remembrance Day (school not in session)

What's New at Champlain Elementary?

School Events

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to our PAC for their generous support of student learning. At the end of last school year, PAC funded the purchase of 20 student MacBook Neo laptops, completing our cart of 30 devices that are shared among all intermediate classrooms. We are also grateful for PAC's contribution toward a presentation for students in Grades 5-7 by **Overture with the Arts**. The presentation focused on promoting awareness, understanding, and meaningful conversations about racism, with a particular emphasis on anti-Black racism and equity. These opportunities help foster an inclusive and respectful school community while supporting important learning for our students.

We were delighted by the success of our annual **Terry Fox Run** and **Meet the Teacher** event on September 24. A heartfelt thank you to Ms. Lopez for her leadership in organizing the Terry Fox Run, and to the many parent volunteers who helped ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all participants. We are proud to share that, as a school community, we raised **$1,325** in support of the Terry Fox Foundation. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this meaningful cause.

Students also had the opportunity to attend a special assembly featuring a guest speaker from the Terry Fox Foundation. Through the presentation, students learned more about Terry Fox's inspiring legacy, the ongoing work of the Foundation, and the impact of cancer research. A highlight of the assembly was a demonstration of a prosthetic leg, which provided students with a unique and engaging learning experience.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Next week are the scheduled Parent-Teacher Conferences. This is the first informal learning update for parents to be informed about their child's learning and development. Parent-Teacher Conferences are an important opportunity for families and teachers to connect, celebrate student successes, and discuss learning goals for the year. During these meetings, classroom teachers will share their observations and any assessments completed so far this school year, while keeping in mind that it is still early in the year and students are continuing to settle into routines and demonstrate their learning. Conferences provide dedicated time to discuss your child's strengths, areas for growth, and ways we can work together to support their academic, social, and emotional development. We encourage all families to attend, ask questions, share insights, and partner with us in helping every student thrive. We look forward to meeting with you and strengthening the home-school connection that is so important to student success.

Staffing Update

We had to say goodbye to some staff members this month: Ms. Sharon Purewal who has worked at our school for a long number of years and Ms. Pooja who joined very recently. These individuals made a contribution to our school community and we thank them and will miss them and hope our paths cross again one day.
We would like to welcome the following staff who are new or returning to our school team: Heather Hooton and Vanessa (School and Student Support Workers), and Edmond Leong (steady part time custodian).

Safety Patrol Volunteering – deadline for forms Oct. 15

On Oct. 7, a large number of students in grades 5, 6, and 7 attended the Safety Patrol training. The students who were interested in making a twice a week commitment to volunteer brought a permission form home to be completed and returned. Thank you very much to so many students who have already returned their form! We will continue to collect permission forms until Thursday, Oct. 15 and will share the schedule on Oct. 16 to begin patrolling on Monday Oct. 19. Thank you to Mrs. Angel for sponsoring this activity!

Personal Devices

As in prior years, and outlined in the student agendas, the school has a personal device policy that aligns with the Ministry of Education and Vancouver School District. For clarification, smart watches are included in the term "personal device" and may only be used as a standard watch to monitor time during the 9am to 3pm school day. Please note, if a student has the need to speak with a parent, they are always welcome to ask for teacher permission and will be permitted to use the phone at the office. As noted in the student agendas:

OUR SCHOOL POLICY:

Portable electronic devices are only to be used with teacher permission.
Portable electronic devices are not for unstructured time such as recess and lunch.
Portable electronic devices are the student's responsibility and the school cannot be responsible for loss or damage.

CONSEQUENCES FOR INAPPROPRIATE USE:

Students using these devices during the school day, without staff permission, will first receive a warning.
If a repeated incident occurs, the device will be held by the staff member and returned at the end of the day.
If a third incident occurs, the device will be kept in the office until a parent comes after school to pick it up.
If a student is seen or caught photographing or filming students without teacher supervision/permission, it will be handled as a third incident right away.

HOW FAMILIES CAN HELP:

Discuss this information with your child.
Encourage your child to follow the school guidelines

Peer Conflict, Mean Behaviour, and Bullying

What's the difference?

Peer Conflict

Conflict between and among peers is a natural part of growing up. Children will have times when they disagree and can't solve their own problems. They may even become so frustrated that they say mean things or act out physically by hitting, kicking or trying to hurt.
If it's **peer conflict** you will be aware that these children:

- usually choose to play or hang out together;
- have equal power (similar age, size, social status, etc.);
- are equally upset;
- are both interested in the outcome; and
- will be able to work things out with adult help (after calming down)

Adults can respond by helping the children talk it out, and see each other's perspective. This is often referred to as "conflict resolution."

Mean Behaviour

Children may try out behaviours to assert themselves – sometimes saying or doing mean things – such as making fun of others, using a hurtful name, taking something without permission, leaving a child out, or "budging" in line. If it is mean behavior, usually:

- it is not planned and seems to happen spontaneously or by chance;
- it may be aimed at any child nearby;
- the child being mean may feel badly when an adult points out the harm they've caused.

Bullying Behaviour

Bullying is serious behavior that has three key features – all three must be present for the situation to be considered bullying:

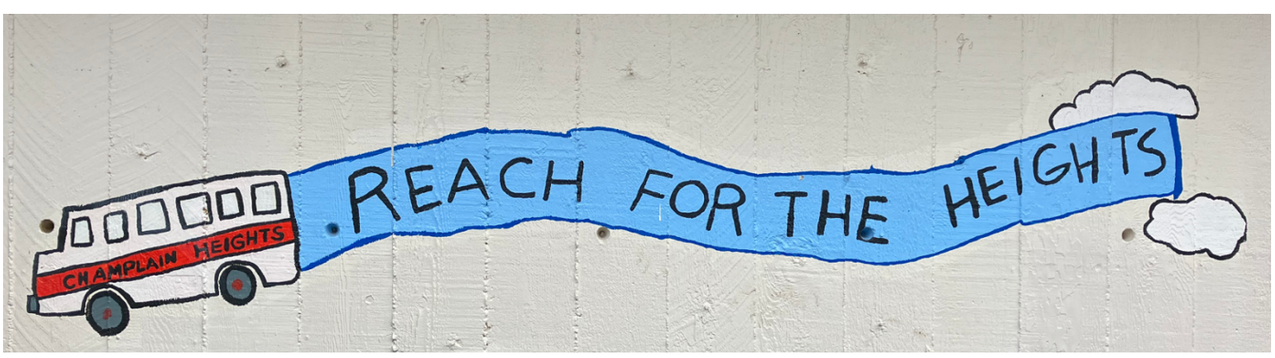
- Power imbalance -- One child clearly has power over the other(s), which may be due to age, size, social status, and so on.
- Intention to harm -- The purpose of the bullying behaviour is to harm or hurt other(s)– it's intended to be mean and is clearly not accidental.
- Repeated over time -- bullying behaviour continues over time, and gets worse with repetition. There is a real or implied threat that the behaviour will not stop, and in fact will become even more serious. The effect on the child who is being bullied is increased fear, apprehension, and distress. Often by the time adults find out about what is happening, the child has tried many ways to stop the bullying but cannot do so on their own. Adults must address the bullying behaviour and ensure the safety of the student who has been targeted. They also need to reassure the children who may have witnessed the behaviour that adults are taking care of it. When schools respond to bullying, staff will also help the child who has been bullying others to take responsibility for their actions, and change their behaviour. They will monitor the situation to ensure the bullying stops, and will support the child who has been bullied to regain confidence and a sense of safety. Staff may follow-up with the students who observed the behaviour to help them learn what to do when they see bullying.

VSB Student Threat Risk Assessment Protocol - Fair Notice Protocol

In the event that a student makes a threat of violence or harm to other students, staff or the school community, the school will initiate the VSB student risk threat assessment process. Please see the attachment for more information about this protocol.

PAC Updates

Please be sure to email **pac.champlain@gmail.com**
and sign up for important updates from PAC!





VSB Safe Arrival Program

On behalf of our Office Team here at Champlain Heights, thank you very much for following the district-wide Safe Arrival Program! Please continue to report your child's absence in the following ways:

To Report Your Child's Absence via *Telephone*:	To Report Your Child's Absence via *E-mail*:
1. Call 604-713-5159 **2. Provide the two-digit extension for our school: "18"** **3. Record your message (include child's full name, grade and division)** **4. Hang up**	**1. E-mail: chaattendance@vsb.bc.ca** **2. Type your message (include child's full name, grade and division)** **3. Hit send**

Please report the absence to the Safe Arrival Program *even if* you have already notified your teacher.

Attached: Fair Notice Protocol