Champlain Heights Newsletter – Sept. 2026

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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! Welcome to the new school year. Today we received approval for our 2026-27 class organization, and students from grades 1-7 moved into their new classes this afternoon. You should expect a quick introductory email from your child's teacher soon if you haven't yet received it. Students will be reporting to their new classes on Monday morning.

Creating classes is a complex process that begins in the spring and involves classroom teachers, our Resource Team, and school administration. When placing students, we carefully consider academic needs, social and emotional well-being, learning styles, friendships, gender balance, language backgrounds, and any diverse learning needs. Every effort is made to place students with at least one friend while creating balanced learning environments for all students.

We recognize that changes in class placements can be challenging. However, learning to build new friendships and work with a variety of peers is an important life skill that helps students develop confidence, resilience, and social skills. At Champlain Heights, friendships across classes and grade levels are encouraged through both classroom activities and play.

As part of meeting district class size requirements, some students are placed in combined (split-grade) classes. Combined classes are common in schools and provide many benefits, including opportunities for students to develop leadership skills, independence, collaboration, and peer mentoring. Research shows that students in combined classes achieve as well academically as those in single-grade classes. Our teachers work closely together to provide differentiated instruction and ensure all students are learning at their appropriate level. The BC curriculum also supports learning based on student needs and progress rather than grade level alone.

For more information about combined classes, please visit:
https://www.vsb.bc.ca/combined-split-classes

Because of the many factors involved in class placement, we are not able to accommodate requests for specific teachers, classmates, or class structures. Additionally, for reasons of privacy and confidentiality, we cannot discuss the details of individual placement decisions.

We kindly ask for your trust in our staff's thoughtful and professional work in creating classes that support student success. Please help your child feel positive about their new placement and reassure them that these decisions were made with great care. A positive outlook from home helps children settle in more quickly and build strong relationships with their teacher and classmates.

Important Dates to Note

- Sept. 16 – PAC Meeting 6pm
- Sept. 22 – Special presentation for Grades 5, 6 & 7 9:30am
- Sept. 23 – First pizza day (contingent on having enough parent volunteers – if interested, please contact the Principal)
- Sept. 24 – Terry Fox Run in afternoon and Meet the Teacher at 3pm

- Sept. 25 – Professional Development Day (school not in session)
- Sept. 30 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (school not in session)
- Oct. 2 – Individual Photo Day
- Oct. 12 - Thanksgiving

WHAT'S NEW AT CHAMPLAIN ELEMENTARY?

School Events

We are so happy to be welcoming two new Kindergarten classes as well as over 45 new students to the school this September. Students have transitioned to their new classes and will let parents know who their new teacher is and where they will be lining up for drop off and pick up. Hopefully many of you will come to our first PAC meeting of the school year on Sept. 16 at 6pm in our library. Please email PAC to be added to their email update list.

Staffing Update

We had to say goodbye to some staff members at the end of June or over the summer: Ms. Appleby, Ms. Natalizio, Mr. Johnson Lin, Mr. Collard, Mr. Nickel, Ms. Torrance. These individuals have all made a tremendous contribution to our school community and we will miss them all dearly and hope our paths cross again one day. Thanks to all of them!

We would like to welcome the following staff who are new or returning to our school team:
Trisha Salisbury (Resource), Katie Babbitt, Brian Sampson, (Intermediate Teachers), Courtney Jaeger (Primary Teacher), Manraj Lalli (School and Student Support Worker).

Lunches

This year students in Divisions 7, 8, 10, 12, 14 and 15 will be eating lunch every day in the lunch room at 12:10pm under Supervision Aide and SSW supervision. The rest of the Divisions will be eating in the classrooms either during or after lunch hour. Pizza Wednesdays will continue later this month.

Sun-Oka farm fundraiser for Champlain Heights PAC

This popular fundraiser is happening again and open for orders. The deadline to order is Tuesday October 6th. Delivery date is Wednesday October 21st.
The link is: https://fundraising.sunokafruit.com/seller_1/082962729/org-campaign/champlain-elementary-pac-harvest-2026

Antiracism and Anti-discrimination

Parents will be receiving an emailed welcome package from the school that will include our school Code of Conduct. Please be sure to carefully read the Code of Conduct and review it with your child. Racism and discrimination will not be tolerated at our school. Students shall not discriminate against others on the basis of race, religion, colour, ancestry, place of origin, marital status, family status, age, sex or sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, or physical or mental disability, or for any other reason set out in the Human Rights Code of British Columbia, nor shall a student publish or display anything that would indicate an intention to discriminate against another, or expose them to contempt or ridicule, on the basis of any such grounds. Racism, transphobia, homophobia, and other forms of discrimination will not be tolerated in our school. This includes name calling, using racial slurs, or sexual orientation terms as put downs. The school will treat seriously behaviour or communication that discriminates based on the BC Human Rights Code.

Portable Electronic Devices

Parents will also receive a copy of the electronic personal device policy which follows the guidelines of the Ministry of Education. Please be sure to familiarize yourself with these guidelines and note that smart watches that have texting features are considered a portable electronic device.

A Respectful Workplace

The Vancouver School Board is committed to fostering safe schools that promote mutual respect, cooperation and social responsibility. There is zero-tolerance for violence, harassment, or disrespectful behaviour in the school community. We strive to make our schools and sites welcoming places for everyone in our community. As we begin a new school year, we ask that you pause and remember VSB staff are valued community members. Be considerate, and ask, will my actions or words hurt someone? It is our shared responsibility to ensure interactions are conducted safely and respectfully. Students learn here, and together we can be models for those that are watching.

Electric Scooters and Electric bicycles

Under provincial legislation and the Electric Kick Scooter Pilot Project Regulation, as well as City of Vancouver bylaws, electric scooters are permitted only under specific conditions:

- Riders must be 16 years of age or older
- Helmets are mandatory for all riders
- Scooters may be used on designated roads and bike lanes, but not on sidewalks
- Riders must follow the same rules of the road as cyclists (e.g., obey traffic signals and signage)
- Scooters must not exceed prescribed speed limits (generally up to 25 km/h where permitted)

For more information, please visit: E-scooters | City of Vancouver and Electric kick scooter rules and safety - Province of British Columbia.

Under provincial legislation and City of Vancouver bylaws, electric bikes are permitted under the following conditions:

- Riders must be 14 years or older for a light e-bike and 16 for a standard e-bike
- Helmets are mandatory for all riders
- Light e-bikes must not exceed 25 km/h and standard e-bikes 32 km/h
- E-bikes may be used on designated roads and bike lanes, but not on sidewalks
- Riders must follow the same rules of the road as cyclists (e.g., obey traffic signals and signage)

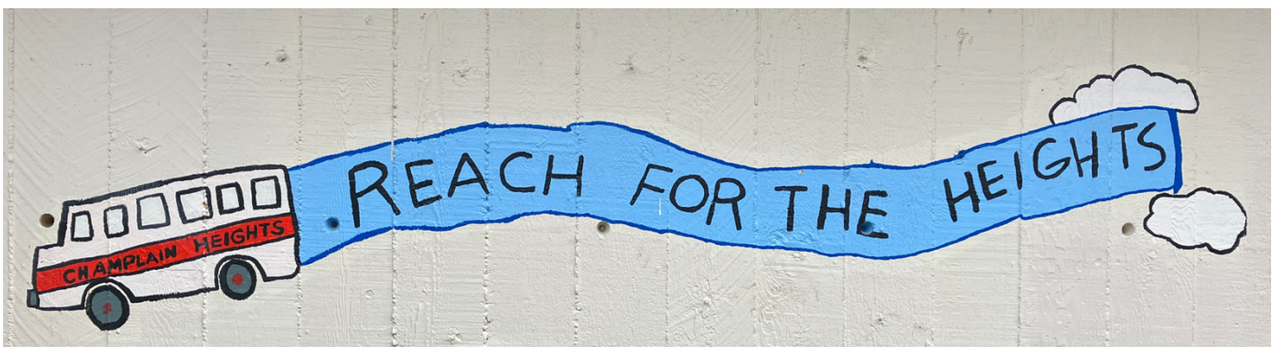
For more information about e-bikes, please visit: E-bike requirements - Province of British Columbia and Motor Assisted Cycle (E-Bike) Regulation.

Student Supervision

Please note that all children are expected to be outside during recess and lunch. Please ensure that your child comes to school dressed appropriately for the weather. As a reminder, before school, students are expected to wait for their teachers before entering the classroom. Please review the drop-off and pick-up locations and procedures as set out by your child's teacher. We ask that families bring their children as close to 8:55 am as possible each day. A reminder that after 3pm, parents are responsible for the supervision of their children.

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.