



Cinnabar Valley Elementary School
1800 Richardson Road
Nanaimo BC, V9X 1C9

Principal: Diane Charles, EdD
Secretary: Laura Hague

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A word from the office ...

What an amazing first few weeks of school for our Cinnabar community this year! I am so proud of the perseverance, kindness and determination demonstrated from all students as they worked first in our multi-age groups, and now in the classroom divisions. The efforts of the students, staff and parents are to be commended! I must give a special “shout out” to our senior students, the Grade 7’s, who have gone above and beyond in helping to create a safe, caring and inclusive environment for all of us.

The 2017-2018 school year marks the beginning of a new way of doing business in schools in BC. Cinnabar is like most schools in the province, having additional classrooms opened and students in classes with less students. We have also grown significantly in our community, with our enrollment nearing 300 students!

We value the role parents and other community members play in the life of our school. Please do not hesitate to connect directly with the school should you have any questions or concerns, or have an idea that may enhance what we already have “going on” here.

We will be having our **Open House on Oct 4**. We want to make this event more accessible for families so this year we will be opening the doors from **3:00-3:30** and then again from **5:00-5:30**. We are hoping that these new times will allow families to visit AND get to the other important things in their day! During the Open House families will be able to pick a time for the “Learning Conversations” which will occur during the week of Oct. 16-19. Students will be dismissed early each day that week to facilitate this first formal communication of student learning.

There are many exciting things happening at Cinnabar already! The newsletter, as well as my regular emails, will keep you informed.

Thank you for sharing your children with us!

Diane Charles, EdD

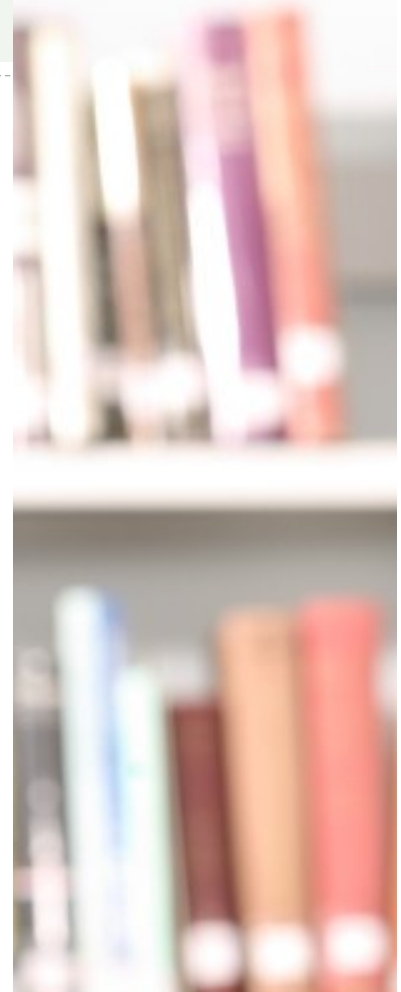
BEFORE AND AFTERSCHOOL SUPERVISION

Please note the following safety information regarding supervision before and after school:

School staff our outside on supervision from **8:30 am to 8:45 am** each morning, and from **2:37 (1:37 on Monday) to 2:52 (1:52 on Monday)** at the end of the day.

Students are expected to play outside before the morning bell—this really helps to get them ready to learn.

At the end of the day, students who have not connected with their adult or after school plans by the time supervision ends will be brought inside to make a phone call. The office phone cannot be used to make play dates or other plans. We ask you to take an extra moment each morning to review the plans for the end of the day .



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Orange Shirt Day Sept 29
- Cops for Cancer Tour Oct 2
- Open House Oct 4
- Gr 6 Immunizations
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READING ASSESSMENT

Each school year teachers will use various assessment tools to inform their instruction. “Assessment *for Learning*” helps teachers know exactly what their class as a whole, as well as individual learners need to move forward.

One such tool that is being employed in all schools across the NLPS is a district developed reading assessment. Our intermediate students read a short non-fiction passage and then answer a number of questions. Our primary students may also be given a short non-fiction text to read. However, they are also given the opportunity to read a number of sight words

that, identify rhyming words, play with letter sounds, and demonstrate their understanding of books.

The whole assessment process is seen as a group effort by staff as either the assessing or the marking is supported by teacher teams.

All the information gathered from these assessments is organized into various reports which help guide the needs of all learners. The staff spends time during our PLC (Professional Learning Community) meetings going over this data, and work together to create learning plans.

Assessment for learning— tells us what our learners need to move to the next level

CELL PHONES/ELECTRONICS

Cell phones have become more of a norm than the exception for many students. We thank you in advance for reinforcing these expectations with your children regarding the use of cell phones or other electronic devices at school.

1. Use of cell phones or other electronic devices IS permitted before and after school.
2. During the school day cell phones etc. are to be off and in backpacks.
3. Electronic devices may be used in classrooms with teacher supervision for educational purposes.
4. For students who have difficulty following these expectations staff will:
 - a. Collect the phone and hold it until the end of the day (1st offense)
 - b. Give the phone to the office to be held until the end of the day (2nd offense)
 - c. Phone held in office and given to parent (3rd offense)

CODE OF CONDUCT

All schools in BC are required to have a Code of Conduct. In Nanaimo, the focus is on creating living documents that reflect an EDUCATIVE, RESTORATIVE and PREVENTATIVE approach to dealing with issues of concern.

The school staff, as well as the PAC, worked on reviewing and revamping the Code of Conduct near the end of the school year. Since this time, the District has updated the template for Codes of Conduct, working to align the language so that there is consistency between school sites.

Each class now has a posted one page version of the Code of Conduct, as well as a copy of the Positive Behaviour Expectations for all Cinnabar students. The full Code of Conduct is posted on our school Webpage. In it are links to all of the Board and Ministry policies and administrative procedures that inform the writing of a Code of Conduct.

The strength of having a Code of Conduct actually comes in teaching the expectations. We began the year with this in mind, teaching the overarching principle of the golden rule—treat others the way you want to be treated. We will continue teaching the expectations through use of the Virtues program, where we focus on a virtue a month. September’s virtue is kindness. Further, our monthly assemblies will always have an educative focus around reinforcing the positive expectations for all students.

For restorative practices, we will be using a variety of tools to help students work through ways of recognizing how their actions have impacted others AND impacted themselves, and then working on ways to restore the harm caused to all parties.

You may hear your children using phrases such as, “I want others to treat me with kindness, so I will treat others with kindness by ...”. Giving students the tools needed to solve problems in peaceful ways, and take responsibility in a kind, caring and supportive manner when an “oops” occurs is a key point of the Code of Conduct process.

Cinnabar Valley

Mission Statement

The Mission of Cinnabar Valley Elementary is to provide an inclusive learning environment, which fosters the development of



- *Communication and application of knowledge and skills*
- *Creativity and critical thinking*
- *Personal awareness and social responsibility*

We believe education is the joint responsibility of staff, students and their families.

We believe education will enable all students to become responsible citizens who will contribute effectively to the global community.

Renewed and updated September 2016

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AT CINNABAR

Sports and physical activity is alive and well at Cinnabar. We are continuing with our aerobic program, where classes meet in the gym at the beginning of the day to exercise to music. Mrs. Quigg has been the champion of this program for years. She is taking a break right now but we have students ready to step in to keep us moving and sweating! On Friday students get an extra long workout with me. I am thrilled to be back in the gym once again.

As for team sports, Mr. Sharpe and Mrs. Edwards are co-sponsoring the Boys Football Team. The team has had a tremendous start to the season!

Mr. O'Hara and Mrs. Stannard will be coaching the cross country team, open to students in grades 3-7 interested in running. Practices will coincide with aerobics so that everyone is moving at the same time.

Given the high level of physical activity at Cinnabar we do request that all students have proper running shoes and water bottles ready for daily use.

COPS FOR CANCER

We will be sending additional information home on Monday Sept 25 about the upcoming visit of the Cops for Cancer team to Cinnabar on Oct 2.

We will be having a special assembly to welcome the team.

We have some pretty exciting surprises to share with students and our community around the Cop for Cancer campaign— please check for the special information in planners or backpacks on Monday Sept 25.



GRADE 6

IMMUNIZATION

Watch for immunization consent packages for grade 6 students that will be sent home early in the fall. Students in grade 6 will be offered immunizations in school-based clinics with the consent of a parent(s) or representative. Please contact the local Health Unit at 250-755-3388 and ask to speak with a Public Health Nurse if you have any questions.



TREATS AT SCHOOL

We often have parents or caregivers wishing to bring treats into class. While we appreciate the generosity, there are often students who are unable to participate due to dietary or other reasons. In order to make a more inclusive environment we are requesting the following:

1. Please connect directly with the classroom teacher before bringing anything to the class
2. Please bring fruit or veggies—no baked items, candy or other items.
3. Consider sharing a non-edible item (erasers, pencils, etc) - all students need these!

EARTHQUAKE DRILLS AND COMFORT KITS

Students will be receiving a list of suggested items to be collected and returned to school as part of providing comfort in the event of a school emergency that may have students being delayed in getting home to loved ones.

The comfort kits are collected in large bins and stored in the “washroom” portable, as the school does not have an earthquake kiosk.

Our goal is to take the comfort kit bins to the portable on **October 19th**, the same day as the Shake Out BC earthquake drill.

As with all emergency drills, it is important to talk to your children about

LOCK DOWN AND HOLD AND SECURE

There may be times when schools may need to enter a “shelter in place”, “hold and secure” or “lock down” in order to mitigate the risk of harm to students and staff. As with Earthquake and Fire Drills, schools also practice Lock Down drills as part of safety preparedness training.

Shelter in place is called when there is an environmental hazard outside of the school building. Doors are unlocked, but students and staff remain inside and the ventilation system may be shut down. For Cinnabar, a shelter in place may be called if wildlife is spotted in the area (bears, cougars).

Hold and secure is called when there is an unsafe situation outside of the school. Doors are locked, students in portables are brought into the main building, but students and staff are free to move around in the building as normal. During a hold and secure no one is permitted in OR out of the building (including students arriving late to school or parents coming to pick up students).

Lock Downs are called when there is a threat within the building. Blinds are closed, doors are locked, and students and staff gather in a sheltered area away from windows, remaining quiet. Students who are outside the building do not re-enter the building. They go to a safe location off of the school grounds.

Schools practice lock down drills so that all students and staff know how to respond in the rare event that a full lock down will be called. We will be working with our School Liaison officers to plan a lock down drill in the next month.

why we do drills (to help keep everyone safe, to practice so that we all know what to do in the event of a real emergency, to figure out areas that we need to improve on). The actual drill will involve the sound of an earthquake being played over the PA, students counting with their class (twice), and then a slow and careful evacuation outside. Staff will gather to receive their responsibilities, we will test the emergency radio to ensure it is working, and do a quick structural analysis. We will then go back inside. The whole drill may take up to 30 minutes.



For More information or to report incidents of bullying please go to:

<http://www.erasebullying.ca/>

ORANGE SHIRT DAY FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 29TH WWW.ORANGESHIRTDAY.ORG

Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission (SJM) residential school commemoration event held in Williams Lake, BC, Canada, in the spring of 2013. It grew out of *Phyllis' story* of having her shiny new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school at the Mission, and it has become an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential schools happening annually.

The date was chosen because it is the time of year in which children were taken from their homes to residential schools, and because it is an opportunity to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies for the coming school year. It also gives teachers time to plan events that will include children, as we want to ensure that we are passing the story and learning on to the next generations.

Orange Shirt Day is also an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come.

BUILDING ABORIGINAL UNDERSTANDING

One of the many support services offered in NLPS are supports for students with Aboriginal ancestry.

The Vision of Aboriginal Education is *Success for All*—What's good for Aboriginal students is good for all students.

Within in the vision are the values, which guide the work so that Aboriginal students in NLPS will experience:

- A sense of belonging as the foundation of “success”
- Aboriginal identity as a source of strength
- Gathering strength from our past to guide our future
- An approach to learning that is reflective of an Indigenous worldview
- Having dignity, purpose and options as measures of success

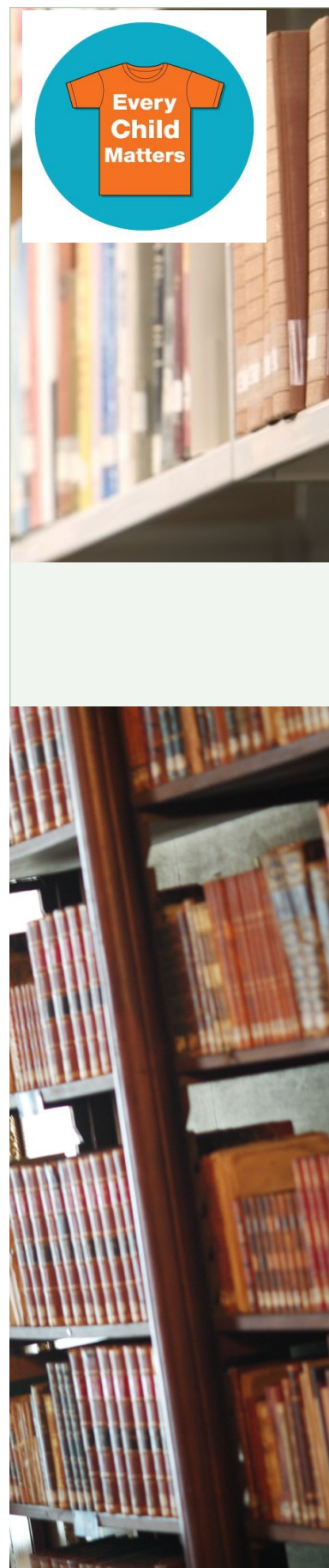
Collective ownership: every person in the system embracing and taking responsibility for the success of our Aboriginal students.

To sign up for Aboriginal Supports or services please consider the following:

- A parent or student can simply say, “I have Aboriginal ancestry”. Let the school secretary, principal, or Aboriginal EA (Joelene Akitt at Cinnabar) know.
- No documentation, other than self identification, is required for services. Ancestry can go back several generations. Ancestry includes: First Nations (status and non-status), Metis and Inuit ancestry.
- Return the parent/guardian consent form yearly (sent home now in June and again in September)

Aboriginal understandings are woven within all curricular areas in all within the new BC curriculum.

Cinnabar is fortunate to be able to offer Hul-qumi'num language instruction to classes, starting in the second half of the year as well.



DOGS ON THE PLAYGROUND

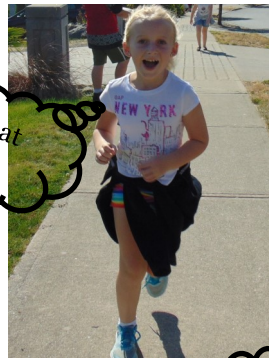
Many of our Cinnabar Valley families enjoy a morning or afternoon walk to school. For people with dogs, this provides a nice opportunity for an extra walk for the “pooch” as well.

I would like to remind all families of the following safety guidelines regarding dogs on the playground.

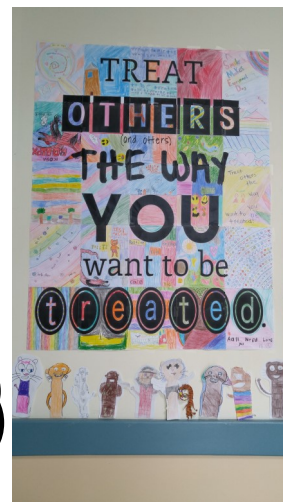
1. Dogs must be kept on leash at all times.
2. Dogs are to be kept by the perimeter of the school yard, away from the more congested areas (where students are playing, line up areas, etc.)
3. Dogs are to be attended to at all times. Please do not tie your dog up and leave it.



Look at me!



Safety first!



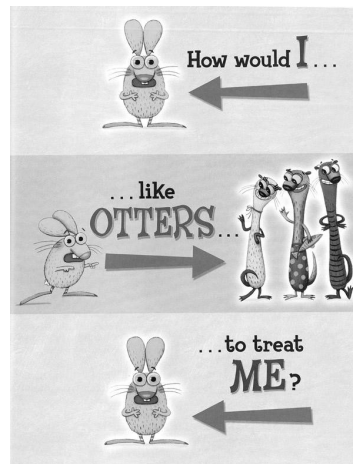
That was hard!

Those teachers are fast!



Terry Fox Run and our opening theme on the Golden Rule

It was a great start to the year!



CALENDAR UPDATE

- September 29—Orange Shirt Day
- October 2—Cops for Cancer Assembly (11:30-12:15)
- October 3—Crisis Society Presentation to senior students
- October 4—Open House –3:00-3:30, 5:00-5:30
- October 6—Professional Development Day—Schools not in session
- October 9—Thanksgiving Holiday
- October 10—PAC meeting
- October 11—Norman Foote Rehearsals
- October 12—School Photos
- October 12—Norman Foote Rehearsals
- October 13—Norman Foote show at VIU
- October 14—Norman Foote show at VIU
- October 17-19—Early Dismissal for “Learning Conversations”
- October 20—Provincial Professional Day—Schools not in session

Contact Information

School: 250-716-1030

PAC: mstrijckers@shaw.ca

Website: <http://cb.schools.sd68.bc.ca/>

