



Weekly Update from Cinnabar Valley Elementary School



December 8, 2017

Lost and Found

The lost and found items have been on display for a few weeks, yet the quantity is not diminishing! All items that are left on the floor in the hallway after the PAC meeting on Tuesday December 12th will be bagged and donated to charity. There are many wonderful jackets, sweatshirts, t-shirts, water bottles ... I highly recommend having another look in the hall on Monday or Tuesday if your child is missing anything!

Treats at School – First Shared in September

We often have parents or caregivers wishing to bring treats into class, especially around birthdays. While we appreciate the generosity, there are often students who are unable to participate due to dietary restrictions, allergies 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 related products
3. Consider sharing a non-edible item (erasers, pencils, etc.) - all students need these!



Hockey Guidelines for Cinnabar Valley

About 10% of our student population likes to play hockey at school. The unfortunate reality of our playground design makes it difficult to dedicate a space for regular outdoor hockey to happen in a way that maintains a level of safety for both the players AND the rest of the school population. I met with our hockey players earlier this week to discuss how to meet their desire to play hockey with the safety needs for the school. After fulsome discussion, we have come up with the following plan:

- Students will use smaller hockey sticks – the stick will be smaller than hip height.
- Students will use hockey balls or pucks that are soft. Hard plastic really hurts when students are hit with it. We want to minimize the chance of serious injuries for all, as the protective gear used when students play ice hockey.
- Students will play hockey on half of the blacktop area by the portables. This allows other activities on the other half of the blacktop. Shooting practice will continue on the solid wall by Mrs. Stannard's class as well.
- Students will designate their playing area with orange cones to help alert others to the fact that hockey is being played.
- Students will follow our general school behaviour expectations: Be Safe, Responsible and Respectful!

Hallways and Doors

One of the expectations for students is that they use their exterior classroom doors to enter their classroom and the multipurpose room door when they need to come inside at a recess break to use the washroom. The majority of our students have this expectation down pat! We do have some that need additional support in this area. One way to support students is to walk students to their respective doors via the outside of the school instead of cutting through the halls to go to the primary playground or towards the portables. When students see adults do this they get mixed



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messages about what they should be doing. Thank you for taking the “long route” at drop off and pick up and walking around to meet your student instead of through the building.

Santa Bus Visits Cinnabar



Oh what fun! Most students had a chance to visit the Santa Bus, learn some tricks to safety while riding on a Transit Bus, and enjoy a few holiday songs.

Revised Think Sheets

When students make a mistake, it is important to have ways to discover what may have motivated the actions. Our Code of Conduct focuses on Educative, Preventative and Restorative practices. Think sheets are a big part of the process. We need to determine what the student was thinking when the incident occurred in order to move forward to restore the harm and build skills towards preventing similar occurrences in the future.

Dr. Ross Greene, author of many books including *The Explosive Child* and *Lost at School*, suggests that many behaviours are a result of a lagging skill – something a child is not yet able to do. The only way to determine what the cause of the behaviour may be is through questioning. (See <https://www.livesinthebalance.org/> for more information and resources from Dr. Greene). One of the new think sheets has a list of questions that an adult (usually me but others are also able to do this work) with the child, to help determine possible areas needing developing. From these answers, we are able to begin to provide interventions/additional teaching to help develop capacity.

2. What were you thinking about at the time? Check all that apply
 - ☐ I wanted attention from other students or the teacher
 - ☐ I was frustrated with the work and did not know how to ask for help appropriately
 - ☐ I was frustrated with people around me
 - ☐ I was frustrated with what I was doing
 - ☐ I was finished my work and was unsure of what to do next
 - ☐ I was nervous about not being successful on the assigned work
 - ☐ I am/was angry about something that is going on in the class (but not the work)
 - ☐ I am/was angry about something outside of the class (at home or with friends)
 - ☐ I don't feel well
 - ☐ I wanted to avoid the teacher or someone else
 - ☐ I am hungry
 - ☐ I didn't sleep well
 - ☐ other: _____

The new think sheets have a home role as well. Please ensure that you take the time to ask you child the same questions and record their answers. We review all sheets, looking for more information to help support our students in making positive gains at school. As NED said last week, never give up, encourage others, do your best.



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Calendar Updates December 11-15

Extra rehearsals begin	December 11-15
Firehouse Safety House Grade 3	December 12
PAC Meeting	December 12
Kindergarten Screening VIHA	December 13
N23 Science Div 5	December 14
K's baking	December 15
Div 11 and 13 Last Swim	December 15
Last hot lunch	December 15