



*Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools*

# Cinnabar Valley Elementary

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## A note from the office ...

Happy New Year to all of you! We have had a great return to school so far with students settling in quickly to their routines. The snow added some excitement for sure! I was pleased with how well the community responded to the change in conditions. We are going to work on designating a sledding area on the field to help with traffic flow issues so that we don't have students being injured by getting in the way of people going up or down the slope. I will continue to send out

email reminders to families if needed, especially when things change so quickly.

Please ensure that you have marked your calendar for the extra non-instructional day on January 29th. The entire teaching and support team from the district will be meeting at Dover Bay to work on the new curriculum. A second non-instructional day will happen in May in support of these curricular changes as well. It

really is a huge endeavour to shift thinking to the big ideas and 21st century learning practices to ensure that this is happening across all grades and subject areas. It is exciting—and daunting! We will share our learning with you as it happens. As always, please do not hesitate to connect with me if you have any questions.

Keep smiling!

Ms. Charles

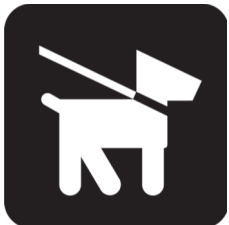
## Calendar Updates

- Jan 22—Assembly—Div 4 to present
- Jan 29—Non-Instructional Day—NEW
- Feb 8—Family Day
- Feb 9—PAC meeting
- Feb 19—Assembly—Div 8 to present
- Feb 22 and 23—Non-Instructional Day
- Mar 9—Report Cards #2
- Mar 14-28—Spring Break and Easter Break
- Mar 29—Schools re-open



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

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



## DOGS on the School Grounds

We had an unfortunate incident before the holidays of a student being bit by a dog. The student had asked for permission to pet a dog, yet when the bell rang and the activity level on the school grounds increased the dog reacted by biting the child. Fortunately no serious injuries occurred but it is a great reminder to all.

For safety reasons, please respect the following:

- ◇ Dogs are to be on leash at all times when they are on the school grounds
- ◇ Dogs are to be kept to the perimeter of the school, away from door ways where students will be entering or exiting from
- ◇ Please think twice before allowing others to pet your dog—the best answer is “not today”

# Welcome Bells

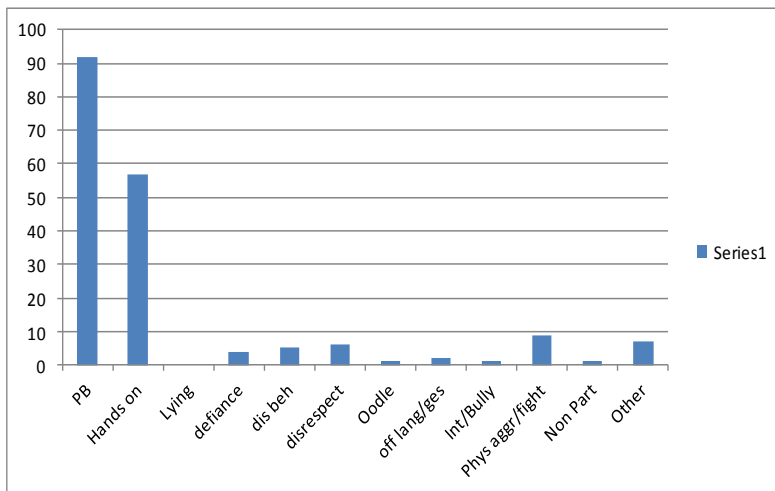
If you have been dropping your child(ren) off this week you may have noticed an additional bell. We have added a “welcome bell” three minutes before the instructional day begins and again three minutes before long recess ends to help remind students to get ready to return to class. The goal is to ensure that the maximum number of instructional minutes are being reached for all students. The new bells ring at 8:42 and 12:17. Student attendance procedures have not changed. If your child arrives after 8:45 or 12:20 he or she will continue to come to the office to get a welcome slip to ensure that we know he or she is with us.



## PBIS Update

We are in our third month of handing out Valley Viper tickets and working on explicitly teaching behaviour expectations. The students are responding well to the consistent messages around being safe, responsible and respectful in all areas of the school. Last Friday we had our second teaching assembly focusing on hallway, washroom and recess break expectations. Taught through a Jeopardy style game where the students were team “Onion” and I was team “Potato”, the students racked up a huge bank account knowing the answers to almost all of the questions! I was so very impressed!

In looking at the data on problem behaviour (PB) referrals, the issue that we need address most with students is hands on behaviours on the playground. The following graph shows the types of incidents that have been reported to the office. Please note that we now collect information on both minor problems as well as major ones in the goal of doing some re-teaching to address these concerns before they get out of hand.



Reinforcing the need to keep hands and feet to self when playing games is the focus right now for issues on the playground. The majority of the issues involve intermediate students (grades 4-7). When spoken to, the students are able to agree that their behaviour is not safe which is step #1. Step #2 is teaching alternate means to play which is coming.

As for consequences, we really focus on problem solving discussions and community service. Students will be given brooms to use on the primary playground to improve the safety of the grounds by sweeping the pea gravel back towards the

equipment.

One additional step that has been included at Cinnabar is the introduction of the Viper Den as a staffed place for students to visit for the first 20 minutes of long recess. Students who need to finish up work, or who have been asked to complete a think sheet meet there and be supported through the process by Mrs. Holt. They will then go outside for the last 20 minutes of the recess break.

## Math P&E

Our school goal at Cinnabar focuses on the development of computational fluency to assist in the key skills of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. To this end the staff has been working on an inquiry plan during our PLC times on Monday. Beginning with a math assessment on addition and related skills for all students, data has now been analyzed and students have been grouped by instructional need—either prevention or enrichment. We are focuses on specifics—for instance, developing 1:1 correspondence for student developing their sense of number to addition with regrouping for numbers greater than 3 digits or addition of integers. All teaching staff, including Mr. Huneault, Mrs. Irving and Ms. Charles will be working with a group of students on their particular area of focus twice a week for 30 minutes for two weeks. We will then re-assess and see if the intervention made a difference in student learning.

The intervention blocks have been scheduled to occur “on top of” regular math instruction. We are making this a priority for our learners – and we are very excited. Once we finish with our addition focus we will repeat the process for subtraction, multiplication and division. Our goal in the end is to have students working at grade level (or above) in their ability to add, subtract, multiply and divide while developing a solid understanding of WHAT they are doing and WHY they do it!

**DARE**

Constable Fraser is now working with the grade 5's on the DARE program which stands for Drugs Alcohol Resistance Education. The 10 session course works on teaching students how to resist and deal with peer pressure around substances including cigarettes. Constable Fraser is well known to our school community as she is our School Liaison Officer. The students are responding well to this program. Families will be invited to a graduation celebration must prior to Spring Break.



## Hot Lunch update

Do not despair! Hot lunch will be returning soon! There will be some changes to the menu as well which even Garfield would approve of! Please remember that students do need to bring lunch to school on Fridays so that they have something to eat until we are ready with round two of the lunch program.

## Criminal Record Checks

Update on doing a criminal record check:

Visit this site:

<https://justice.gov.bc.ca/eCRC/home.htm> You will be prompted for the NLPS access code which is as follows: **Access Code: UQ4T7XXBHE**

Once you have completed and submitted the form for the online criminal record check, **please provide your school principal with your full name and date of birth.**

*All adults who volunteer in any capacity in the school are required to have a Criminal Record Check. This would include all PAC members and those people who help out with Hot Lunch on Fridays.*