

Comox Valley Schools (SD71)

Office of the Superintendent of Schools

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September 4, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

On behalf of the Board of Education and the staff of Comox Valley Schools (SD71) I would like to welcome you and your children to the 2018/19 school year. If you are new to our school district, welcome and to all those who have been part of the district in prior years, welcome back for another school year!

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with some important information for the start of the school year. If we missed anything including information that you want or need, please let us know and we will endeavor to get the information to you.

School Information

Communications between School and Home

Regular two-way communication between school and home is essential. Schools, particularly elementary and middle schools, send newsletters, forms to be completed and other important information home to you with your child. Schools also place important information on their school web page.

When communicating with your school or child's teacher, notes do not always get where they are supposed to go for a variety of reasons. If you have not heard back from the school about an issue, please phone the school to follow up.

Parent – School Involvement

We encourage you to get involved in your child's school. Each of our schools has active Parent Advisory Councils (PAC). Information on meeting dates for the PAC is available on the school web page and/or by contacting the school. The District Parent Advisory Council web page is <https://sd71dpac.com>.

Questions about your Child(ren)'s Education

If you have questions or concerns about your child's education or the school they attend, we encourage you to first contact your child's teacher. If you require further information than can be provided by the teacher, the next best contact is the school principal. However, you may also wish to contact district staff at the School Board Office or your local trustee for assistance. Contact information is available on the school district web page or by calling (250) 334-5500.

School Closures

In the event of a school closure due to snow or power outages, we endeavor to announce these closures as early as possible. Information pertaining to the closure will be available on the district web page and our two local radio stations are notified. Please ensure that your child(ren)'s school has your up-to-date phone number, cell phone number and email address.

School Daily Start and End Times

For daily start and end times, each school may vary slightly. Please check the school web site or contact the school directly.

District Information

District Web Page

Comox Valley Schools has a new web page and logo. The URL for the district web page is <https://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca>.

Most information about school operations is available on the school district web page including links to the schools that your child(ren) attend. On the district web page you can find busing information, emergency programs, curriculum information, school contact information and lots of other important information. Please check out our new web page and if there is additional information you would like to see on the page, let us know.

District Calendar

The district calendar is located on the district web page and contains important dates such as parent - teacher conference days, non-instruction days and vacation periods. If you have any questions regarding the calendar please contact the school principal or call the School Board Office.

Student Services

The district has a Student Services Department with an array of specialists and resources for all our students with diverse learning needs. Supports are accessed through School Based Teams at the local school. For more information parents can contact Students Services at (250) 339-0922.

Transportation Services

Comox Valley Schools has over 2000 students transported by bus daily. Bus Transportation Forms for applying for transportation services are available on the district web page. If you are new to the district or have changed your address you will need to complete a Bus Transportation Registration Form.

Student bus passes for eligible riders are provided within 7 – 10 days of applying for bus transportation. Riders must show their bus pass each time they ride.

School Emergency Program

To provide an effective response to any school crisis, Comox Valley Schools has developed an Emergency Response Plan. The Plan works in conjunction with other local emergency plans because a school emergency could require the involvement of numerous agencies. The plans created for individual

schools, along with the district plan, are reviewed annually and always after an emergency occurs. This program will be reviewed with your child and more information is available from your school or from the School Board Office.

School Board Meetings

Board meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of every month in the Board Office commencing at 7:00 pm, unless otherwise stated. The agenda will be posted on the Friday prior to each Board Meeting. Members of the public are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Education Committees are held the second Monday of each month except June, July and August. These meetings are held at different district facilities each month. Please check the district web page for the location of the meeting.

School Board Elections

School Board elections are on October 20, 2018. Information regarding the election is available on the Town of Comox, City of Courtenay and Comox Valley Regional District web sites.

G.P. Vanier Secondary School 50th Anniversary Celebration

G.P. Vanier seismic upgrade and modernization is completed just in time for its 50th anniversary as a secondary school in the district. The celebration assembly is planned for 11:00 am on October 18, 2018.

There is a lot to celebrate with this important milestone as over 14,000 students have passed through the doors and over 800 teachers have taught in this school since its opening in 1968.

Enrollment Information

Our school district continues to grow at about 2% per year. This growth is exciting as it provides opportunities to provide more varied programs in our schools. However, at the same time, this enrollment affects our ability to place all children in their neighborhood school or to allow cross-boundary transfers. To date we have been able to place well over 90% of new registrations in their neighborhood school.

New Pickle Ball Courts at Highland Secondary

A committee came together with Comox Valley Schools' operations representation, Highland, Brooklyn, Robb Road, town of Comox and Comox Rec to discuss this joint project. It should open up some time in September with school hours available to district classes, and before school, lunch time, and after school available to the general public.

School Registration Process

Once again we enter the school year with increasing student enrolment. While we make our best effort to insure that students can attend their neighbourhood school, we cannot guarantee it. There may be situations when a school is at capacity and cannot accept additional students. In this case the district will place students at the next closest location available. We thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through this process.

Again, welcome to another school year and we look forward to continuing our work as a community of learners. If you require additional information please contact the school or the School Board Office and we will endeavor to get the information you require as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Dean Lindquist, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Comox Valley Schools (SD71)