

# ***THE CUNNINGHAM NEWS***

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**September 5, 2017**

## **IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR**

Wednesday, September 6	First full day for Gr. 1-7 mainstream classes
Friday, September 22	Professional Development Day – no school for students
Thursday, October 5	Individual Photo day
Monday, October 9	Thanksgiving holiday
Wednesday, October 18	Parent/Teacher Conferences – 2:00 dismissal Gr. 7 YWCA programs start – 15 minutes after dismissal
Thursday, October 19	Parent/Teacher Conferences – 2:00 dismissal
Friday, October 20	Provincial Professional Development Day – no school for students
Friday, October 31	Halloween

***Please check our website regularly for updates and for photos of special events:  
[cunningham.vsb.bc.ca](http://cunningham.vsb.bc.ca)***

## **WELCOME TO A NEW SCHOOLYEAR!**

On behalf of the staff, I would like to welcome our new and returning families to Cunningham. We look forward to another great year of learning and another great year of special events.

## **Classes for 2017 - 2018**

We thank students and families for their patience as we worked on class organization this past week. Our teachers have taken great care and deliberation in deciding on the best placement for each child and they do so within a set of constraints and guiding criteria recognizing:

- Individual educational needs, learning styles, and appropriate social environment
- Equitable academic, social, and gender balance within and between classes
- Equitable distribution of students needing special support

Students will remain in their previous year's teacher's class until we are able to finalize numbers and therefore school organization. Our goal is to have students move just once to their new classroom and not need to reorganize after this move is made. We appreciate your patience as we work through this complicated and important process.

Thank you for taking the time to read the above information and for your understanding of a process that is equitable for all students and giving all classrooms an equal opportunity to have a successful school year.

## **Staff Changes**

Sadly, we lost some staff members who have moved on to others schools and new adventures. We wish all the very best to the following staff members:

- Ms. Danita Kwong (resource) has moved to an enrolling classroom position at Renfrew
- Mr. Greg Unsworth (resource) has moved to a resource position at Norquay
- Ms. Michelle Sam (intermediate autism teacher) has moved to an enrolling mainstream position at Lord Roberts
- Ms. Roguski (counsellor) is on maternity leave
- Ms. Deana Michel (AEEW) was relocated to other VSB schools
- Ms. Kim Leung (office) was at Cunningham for just the 2016-17 school year
- Ms. Melissa Clark (SSA in primary autism) has returned to university
- Mr. Mark Russell (SSA in intermediate autism) has moved to Begbie
- Ms. Tanya Huse (SSA in intermediate autism) has moved to Collingwood
- Ms. Mahtab Hajimohammadjafar (SSA intermediate autism)

Please join us in giving a warm Cunningham welcome to the following staff members new to Cunningham:

- Mr. Tyler Kolpin – intermediate enrolling
- Ms. Barbara Gutkowski – intermediate autism district class teacher
- Mr. Carey Mercer – resource team
- Ms. Keilah Motola – resource team
- Ms. Nikki Short – welcome back to Cunningham! Ms. Short will be joining the resource team
- Ms. Jaclyn Snider – counsellor
- Ms. Donna Kerr – office extra clerical
- Ms. Loretta Williams – AEEW

- Kyle Paterson & Paramjit Sandhu – SSAs in the intermediate autism class for September

#### Staff Assignment Changes:

- Ms. Atsuko Fairweather has moved from an enrolling classroom position to resource
- Ms. Gloria Yong has moved into an primary enrolling position
- Ms. Shawna Lippucci remains on maternity leave and will return in November. Ms. Nidhi Sharma will continue in her place until Ms. Lippucci returns
- Mr. MacMillan has moved to a kindergarten position in room 119
- Mr. Mirzaei will again be full time at Cunningham

#### **Meet the Teacher**

Please stay tuned for an announcement about the date and time for the Cunningham/Carleton Meet the Teacher later this month

#### **Lots of forms coming home!**

Over the next few weeks, there will be a lot of forms sent home to be filled out and signed. We would appreciate the return of the completed forms and any fees, as soon as possible.

#### **Student Safety**

One of our biggest priorities is the safety of your children.

1. Please make sure your child is picked up on time after school @ 3:00 p.m.
2. Please make sure you mark the dates on your calendar (paper or on your calendar on your phone) of our Professional Days and Early Dismissal days for parent conferences: October 18, 19 and January 31, Feb. 1. Dismissal times on these days will be 2:00 p.m.
3. Students are not allowed on our school grounds after 3:15 p.m. unless they are supervised by an adult or staying after school for a school-sponsored activity/class
4. Please model good pedestrian safety for our students by **NOT** jaywalking (crossing the road in the middle of the street). Please cross at a marked crosswalk.
5. Please do not park in the “No Stopping” and “No Parking” zone on 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue as this space is reserved for our school buses who transport our Special Needs students.

#### **Reporting Student Absences:**

Student safety is of paramount importance at the Vancouver School District. Ensuring student safety is a shared responsibility. In order to assist schools, we ask parents to notify schools of student absences. If your child will be absent from school, please phone the school to report this absence as early as possible. Parents should leave a message on a dedicated answering service by calling 604-713-5159, then, when prompted, enter extension 24. Messages will be received before the office is open. School offices are busy places: consistently notifying the school in advance of your child’s absence will significantly improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Safe Arrival Morning Routine.

To Report Your Childs Absence – Please Call 604-713-5159, then, when prompted, enter extension 24 prior to 9 am on the first day of the absence.

#### **Student Sign Out Procedure**

When you pick up your child during the school day, please ensure that you sign them out at the school office. If you do not sign out your child, they will be unaccounted for, and the school will identify your child as a ‘missing’ student and will commence a search of school grounds. If the school staff do not locate the child, and are unable to reach a parent promptly, the school will call the Vancouver Police Department. Therefore, clear communication is essential for ensuring the safety of your child and to prevent unnecessary searches.

Thank you for helping us keep your children safe!

#### **Valuables**

The school cannot be responsible for valuable items brought to school by students. Please do not encourage your child to bring large amounts of money, expensive electronics, or irreplaceable sentimental items. If the child, after discussions with the parent(s) and teacher(s), decides to bring the electronic item (e.g. laptop, iPad, etc.) to the school to assist with classroom work, the school and/or staff cannot take responsibility for any damage or loss.

#### **Medicine**

For safety and liability reasons, students are not allowed to keep medicine in their classrooms. For children needing administration of an EpiPen or other medication, please contact the school office, as there are special forms to fill out in order for the medicine to be allowed on the school site. All medicine must be stored in our

office.

### **Supervision of Students**

Students should not be arriving at school early unless they are attending a supervised sports or choir practice session, or their teachers have specifically requested a meeting. Supervision of students does not start until 8:40 a.m. Students are not allowed in any of our hallways until the 8:55 a.m. warning bell rings. If students and parents/caregivers arrive early, they are to:

1. Play or wait outside until the 8:55 a.m. warning bell
2. Go to the Activity/Lunchroom and wait quietly until the 8:55 a.m. warning bell
3. Go to the library (opens at 8:30 a.m. on specific days and not necessarily every day due to part-time schedule and/or staff meetings)

On dry weather days, we encourage all students to play and/or wait outside until the 8:55 warning bell.

**PLEASE DO NOT WAIT IN THE HALLWAYS.**

### **AFTER School**

To ensure the safety of our students, all students are expected to be picked up or go home promptly at dismissal time, unless they are attending a supervised activity. **Students playing outside on the playground will not be supervised after 3:15 p.m. at which time parents/guardians/caretakers are expected to supervise their own children.** Students are not to be left unattended after 3:15 p.m. **Our school office does not provide babysitting services.** Parents are expected make their own child care arrangements should their schedules not allow them to pick up their children promptly at 3:00 p.m. dismissal time.

### **Hallways**

Due to fire and safety regulations, we ask parents, caregivers, and students not to wait outside the classrooms and/or library before the start of the school day. This blocks our hallway access and disturbs meetings that are taking place in these rooms. Please do not stand in the library entrance way and block traffic.

### **Rainy or Bad weather Days**

On dry weather days, students are expected to stay outside until the 8:55 warning bell. If it is raining or snowing, students may go to the Activity Room/Lunchroom to wait quietly starting at 8:40 a.m. Students may go to the library when it opens (see library door for schedule).

**\*\*\*Please make sure your children are dressed appropriately for the cold and wet weather. On dry days, we will be asking students to go outside to play and enjoy the fresh air so they need to wear warm coats, jackets, hats, gloves, and boots if needed. On wet days, children should be wearing raincoats and boots and have an umbrella.**

### **Library**

Ms. Cho will open the library on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. The library will be officially open on Monday, September 11, 2017.

### **Homework: Read, Read, and Read some More!**

We hope our students have continued the practice of reading daily over the summer. If you haven't done so already, now is a good time to start! If your child does not have homework, please encourage them to read for 20 – 30 minutes each day. Parents, please continue to take your child to our school library and the public library on a weekly basis to get new reading material. Although children should be allowed to choose their own reading material, encourage them to try something new like non-fiction books, magazines, audio books, etc.

### **Grade 7 – YWCA Program**

Grade 7 students are invited to a highly recommended after-school YWCA program which will help them prepare for high school. Each Wednesday from October 18 – December 13, Gr. 7 students will meet for a snack, gym games, and discussions about healthy relationships, peer pressure, internet safety, media awareness, and other important topics. All Gr. 7 students will be meeting with the program leaders on Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. Registration forms will be sent home shortly thereafter. There will be a nominal registration fee will be **\$5.00**, a great bargain for 7 great sessions!

### **Cunningham website: [cunningham.vsb.bc.ca](http://cunningham.vsb.bc.ca)**

Our school website is updated regularly. Please check the upper right hand corner for ***School Events (click "view all" for full list)***. The ***School Calendar*** underneath gives you the events in calendar format that you can print off. Please be aware that **new events will be added throughout the year** so make sure you visit the site regularly.

### **\*\*Parent Traffic Concerns\*\***

At Cunningham, we all work together to ensure your children arrive at our school, and depart from our school, safely. This past year, we have noticed parents not complying with traffic signs along 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue and stopping their cars in the “NO STOPPING” zones, making dangerous U-turns in the middle of the street, and crossing in the middle of the street instead of using a crosswalk. Also please DO NOT use the lane behind the school for drop off or pick up. Please help us by modeling good traffic safety for your children – remember that you need to model good behaviour for your children as they will copy what you do!

### **Code of Conduct**

Our school has adopted a student-friendly (and parent-friendly!) Code of Conduct. This brochure will be sent home soon and we ask that all parents and guardians read this document and review it with their children so that everyone is aware of our school’s expectations.

### **Pizza Day**

Thank you to PAC for organizing our popular Pizza Days. We generally have Pizza Days three times per term. Order forms will be coming home at the end of September.

### **School Calendar on Fridge Magnets**

To assist families with reminders about school closure dates, Professional Days, Early Dismissal days, and holidays, we have ordered school fridge magnets. Please put it on your fridge or any other easily visible magnetic surface, to help you remember key dates.

### **PAC MEETING**

The Parent Advisory Council is an important, integral part of our school community. As a parent of a student at Cunningham, you are automatically a member of PAC. Please come join us and help us provide the best possible learning environment for our students. We are looking for new members to join our team!

### **Diligent Chinese School**

Chinese Language School 勤力中文學校 (Sept. 19, 2017 - June 2018)

Place 上課地點 : Cunningham Elementary School 2330E 37th Vancouver

Mandarin Class : Every Tuesday from 3:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

國語班上課時間 : 逢星期二下午三時十五分至五時十五分

Cantonese Class: Every Thursday from 3:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

粵語班上課時間 : 逢星期四下午三時十五分至五時十五分

For more information, please phone Mrs. Wong at 604 929-7522.

歡迎查詢或報名請電 [604 929-7522](tel:6049297522) 黃老師

## GT Cunningham Elementary School Calendar 2017-2018

DESIGNATION	DETAIL
<b>SCHOOL OPERATION OVERVIEW</b>	
Number of Days in Session	187
Number of Days of Instruction	179
Hours of Instruction in a School year	949
Number of Days of Non-Instruction	7 Non Instructional Days; 1 Administrative Day (June 29)
<b>Important Dates</b>	
School Opening Day	Tuesday, September 5, 2017
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 9, 2017
Remembrance Day Holiday	Monday, November 13, 2017 (in lieu of Saturday, November 11)
Last Day of Instruction Before Winter Vacation	Friday, December 22, 2017
Winter Vacation Period	Monday, December 25, 2017 – Friday, January 5, 2018
School Re-opens after Winter Vacation	Monday, January 8, 2018
Family Day	Monday, February 12, 2018
Last Day of Instruction Before Spring Vacation	Friday, March 16, 2018
Spring Vacation Period	Monday, March 19 – Thursday, March 29, 2017
Good Friday	Friday, March 30, 2018
Easter Monday	Monday, April 2, 2018
School Re-opens after Spring Vacation	Tuesday, April 3, 2018
School not in session	Friday, May 18, 2018
Victoria Day	Monday, May 21, 2018
Last Full Day of Pupil Attendance	Thursday, June 28, 2018
Administrative/School Closing Day	Friday, June 29, 2018
<b>Non Instructional Days (school not in session)</b>	
Friday, September 22, 2017	Professional Development Day
Friday, October 20, 2017	District wide non-instructional day
Friday, November 10, 2017	Curriculum Implementation Day
Friday, December 1, 2017	Professional Development Day
Monday, January 29, 2018	Curriculum Implementation Day
Monday, February 19, 2018	Professional Development Day
Friday, April 27, 2018	Professional Development Day
<b>Parent Teacher Conference Dates:</b>	
Early dismissal times:	
Wednesday, October 18, 2017	2:00 dismissal for Goal Setting Conferences
Thursday, October 19, 2017	2:00 dismissal for Goal Setting Conferences
Wednesday, January 31, 2018	2:00 dismissal for Goal Setting/Parent Conferences
Thursday, February 1, 2018	2:00 dismissal for Goal Setting/Parent Conferences

### Bell Schedule & Breaks

Periods	Monday-Friday	Minutes
WARNING BELL	8:55	n/a
Period 1	9:00-9:50	50
Period 2	9:50-10:40	50
<i>Recess</i>	10:40-11:00	20
Period 3	11:00-11:50	50
Period 4	11:50-12:10	20
<i>Lunch Time</i>	12:10-12:57	47
<i>Homeroom</i>	12:57-1:00	3
Period 5	1:00-1:20	20
Period 6	1:20-2:10	50
Period 7	2:10-3:00	50
Total Minutes per day of	Instructional Time:	293