

December 2020 Newsletter



Chelsea Elementary School

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Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Ms. Bardell and her grade 4/5 class. This November they organized an Essentials Drive that was very well supported by our community. I'd like to congratulate the students who initiated the drive and thank all that were able to contribute. We will ensure that all these precious donations get to local families in need.

As with all our assemblies this year, the Remembrance Day Ceremony was held virtually. Ms. Armstrong's grade two class led the ceremony, teaching us about why the poppy is a symbol of Remembrance Day and sharing their art about the gift of Peace. Thank you to Ms. Armstrong and her class.

The Home and School Association organized a yard clean-up on November 7th and the weather couldn't have been more beautiful! Thank you to all those who volunteered to tend to the gardens and play areas. I'd also like to thank Home and School for providing us with baskets to help our library go mobile!

This year our Parent -Teacher interviews went virtual and the feedback from parents was very positive! To support our move to more virtual learning, each class at Chelsea Elementary has a CLASS TEAM established on Microsoft Office. Your child has a Microsoft Office email account (your child's homeroom teacher can be contacted for information) and a great introductory video for how to log in and access their CLASS TEAM can be found at :

<https://cortexonemsedu.blob.core.windows.net/staticcontent/teams-demo/index.html#/2/0>

The Chelsea Value in December is generosity. Whether it is the gift of time, friendship, or a physical item, teachers will be sharing with students the importance of giving to others. We will also be raising awareness of the diversity of cultural celebrations that take place at this time of year.

Wishing everyone a wonderful winter break and all the best in 2021!

Andrea Gage

Principal,

Chelsea Elementary

Upcoming Events

December 2nd – 7 pm Home and School Meeting

December 11th– PD Day

December 14th- Spirit Day: Crazy hair

December 15th -Spirit Day: Red and Green

December 16th- Chelsea Star Awards, Spirit Day: School wide PJ day

December 17th – distance learning day

December 18th - distance learning day

Change of daily routine for any student:

In order to keep track of where children should be at the end of the day, we ask that parents send in a written note in the morning or an e-mail to: chelseaattendance@wqsb.qc.ca

for any change. **Phones or e-mails will not be answered or checked after 1:30** as last minute changes are difficult to manage. Thank you for your continued collaboration.

Three Additional Planning and Training Days

The government recently announced the addition of three additional planning and training days for teachers to support the incorporation of technology in teaching and learning. The following dates will be designated PD days; teachers will participate in training and students will not attend school:

- November 30, 2020
- December 11, 2020
- January 15, 2021

Late Arrivals

It is imperative that students arrive to school in time for the start of the day at 8:05 am. Students who arrive to school late are not able to enter the school within their class bubble and, as these students make their way to class, it may be necessary for them to cross paths with other student bubbles that are in the hallway. All of our entry and exit times are highly structured to avoid the mixing of groups and to reduce the opportunities for the spread of viruses. We really appreciate your assistance and ask that every effort be made to have your child arrive to school on time.

For parents dropping off, all students arriving late must be brought into the school and signed in by a parent or guardian. **PLEASE DO NOT DROP YOUR CHILD OFF AT THE FRONT OF THE SCHOOL IF THE DROP OFF SUPERVISORS ARE NOT PRESENT.** Even if a class is outside, it is not safe to drop off your child without signing them in at the office.

After School Program News

Our next P.D. Day is December 11. This is one of the additional days that were recently added by the Government and will be open only to students who are regular users of the after school program. Forms for this day will go home the week of November 23 and will need to be returned by December 4th.

All Daycare fees must be paid by December 11th. Any students with a balance owing will not have access to the after school program in January.

Heather Beresford
Daycare Technician
Chelsea Elementary

Lunch, snacks, water and masks

As the weather changes, so do student's eating habits! Some students have been arriving at school without a sufficient supply of food for the day. Please provide an additional snack for your child for those extra hungry days and ensure they have their water bottle with them each day.

Some students are arriving to school without a face covering; we recommend storing a clean back-up mask in your child's backpack for days the face covering is forgotten.

Governing Board 2020-2021

Governing Board met on November 19 via TEAMS. Meeting highlights include the approval of school fees as well as the Anti-Bullying and Violence Prevention (ABVP) Plan for 2020-2021.

- **School Fees:** In a typical year, school fees are approved by the previous Governing Board and paid by parents at the start of school. However, due to the unprecedented circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, pertinent information affecting fees (e.g. extra supervision costs) has only recently become available. Governing Board members participated in an in-depth discussion before approving fees for the 2020-2021 school year. Instructions to parents with respect to payment will be provided by the school in the new calendar year.
- **ABVP:** The vision of the ABVP is two-fold: that the school is a place of mutual respect and inclusiveness; and that all students and staff are, and feel, safe and secure. With this in mind, Governing Board members were presented with this year's goals and the strategies and actions in support of each goal. The approved ABVP Plan can be accessed on the school's website.

In addition to having our own Governing Board, the Western Quebec School Board is itself governed by a council of commissioners. The seat for our ward (Ward 5) is soon to be vacant. Should you be interested in learning more about the position and how to run, please feel free to contact the Governing Board Chair for more information.

Finally, on behalf of the parents at Chelsea Elementary School, the Governing Board Parent Representatives would like to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to the entire administrative and teaching staff for their caring and dedicated professionalism during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The next Governing Board meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2021 at 6:30p.m. via TEAMS. Additional details, including agenda items, will be available in the January newsletter.

Please contact the Governing Board Chair, Keri George (kerigeorge@hotmail.com), for additional information on any of these topics. Thank you.

Appointments/Late arrivals:

We ask that parents notify the school by leaving a message or e-mailing when you know that your child will be late or has an appointment. You can reach Ms. Adele at 819-827-0245 or e-mail her at:

chelseaattendance@wqsb.qc.ca

Anti-Bullying Violence Prevention Committee (ABVP)

The Anti-bullying and Violence Prevention Committee has worked hard on our Anti-bullying and Violence Prevention Plan for the 2020-2021 school year. Watch for the new plan to be posted on the website and please read this document; the plan captures our school commitment to providing a safe, inclusive and responsive environment for your children to learn in.

We are still looking for parent volunteers for the ABVP committee. Parents involvement can include: monthly meetings, support of a special event, or helping with an initiative such as the Terry Fox Art project. At Chelsea Elementary, the parent voice is very important and all support is welcomed.



Lost and Found

NEW this year we have a lost and Found Instagram page. Go to The.Chelsea.Island and look through the pictures of items. If you see something that belongs to your family respond below the picture, send me a message or even email me at saustin@wqsb.qc.ca and I will return the item to your child.

DECEMBER 14 deadline! Donation of unclaimed items will take place after December 14th to the local Nearly New Shop. During the first week in December the clothes will be laid out for student viewing however, we encourage parents check the Instagram page, especially if your child is in cycle 1!

REMIND

The winter weather has arrived and with it comes increased communication related to transportation and the potential for school closure associated with inclement weather. The REMIND APP is a free communication tool with which Chelsea Elementary communicates these more urgent messages. If you were signed up for REMIND last year your account should still be active; the exception to this is if you had an older sibling graduate last year. In this case, or if you are new to the school, please see attached letter with the simple sign up instructions.

PLEASE NOTE:

-REMIND is only used for urgent and transportation related communication- not general reminders

-REMIND is for one-way communication only- Individual messages and questions cannot be responded to. All questions must be called into the office at 819-827-0245

-REMIND is our fastest route for short communication (there is a very limited text amount)

Home and School Association December News

- Stay tuned for some upcoming Winter Fun Activities!
- Bat houses for sale. Contact Keri George for details kerigeorge@hotmail.com
- Thank you to all who participated and supported our events this month! The “Great” One Raffle, School Yard clean up and Scholastics Book Fair were a success.
- Our next meeting is December 2, at 7pm. Contact H&S to join us
- For full details on all our events please read our H&S Newsletter

We Wish Everyone a Safe and Happy Holiday!!!

Chelsea Elementary December 2020 Value=Generosity

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1	2 Home and school 7 pm	3	4
7	8	9	10	11 PD Day
14 Spirit Day: Crazy hair	15 Spirit Day: Red and Green	16 Chelsea Star Awards Spirit Day: School wide PJ day!	17 Distance learning day	18 Distance learning day
21 WINTER BREAK	22 WINTER BREAK	23 WINTER BREAK	24 WINTER BREAK	25 WINTER BREAK
28 WINTER BREAK	29 WINTER BREAK	30 WINTER BREAK	31 WINTER BREAK	

