

January 2021 Newsletter



Chelsea Elementary School

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Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Happy New Year and welcome back! January is often a time for reflection and I would like to acknowledge our tremendous community and the collective efforts of staff, students and parents to maintain a healthy school environment. I also want to recognize all those in our community who have demonstrated their support, trust and adaptability throughout these uncertain times. While challenging, these circumstances have also brought out the best of our incredible community.

We will be beginning 2021 with distance learning until January 8th as announced by the government in December. As we continue with the TEAMS platform for classes, don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher for meeting information, Ms. Fumerton for questions related to borrowed technology, and the WQSB tech team for any other tech issues: wqsbhelpdesk@wqsb.qc.ca. **Please note that new material will be covered during class time and student attendance is expected.**

January 15, 2021 is the end of term 1 and report cards will be accessible on Parent Portal as of January 22, 2021. If your child has an IEP, you will receive a paper term evaluation of their progress on IEP goals. Please reach out to Margaret Burns (mburns@wqsb.qc.ca) if you have any difficulty accessing your child's report card.

Thank you to The Chelsea Home and School Association for purchasing a RAZ Kids subscription for each of our homeroom classes! This subscription provides each student access to online, leveled reading resources.

The value for the month for January is confidence and we will explore strategies which support the development of a growth mindset. Students have already brainstormed areas in life in which they feel naturally confident and we will now expand the understanding of confidence to including taking risks outside of comfort zones. Instead of fearing failure, we want student to embrace the learning that trying new and challenging things offers.

I wish everyone a happy and healthy 2021

Sincerely, A. Gage

Upcoming Events

January 04– PD Day

January 05-08- Distance Learning

January 06- Home and School meeting 7:00 pm

January 14- Governing Board meeting 6:30 pm

January 15- PD day (Additional Day)

January 25- ABVP Meeting 3:00

January 29- Chelsea Star Awards

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.

Digital Learning Tips

Here are a few tips that will help with your child's with their on-line learning experience:

- 1) Designate a consistent learning space with comfortable seating (or standing), minimal distractions (i.e. pets!), and lighting that is adequate for the camera to create a clear image
- 2) If your child uses a fidget in class, this may help them with attention during online learning. A fidget is tool for hands and should not distract visual attention from the screen or create noise
- 3) Healthy snacks during online learning are fine- please stick to finger foods that are easy to eat!
- 4) Ensure your child gets outside for 'recess' while distance learning. Being active and getting fresh air when they are off-line will help them focus when on-line
- 5) Explore the accessibility features on TEAMS (ex. captions, text to speech, etc.) to support your child's learning

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

After School Program News:

Friday January 15 is an additional P.D. Day scheduled to allow teachers time for planning and professional development related to the integration of technology in learning. This PD day is open to regular users of the Daycare.

Forms were due January 6. If you have not replied and would like your child to attend please email hberesford@wqsb.qc.ca.

The theme for that day is Winter Olympics, we will be spending most of the day outside so please ensure that your child is dressed for the weather.

Governing Board 2020-2021:

The next Governing Board meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2021 at 6:30p.m. via TEAMS.

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

Kindergarten Registration/ Derogation

Kindergarten registration will take place during the first week of February. For more information about registering a kinder student, please visit <https://westernquebec.ca/registration/kindergarten/>. More information will be emailed later this month.

An Information Evening for Early Admission Derogation will be held for parents via Zoom on **January 25^h, 2021 – 7:00 pm**. Please register with Wendy Routliffe: wroutliffe@wqsb.qc.ca , 819-684-1313 x 560006. Any interested parents are strongly encouraged to attend. Please note: This session does not address the Special Education Derogation Process. See below for information regarding this type of Derogation.

ABVP Committee

In the rapidly changing world of technology, highlighted now due to COVID-19, parents can feel that they are navigating unknown territory. As a parent myself, I understand the concerns and providing our children with guidance on digital citizenship and online safety is a must!

The WQSB has gathered a collection of resources for parents, staff and students related to digital citizenship <http://digitalcitizenship.wqsb.qc.ca/> The January theme is physical/psychological Well-being which is quite apt considering the changes that we are experiencing in the world. I would encourage families to have a look through the resources and information there.

The ABVP committee is planning activities to support an increase in our school community's digital citizenship. If you have ideas that can be implemented or time to lend a hand, please feel free to reach out to Stephanie Austin (aka Ms. Steph) at saustin@wqsb.qc.ca.

Another focus of the ABVP committee is anti-racism education and the celebration of diversity. Please watch for information about how parents can be involved in celebrating the diversity within our community and suggested resources for keeping this important conversation going.

Lost and Found

If your child brings home something from Lost and Found, please wash or quarantine the item as a precaution. These items are stored with other Lost and Found items.

Home and School Association January News

Please refer to our H&S newsletter for full details on all our upcoming news and events or to get in touch chelseahands15@gmail.com

- **January meeting is Wednesday January 6th at 7pm**
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- Staff Appreciation Week- First week of February
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- H&S-School wide Purchase! RAZ Kids A-Z Subscription
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- H&S-Purchase of Picnic tables (4) for the school
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- H&S-Funding for Cultural Diversity Event
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- Bat Houses- Four sold! TWO left! <https://chelsea-home-school-association.square.site>

Chelsea Elementary January 2021 Value= Confidence

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1 New Years Day
4 PD Day	5 Distance Learning	6 Distance Learning Home and School Meeting 6:30	7 Distance Learning	8 Distance Learning
11	12	13	14 Governing Board Meeting 6:30	15 End of Term 1 PD Day
18	19	20	21	22 Term 1 reports accessible to parents
25 ABVP meeting @ 3 pm	26	27 Family Literacy Day	28	29 Chelsea Star AWARDS

