



End of Year Communiqué 2021-2022

What is New at CES?

Plenty of Exciting Changes Coming to CES in 2022-2023

Written by Chris McIntyre, CES Principal



Run Club Fun Run June 6

This year we have run down plenty of curved pathways and here we are at what feels like the end of a marathon that we raced at a sprinter's speed! It feels like the last two and a half years of Covid-related changes have been a blur and now we are finally able to start to forge a new trail at CES. Our focus will be on developing a deep sense of community in our school and continually addressing the mental health of our students. We are also digging deeply into literacy and numeracy as we now regain our footing lost during the lockdowns. "Covid learning loss" is a reality for most of our children and our pathway forward will need to address it.

Changes for 2022-2023

New Teacher Roles

Veteran teacher Diane Moncrieff is retiring after a highly successful career at CES and we wish her all the best in her retirement.

While some of our teachers will be back in their usual roles, many are taking this opportunity to move into something new!



Preschool	Debbie Lemke
Grade 1	Jamilyn Brown
Grade 2	Pam Anderson
Grade 3/4	Deanna Berberich
Grade 3/4	Future Hire (in place of Karen Miers who will be on leave until January)
Grade 5/6	Teddy Brinkman
Grade 5/6	Tarilie Thomas

Kindergarten	Diann Fender
Grade 1	Laura Sommerville
Grade 2	Emma Lenz
Grade 3/4	Kristen Jones
Grade 3/4	Samantha Dennahower (Future Hire)
Grade 5/6	Leah McIntyre
Grade 5/6	Future Hire

As you can see there are plenty of changes! Laura and Pam are moving back to grade 1 and 2 where they taught earlier in their careers. Kristen Jones transferred to CES and is excited about the prospects of teaching at our school. We will be hiring three teachers this summer! Mrs Dennahower will only be here for a short time as she will be taking a maternity leave so we will be hiring her replacement. We will also be hiring for Karen Miers who will be out until January at the earliest. We are adding another grade 5/6 classroom and we are hiring this teacher in early summer. Several grade six students from the other three classes will shift to the new teacher's classroom. And the rumours are true! Mr Brinkman has made the move to grade 5/6!

Jenna Low is back from her maternity leave as our learning support teacher and our administrative team of Krista Gaskell (VP) and Chris McIntyre (Principal) will remain.

Wait... Grade 1 and 2, or 1/2? Looping?

Covid learning loss has meant that many of our students have missed large swaths of early learning fundamentals. Some of our students were absent for incredibly long periods of time in the last two and a half years. We are taking on a two-year action research study with our new grade 1 and 2 teams to determine if we can close the gap in learning by operating with single grades and looping the students and teachers.

What is looping? When looping, teachers keep their same classes for two years in grades 1 and then 2 before “looping” back to grade 1. The teachers continue to have two years to develop student relationships and literacy and numeracy skills in a single grade. This allows many of the same benefits of multi age learning but within a slightly smaller range of student abilities.

Community Classrooms!

Covid protocols shut down our school into a collection of one-room school houses! We know this is not how children learn best and we know that children thrive in a learning community. Building a true “school community” is so important that we are planning on mixing up our hallways. In each hallway we will have one grade 1 and one grade 2 class, along with two grade $\frac{3}{4}$ and two grade $\frac{5}{6}$ classes. We plan to use the power of student learning communities to promote kindness, to enhance literacy and numeracy opportunities, as well as build in natural mentoring relationships. Students will once again **know** each other, something that became a problem in the last two years.

We already restarted our Reading Buddies and Math Buddies Programs and even added Writing Buddies! We reignited our fun run, sports day, basketball, volleyball, badminton club, and handbells. The potential with a mixed school will allow us to reach new highs in the years ahead.



Attendance Counts - Everyday!

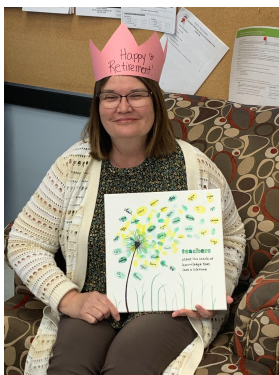


Since Covid lockdowns the attendance of many children has been a serious problem! They come from a range of grades from kindergarten to grade six. Approximately 5% of our students were absent more than half of their days this year and about 40% of our students were absent for more than 20% of the school year. This does not include Covid shutdowns.

We know that this year was extraordinarily difficult for families but as a school we need to find ways to get our children here so they can learn. This is a province-wide problem. One problem that is localized is Friday attendance. Many students and families feel that it is less important to attend school on Fridays, however, there is a lot of good learning provided every single day of school and we want to encourage families to support Friday attendance.

There is a strong correlation between attendance and performance and so parents can help their children learn simply by getting them to school on a regular basis.

Thank You Mrs. Moncrieff!



We are celebrating the retirement of Mrs. Diane Moncrieff. Diane has been at CES for 22-24 years. At the time of writing this even Diane is a little confused as to how long she taught here!

Diane taught students from kindergarten to grade five. Recently she spent time working with children in an intervention program supported through Covid Learning Loss Funding.

Congratulations on a terrific career at CES and beyond!

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