

Start of the Year- The school year and 1st day started really, I don't think we could ask for a better weather day. "You know the kids most favorite class is recess," was a quote I heard over and over, especially after seeing our new GaGa Ball Pit. This link is a YouTube video explaining the rules of the game. We won't be opening the pit until all the students have been trained on the rules. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gpqu-hXwlo>) Enrollment count for the 1st day was 433 students, which is officially two students more than last year. You can see the new houses going in the area and it is obvious that elementary age students live in them. We know that a few more are coming based upon parent requests for information. I think the houses just aren't finished yet.

Full Day Friday: Friday, Sept. 7th is full day for all students with school being released at 3:45 p.m. Next Friday, Sept. 14th will be an early release at 2:15 p.m. This Friday is also the first full day of Kindergarten after their first couple days of Smart Start.

Curriculum Night – Put this date on your calendar, Thursday, September 20th at 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. We will be having our Back to School Open House for all Carnation Elementary School families beginning with a welcome in the gym prior to sending parents to classrooms. This is a great time to meet your child's teachers and have your child take you on a Scavenger Hunt Tour of the school to visit all the important places and people. This is designed to be a Meet and Greet with staff and other families. Teachers will be trying to put names and faces together and since they are still getting to know your child and their abilities it isn't meant to be a conference yet. We will see you on Sept. 20th!

Email Address Updated- Parents if you changed your email address or have a new cell number and are looking to receive communication from the school through our Constant Contact please go to the office and update your new status with Heidi Stauffer or Jacqueline Smith in the office. This is important because we send quite a bit of our communication electronically and having the correct email reduces frustrations on both ends and gets you the most important updates of the happenings at Carnation ES. Please make sure that you check your "Junk" folder, sometimes your filter sends these types of messages to that box and you are getting left out. These newsletters come each month from the office so please stay connected.

Parent Volunteers: If you are interested in helping in the classroom or around school please contact your child's teacher and pick up a district volunteer packet either in the office or on the Carnation Website (<http://ce.rsd407.org/>). Whatever your skillset or available times our staff try to work with you. The pay is low (zero!), but the reward and service are priceless.

Proof of ID – As protection for your children, you will be asked to show your ID when checking a student out of school. If your name appears on the student record information allowing you to take the student from the building, we would be glad to send for that student. Please allow enough time when coming to pick up a student so that you can make your appointment on time. Remember when sending someone to pick up a student, we will only release a student if you have given us prior release and that person's name appears as an emergency contact. This is noted on our computer records and they must present ID. Please review your Emergency Contact list on Family Access and call **Heidi Stauffer** (staufferh@rsd407.org) at 844-4551 if updates need to be made.

Student Records- If you would please look on Skyward Family Access under Student Profile and Family, you may need to update important numbers and emergency contact information. You can stop in the office and add or delete any names or phone numbers and email addresses, also you can call if you need your child's student number. Thank you for your understanding and patience in this matter...Carnation Elementary students' safety is our #1 priority. Parents this includes health records or any medication forms for administering prescriptions at school. This information should be updated with our school nurse, Kristen Uselman (844-4596).

Excused Absences/Attendance – We believe students need to be in school in order to receive the best education possible. Parents should call the Attendance Secretary, Jacqueline Smith (ceattendance@rsd407.org or (425) 844-4554) within 48 hours to excuse an absence, without notification the absence will be considered unexcused. You may have read an article published last year in the Seattle Times regarding Excessive Absences in the State of Washington. (<http://www.seattletimes.com/education-lab/high-numbers-of-washington-students-miss-school-which-hinders-learning-for-all/>). At the Riverview School District we are trying to improve our students attendance and time in class. It is a piece of data we now report to the State of Washington which is published yearly. If kids are missing class, they are missing important instruction, opportunities for discussion and authentic feedback that improve their learning. The following message was sent out last year by Dr. Anthony Smith, Riverview School District Superintendent, as reminder of our district Attendance Policy for the Riverview School District.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we implement higher expectations for student achievement, we have reviewed our attendance and tardy expectations for students. While our student attendance rates are very good, they can be improved. As an example, our research showed that we had many families that missed multiple school

days for reasons other than illness. We are strengthening our expectations for absences that are pre-approved.

The school district and its schools understand that at times there are sound educational reasons for mutually agreed-upon planned absences that are excused. A pre-approved absence request form needs to be submitted to the school attendance office for principal approval at least two school weeks prior to the planned absence, this can be found on the District website. However, after eight agreed-upon planned absences per year, kindergarten through eighth grade, absences will be recorded as unexcused. We also updated our procedures on tardies, whether a student is late for the start of the school day or late to class. Unexcused tardies will result in consequences outlined in our district procedures and student handbooks. For more information, you can access the following link that updates our procedures for excused and unexcused absences and tardies:

[Excused and Unexcused Absences and Tardies Procedures – P3005-5](#)

Free/Reduced Lunch: If you used the District's Free/Reduced Lunch Program last year new paperwork is required to be renewed each year. If you did not resubmit an application, your student could be dropped from the program at the end of September. Remember one application works for the whole family, so if you did fill out paperwork at another child's school you should be covered for the year. Applications can be found on the district website under the Food Services tab.

IMPORTANT PARENT REMINDERS

Tolt Dam Evacuation Drill- *Wednesday, September 26, 2018, is the day designated for Carnation Elementary School students and staff to participate in a Tolt Dam Evacuation Drill.* As many of you know, the Riverview School District participates in a simulation, along with local agencies, in the event of a dam breach. At approximately 9:45 AM, on Wednesday, September 26th, all of Carnation Elementary School will participate in the dam evacuation drill to the relocation zone at the top of the Tolt Highlands hill road.

Kindergarten will do a separate drill on Friday, Sept. 21st at 9:45 a.m. but will only be walking to the bottom of Tolt Hill Rd. Both drills are a yearly safety protocol in case we were to have a Tolt Dam Breach.

Please remind your students to dress appropriately in layers, wear comfortable shoes, and dress in layers. It may start out a little colder, but they get warm and sweaty pretty fast.

Label Kids Stuff: Parents if you would put your child's name on their coats, sweatshirts, lunch bags and the like it would be helpful. Our lost and found fills up fast with items that could be returned if we knew who they belonged to, kids don't seem to care if they lost it, but parents and staff do.

School Snacks: Parents it would be wise to provide a morning snack for your students each day. We have moved our lunch schedule to begin at 12:30 p.m. and this will provide more morning instructional time, it is a big gap in the morning. Healthy snacks like fruit, vegetables, and cheese sticks will help keep their stomachs and heads in the game until lunch.

Parent Drop off Zone- When driving your child to school or picking them up after school, our drop off zone is the loop in front of the school. The drop off loop is very crowded as school lets out. We suggest you stagger your pick-up time to avoid a traffic logjam, if coming early and parking in line please make sure to turn off your engine. Please enter the lot off Stillman and Morrison St. and form a moving line. Our Valets will open the doors for you to let your children in the car, no need for parents to get out of the vehicle. Please pull up between the white sign boards to load and when pulling out look over your shoulder to make sure you don't pull out in front of another car. Again, this is a very crowded and congested time in our day and by being patient it will make the whole process smoother. Remember safety over speed.

Morning Breakfast - Breakfast is served beginning at 9:15 a.m. please do not drop off children earlier than 9:15 a.m. because we do not have supervision at this time of the morning.

Upcoming Events – Mark your calendar

Friday, September 14th

Early Release @ 2:15 p.m.

Friday, September 14th

PTSA Ice Cream Social in MPR @ 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 20th

Open House @ 6:00 p.m.

Friday, September 21st

Early Release @ 2:15 p.m.

Friday, September 21st

Kinder Dam Evac. Drill at 9:45 a.m.

Monday, September 24th

P-2nd Picture Day

Tuesday, September 25th

3rd -5th Picture Day

Wednesday, September 26th

Dam Evacuation Drill at 9:45 a.m.

Friday, September 28th

Early Release @ 2:15 p.m.

