

2013 / 2014



Parent / Student Handbook

Ecole Casorso School
3675 Casorso Road
Kelowna, B.C.
V1W 3E1

Phone: 250-870-5135

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www.cas.sd23.bc.ca

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Welcome to Casorso Elementary School!! The purpose of this handbook is to provide students and parents with some general information concerning the organization and workings of our school. It is hoped that you will keep this book and use it regularly as a point of reference. This handbook is updated yearly, and thus we welcome any feedback from parents and students. Thanks for reading, and we trust that you will enjoy your year at your/our school!!

Teaching Staff

Mrs. Lori Reynolds
 Mrs. Dayna Elliott
 Mrs. Marian Kirk
 Miss Mina Ashraf
 Mrs. Jacquie Lalonde / Mrs. Kim Thompson
 Ms. Caroline Loesgen
 Mrs. Jillian Peitsch / Mrs. Kim Thompson
 Mr. Blake Smith
 Mme Gisele Jean
 Mme Laura Manfredi
 Mme France Grenier
 Mme Meghan Longpre
 Mme Bonnie Lachapelle
 Mme Louise Lajoie
 Mme Claire Larose
 Mme Ellide Daminato
 Mme Jana Hardy
 Mme Lise Duncan
 Mme. Maureen Desmond
 Mme Alana Macdonnell
 Mme Lucille Verley
 Mme Jody Nelson
 Mme Betsy Crook
 Mme Colleen Wilson
 Ms. Vanessa Martin
 Ms. Christine Whitaker
 Mr. Justin Enns
 Mrs. Kim Williams
 Mrs. Valorie Lakusta
 Mme Dena Schultz

Assignment

Eng. Kindergarten
 Eng. Grade 1
 Eng. Grade 1/2
 Eng. Grade 2/3
 Eng. Grade 3/4
 Eng. Grade 4/5
 Eng. Grade 5/6
 Eng. Grade5/6
 F.I. Kindergarten
 F.I. Kindergarten
 F.I. Grade 1
 F.I. Grade 1
 F.I. Grade 2
 F.I. Grade 2
 F.I. Grade 3/4
 F.I. Grade 3
 F.I. Grade 4
 F.I. Grade 4/5
 F.I. Grade 4/5 with Mme Duncan
 F.I. Grade 6
 F.I. Grade 5/6
 F.I. Grade 6
 F.I. Grade 6
 Teacher Librarian
 Counsellor
 Speech Language
 Music
 Literacy Support
 Learning Assistance
 F.I. Learning Assistance

Support Staff

Mrs. Cathy Cundy
 Mrs. Suzanne Jilek
 Mrs. Debbie Ratzlaff
 Ms. Lisa Middleton
 Mrs. Deb Jantz
 Mrs. Sarah DeFrancesco
 Mrs. Adrea Jee
 Mrs. Danielle Wagner
 Mr & Mrs. Peter & Linda Enns
 Mrs. Annie McWhirter
 Mr. Shannon Gregory
 Mr. Steve Aird
 Mrs. Christyane Dorssers
 Mrs. Julie McMahan
 Mrs. Alison Hyrniuk

Administrative Secretary
 Assistant Administrative Secretary
 Library Assistant/Student Supervisor
 Aboriginal Advocate
 Student Supervisor
 Student Supervisor
 Student Supervisor
 Student Supervisor
 Student Supervisors
 Student Supervisor
 Custodian
 Custodian
 C.E.A.
 C.E.A.
 C.E.A.

Administration

Mr. Charles Schneider
 Mr. Peter Gallo

Principal
 Vice-Principal

HOURS OF OPERATION

Kindergarten	Full Day	8:30 – 2:30 p.m.
Grades 1-6	Warning Bell	8:25 a.m.
	Classes In Session	8:30 a.m.
	Lunch	11:15 a.m.
	Warning Bell	12:07 p.m.
	Class In Session	12:12 p.m.
	Recess	1:30 – 1:45 p.m.
	Classes in Session	1:45 – 2:30 p.m.
	Dismissal	2:30 p.m.
Office Hours	8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.	

SCHOOL PHONE NUMBERS

School	250-870-5135
School Fax	250-870-5019
School Board Office	250-860-8888

STUDENT SCHOOL FEES

A District plan provides basic school supplies needed by each student throughout the year. Parents and students have the option of purchasing these school supplies directly from the school. All students are expected to pay a cultural fee, which covers the cost of various performances at the school throughout the year. The fees for this year have been set as follows:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Supplies</u>	<u>Student Planner</u>	<u>Cultural Fee</u>	<u>Total</u>
Kindergarten	\$30.00	N/A	10.00	\$40.00
Grade 1-6	\$30.00	N/A	10.00	\$40.00

These fees are available online for you to make payment.

Here's how to register:

Step 1: Go to: <https://centralokanagan.schoolcashonline.com>

Step 2: Register by selecting the "Get Started Now" and following the steps.

Step 3: After you receive the confirmation email, please select the 'click here' option, sign in and add each of your children to your household account.

DISTRICT #23 STATEMENT OF MISSION

Our mission is to educate students to value learning, possess knowledge and skills, strive for personal excellence, experience success, exhibit responsible citizenship, enjoy life, and meet the challenges of change through a variety of defined programs and technologies, strong parental and community involvement and an effective, caring staff.

SCHOOL GROWTH GOALS

This year's School Planning Council was formed in September, 2013, with the following members.

Parents: Suzanne Gross,
Principal: Charles Schneider
Vice Principal: Peter Gallo

Our growth goal from last year was in keeping with the School District's Vision/Values Statements and literacy focus.

- **Raise student achievement levels in numeracy, increasing the number of students meeting and exceeding expectations in computation, patterning, and estimation to 90%.**
- **Raise student achievement levels in writing, increasing the number of students meeting and exceeding expectations to 90%.**

The current SPC will review and revise this goal in light of data acquired for the 2013/2014 school year. Elections for our next year's School Planning Council will take place in the spring 2014.

CITIZENSHIP POLICY

Individuals who exhibit the attributes of a good citizen are practicing the skills and behaviours that are in keeping with our mission statement. Good citizens have access to many privileges and rarely have to be disciplined by authorities. Personal self-discipline is a life skill that must be practiced by all good citizens. The Citizenship policy applies to all of the students at our school. We expect acceptable behaviour from all of our students while they are at our school, in our community, or travelling to and from school. We actively encourage our students to behave as good citizens by:

- **Caring:** showing respect for self and courtesy towards students, staff, parent volunteers and school property;
- **Cooperation:** when working and playing;
- **Common Sense:** thinking about safety for self and others before you act; and
- **Responsibility:** accepting responsibility for behaviour and actions.

CODE OF CONDUCT

At Casorso Elementary, we believe that children have the right to learn in a safe, caring, and orderly environment. Our expectations are that students (like all members of our community) will maintain a cooperative, caring, courteous, and respectful attitude. And so:

Be Respectful to Yourself – caring about your learning and yourself, including safety.

Some examples include:

- Do your best
- Make good choices
- Be on time and ready to work
- Ask for help when you need it

Be Respectful to Others – considerate of and caring for others' feelings and property.

Some examples include:

- Be polite and wait your turn
- Be kind and helpful
- Use good listening skills
- Be honest and tell the truth

Be Respectful to Property – caring about your school and your environment.

Some examples include:

- Clean up after yourself
- Care for materials
- Ask before borrowing
- Report damage to and misuse of property

Be Safe – learn and follow school rules.

Some examples include:

- Walk calmly – no running in hallways
- Stay in areas where you know you should be
- Report dangerous situations to staff

Our Code of Conduct provides guidelines for appropriate student behavior while under the jurisdiction of the school or at any school-sponsored event.

Inappropriate Behaviour

Inappropriate behavior can consist of, but is not limited to:

- Rudeness, swearing
- Fighting or play-fighting
- Teasing, name-calling, put-downs, or exclusion of others
- Defiance
- Throwing objects (rocks, sticks, snowballs, etc.)
- Littering, defacing property

We strive to ensure that Casorso is a Safe and Caring School environment free of:

- Bullying, cyber-bullying, and harassment
- Threat and intimidation
- Violence in any form
- Abuse in any form
- Discrimination in any form including race, color, gender, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, ancestry, socio-economic status, or national origin
- Retribution against a person who has reported incidents

or Misuse of

- Cyberspace/Cell Phones/Electronic Devices/Computers – consequences may result (or, if applicable, confiscation of personal property) for misuse of technology if it negatively affects the school environment. Examples of this include the use of cell phones or other wireless communication devices in locker rooms or washrooms at any time, on field trips, in classrooms, or on the playing field during the school day.

Note: The unacceptable conduct cited above is only a sampling of such behaviors and not an all-inclusive list.

We Do Not Tolerate the Presence of:

- Theft or vandalism
- Intoxicating or banned substances
- Weapons or replica (toy) weapons and explosives
- Intruders or trespassers – Note: All visitors to the school must first report to the office

Consequences

Consequences will be applied in a fair and consistent manner, respecting individual rights, responsibilities, age and maturity; consequences will be oriented toward learning and will be restorative rather than punitive.

Consequences may include:

- Review of expectations and a timeout
- Review of expectations and a written reflection
- Detention or other loss of privileges
- Parents informed
- Suspension (either definite, 1 to 10 days; or indefinite, 11 days or more)
- Indefinite suspensions require a School Board hearing to determine if and when a student may return
- Consultation with police and/or fire department

Notification

Administrators will advise other parties following a behavior incident:

- Parent of the student exhibiting major behaviors (always)
- Parent of the student negatively affected (always)
- Director of Student Support Services (as warranted)

- Ministerial Agencies and/or School Liaison Police Officer (as warranted)

Note: Special considerations may apply to students with special needs if they are unable to comply with some aspect of this Code of Conduct due to having a disability of an intellectual, physical, sensory, emotional or behavioral nature.

This Code of Conduct aligns with and adheres to the standards outlined in:

School District 23 Policy and Regulations, Student Discipline, Section 4 – 455(R)
The School Act 85 (1.1) 168 (2) (s.1) Provincial Standards Ministerial Order 276/07
B.C. Human Rights Code
B.C. Ministry of Education: *Safe, Caring and Orderly Schools A Guide*

SCHOOL NEWSLETTERS

School newsletters and calendars are posted on the website at www.cas.sd23.bc.ca on or about the first day of every month. Watch for newsworthy items and a calendar of events. Copies will be available at the school office.

PROPERTIES – PERSONAL AND SCHOOL

Personal Properties – The school is not responsible for the personal property of students. Therefore, we request lunch kits and all items of outer clothing be identified with the child’s name (laundry marker, indelible felt pen, etc.). Unlabelled boots and running shoes are particular problems.

School Properties – Students will be issued textbooks at no charge. However, undue damage/loss of books will be charged to the student. Note: There will also be a charge for any lost/damaged library books.

Wheeled Vehicles – Bikes must be walked from the street to the bike rack area. Students must provide themselves with a good locking device and lock the bicycle securely to the rack. Please note that students must not play with the bikes during noon hour or recess. Bicycle helmets are mandatory. Students must remove rollerblades/heelies and get off scooters or skateboards once they have arrived at the entrance to the fenced areas or gates of the school grounds.

Driving on the School Grounds – Parents are requested to drop off / pick-up students at the designated area (posted loading and unloading zones). **Please Do not drop off or pick up students in the staff parking lot.** Please abide by the 10 km speed limit and watch for children in the crosswalk areas.

Also, when using the school drive-through, parents are requested **NOT** to leave their vehicles. If you wish to park for any length of time, please do so on adjacent or neighbourhood streets.

DRESS CODE

Pupils are expected to be neatly and **appropriately** dressed for school. Muscle shirts, halter tops, short shorts and bare midriffs, and clothing with suggestive words and pictures, alcohol or drug advertising are not acceptable. Pupils are encouraged to have an extra pair of shoes or running shoes to wear in school in wet weather and all winter. Bare feet or socks only, are **not** acceptable for safety reasons. Both inside and outside footwear is recommended. Parents are asked to check their children to see if they have the appropriate clothing for the weather (gloves, mittens, scarves, etc.). Please ensure that children have footwear at all times, in case of emergency school evacuation situations.

SHOES AND GYM STRIP

In an effort to preserve the cleanliness of our school, students are encouraged to bring a separate pair of runners for use within the school. These shoes will be used in the gym and throughout the school on days when outside footwear is wet or unsuitable (boots, etc.). These “inside shoes” should have non-scuff soles so that they do not mark our floors. Students are also asked to bring a change of clothes (shorts and t-shirt) for use in their Physical Education classes. This set of clothes should be taken home frequently for cleaning. Students must have an appropriate bag for gym strip storage (drawstring/sport’s bag, etc.). All gym strip should be **clearly labeled** with the student’s name.

STUDENT TELEPHONE USE

Students will only be permitted to use the phone (in the office) in emergencies when they have received permission from their classroom teacher. Social arrangements (i.e. to go to a friend’s house after school) must be made **before** coming to school. Please make sure your child(ren) remember to take their lunch, schoolbooks and assignments to school. Parents wishing to contact their child’s teacher are welcome to phone the school at 870-5135 and leave a message. The teacher will then return the call at their earliest opportunity.

CELLULAR PHONE USE

Please note that cell phones or other wireless/communication devices may **NOT** be used in change rooms or washrooms at any time or in classrooms or on the playing fields during the school day.

ATTENDANCE: ABSENCE AND/OR EARLY DISMISSAL

Family trips and vacations can be valuable additions to a child’s education. As you know, ample holiday time is built into the school year. We ask that you do your best to schedule family trips and vacations during those times. If you do take your child out of school on instructional days, please understand that the regular program continues in your child’s absence. Teachers are not responsible for providing work in advance to students who miss school for this reason. Because the many daily classroom activities which teachers prepare cannot be duplicated by homework before or after such an absence, we recommend that you speak to your child’s teacher to discuss the educational impact of the absence.

If your child is to be dismissed prior to normal dismissal time, the parent/guardian is asked to **pick the child up at the office**. If someone else will be collecting your child from school, a note to this effect to the teacher is required.

CALL HOME/ SAFE ARRIVAL

This program is in effect to ensure the safe arrival of students at the school. Parents are asked to phone the school at 250-870-5135, prior to 8:45 a.m., to report if their child(ren) will be absent from school. This information is cross-referenced with attendance records and any unreported absences are followed up on. This may mean we have to phone work numbers and home numbers to obtain the information we require. Your assistance with this program is appreciated and simplifies the process of ensuring all students are accounted for each school day.

LEAVING SCHOOL GROUNDS

Students are **not** permitted to leave the school grounds at any time during the school day (8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.) unless the school receives **WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM PARENTS**.

LUNCH TIME

We have a play first, eat second lunchtime schedule. When the 11:15 bell sounds, students are dismissed to play outside. Those who go home for lunch are expected to go home at that time. Those students remaining at school come in to eat when the bell sounds at 11:45. If your child usually stays at school for the lunch period, a note to his/her teacher is required for him/her to leave the school for any given lunch break. Students wishing to stay at the school to eat lunch are welcome. However, repeated disruptive behaviour during this period could result in a loss of these privileges, and parents will be asked to make alternate arrangements for their child. We have five noon hour supervisors at École Casorso School who are hired by our district to supervise students during the lunch hour.

SUPERVISION

Supervision begins at 8:10 a.m., and we request that students do not arrive at school before this time.

Supervision Schedule:	8:10 – 8:25 a.m.
	11:15 – 12:12 p.m.
	1:30 – 1:45 p.m.
	2:30 – 2:45 p.m.

Teachers provide supervision at all times except during the lunch hour. Noon Hour Supervisors supervise our students while they are on the playground and eating their lunch in the classroom. We have a *play first – eat later* lunch time schedule as adopted by the District Healthy Lifestyles Committee.

The supervision provided after school is to ensure that students are safely on their way home. It is not for children wishing to remain at school to play on the grounds. It is expected that all students will go directly home after school unless under the direct supervision of their parents or guardians.

ILLNESS

Normally, children who are too ill to go outside for recess are too ill to be at school. This is particularly true in the case of severe colds. Children coming to school with severe colds are unable to function well, provide a source of infection for other children and would probably recuperate faster at home. We do not have an adequate place to care for sick children at the school. It is very uncomfortable for sick children to have to sit in the office for long periods of time until a parent or other contact person can come to collect them. Please have a “back-up” plan for your child’s care should your child become ill during the school day. **Parents are asked to notify the school (phone 870-5135 and follow the prompts) of their son/daughter’s absence between 8:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. on the days in question. Please follow the prompts.**

Parents please ensure that the office is made aware of any changes in your phone numbers or contact numbers.



MEDICATION

Please note that School District staff *does not* dispense medication of *any kind* without special authorization. This includes non-prescription (over the counter) medication. If medication is required during school hours, the procedure outlined below must be followed:

1. Please request a medication form from the school office. This form must be signed and approved by a physician before medication can be administered at the school.
2. Students who require a medical alert form for the administration of medication due to an allergic reaction should also have a form on file at the office. Medication to combat a potential allergic reaction must be stored in the school office and taken on any school field trips.
3. The medical alert form, the medication administration form, and the medical alert list are updated every school term. Our school's Public Health Nurse reviews these documents regularly.
4. All student medication must be kept at the school office.
5. It is the responsibility of the student to come to the office at the prescribed time to take his/her medication.

For further information or clarification, please contact our school's secretary.

LIFE-THREATENING ALLERGIES

A few of our students at the school have life-threatening allergies to eggs, peanut products, bee stings, etc. If your son/daughter is in a classroom with a child who has a serious allergic condition, necessary safety precautions will be implemented. Please discuss your child's condition with the administrative secretary and/or the school principal.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Public Health Nurses are available for support, information &/or referrals for any health concerns.

They can be reached 8:30 am – 4:40 pm, Monday – Friday, at:

Rutland Health Centre	155 Gray Road, Kelowna	250-980-4825
Kelowna Health Centre	1430 Ellis Street, Kelowna	250-868-7700
West Kelowna Health Centre	#160 – 2300 Carrington Road	250-980-5150

www.interiorhealth.ca

HOSPITAL HOME BOUND

This service is for students that are absent for 10 days or longer because of physical (injury, disease, surgery, etc.), emotional, or social causes. Our school makes referrals to Central School for this service. For further information, contact the Principal.

REPORTING TO PARENTS

The School Act requires that teachers report student progress to parents at least five times each year. Three of the required reports are the formal, written report cards.

The dates for our formal written reports for this school year are listed below:

<u>Term</u>	<u>Reporting Date</u>
One	December 6, 2013
Two	March 14, 2014
Three	June 26, 2014

All parent/guardians of kindergarten to grade 6 students must be provided with two scheduled opportunities to conference with the classroom teacher each year. Parent-teacher conferences may be arranged for a variety of reasons, such as establishing growth plans for a child and communicating student progress.

Our regular parent/teacher/student interviews for this school year are:

<u>Dates</u>
September 19 th & 20 th
February 6 th & 7 th

Scheduling information about these conferences will be forwarded to parents closer to the appropriate date(s). Parents are reminded that they may request an interview with their child's teacher at any time throughout the year. Please call the school at 763-8088 to set up an appropriate time.

CONCERNS AND COMPLIMENTS

We always appreciate hearing any compliments you may have to share with us. Your support and kind words are most welcome.

If you have a concern about any of our school programs or something that is happening in the classroom, please contact your child's teacher at the school at 870-5135.

If you are not able to resolve your concern at that level, please contact the principal, Mr. Charles Schneider, at 870-5135, or make an appointment to come into the school to discuss the matter with him.

If you still are not satisfied with the answers given, the next step is to phone the school board office at 860-8888 and speak to our Director of Instruction, Mr. Norm Bradley.

If you still are not satisfied then contact one of the school trustees or our superintendent, Mr. Hugh Gloster through the School Board office at 860-8888.

Of course, we hope that you will always be able to resolve any concerns you have at the first and most important level – your child's teacher.

Whatever your concern or compliment is, we will be pleased to hear from you. Together we can solve problems, celebrate successes and create the school we all want for your child.

COMPUTER LAB

All students who will use the Internet in the school must have completed and returned an Internet Agreement. These forms will be sent home at the onset of the school year.

COUNSELLOR INFORMATION

The nature of the counselling function at Casorso is one of support for students who are experiencing emotional/social/behavioural problems which affect their learning and personal wellbeing in the school setting. The counsellor is available for consultation with staff, administration and parents who wish to discuss concerns about students so that suitable strategies for improvement can be implemented. The counsellor often provides referrals to community counsellors and related agencies in the event that the student or family requires long-term counselling or therapy. Our counsellor, Mrs. Vanessa Martin, works at our school on a part time basis – usually two days a week (please see the schedule on his door; adjacent to library). Counselling referrals go first to the school-based team for discussion. Depending on the results of the SBT meeting, the student may then be seen by the counsellor. Parents may also refer their children to the counsellor following consultation with the counsellor and the teacher. The counsellor is a source of information related to parenting issues, emotional/social growth issues, problem-solving strategies, and other subjects that affect the healthy development of children.

CURRICULAR/EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

At certain times throughout the year, teachers volunteer their time to run extra-curricular activities for the students of our school. We appreciate the teachers' efforts, and the support shown by parents. Notification of these activities will be provided in school and included in our newsletters.

FIELD TRIPS

All teachers are encouraged to take their classes on co-curricular field trips throughout the year. We will use School District #23 buses whenever possible; however, on occasion teachers might need to request volunteer parent drivers. In the event that parents are asked to drive, School District #23 policy requires that the vehicle carry a minimum of \$1,000,000 of third party liability insurance. Parents using their own vehicles to transport students are asked to report to the office well before the scheduled trip where a form (good for the term of your insurance/driver's license) is to be completed. As part of this process, we must photocopy your driver's license and insurance documents.

There are no instructional fees charged. However, when classes go on field trips, money may be collected to pay for admission fees and / or transportation charges. You will receive notification of the nature and cost of field trips from your child's teacher.

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

These programs are for students who demonstrate a need for broader or extended educational experiences in one or more areas. Enrichment is generally provided by the classroom teachers through modification of curriculum content, and may also involve the support of the Enrichment Teacher in the school; for the 2013-2014 school year, the vice principal will fulfill this role.

LEARNING ASSISTANCE INFORMATION

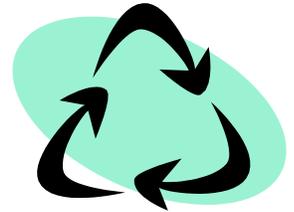
The Learning Assistance Teachers (L.A.T.) work with students who have been identified by the classroom teacher as having difficulty in an area of their educational program. This referral is presented to the School-Based Team (consisting of the L.A.T., administrator, counselor, classroom teacher and the parents), which makes a decision as to what action needs to be taken to best assist the student. A variety of other consultative services are available at the district level, and these personnel may be asked to become involved in the remediation process. The objective of learning assistance is to help the student perform to his/her learning potential within the classroom setting. Our learning assistance teachers are: Dena Schultz (F.I.) and Valorie Lakusta (Eng.) Please see the [Casorso Web of Interventions](#) on our school web site for additional information on how we support struggling learners.

LOST & FOUND

Lost & found items are located in a bin in the hallway across from the computer lab. Rings, pins, watches, keys and smaller articles can be found in the office. **Please ensure that your child checks for “lost” items.** Unclaimed items are donated to a local charity.

RECYCLING PROGRAM

A very successful recycling program is in place at École Casorso School. Everyone is encouraged to recycle and reuse all possible materials. Every room is provided with containers in which students can place items to be recycled or reused. Once a week the recycling is collected, sorted and then picked up for delivery to the recycling depot. Our thanks to all who participate in this program – we all benefit. Funds received through recycling are used to support local and international children’s charities. Parents are encouraged to send reusable containers with their children for snacks, lunch items or sandwiches so that the amount of garbage is reduced.



SPEECH AND LANGUAGE

Identification, presentation, and remediation of communication disorders, with the development of language in children are provided. Referrals may be made through the classroom teacher to the Speech Language Pathologist assigned to the school for the following communication problems: articulation; voice; fluency; content; form; and auditory skills. Services include individual or group therapy, development of home programs, and consultation with teachers and parent. For information, contact the School Principal.

SCHOOL LIBRARY PROGRAM



The École Casorso School Library has a collection of materials that is intended to support curriculum needs and to provide enjoyment for pupils. Library programming will focus on units that will be cooperatively planned and taught by the classroom teacher and the teacher-librarian. All students are encouraged to use the library and its resources. Each class may have an assigned weekly time slot to exchange their books. The normal loan period is 2 weeks. Pupils are encouraged to exchange books frequently rather than sign-out many at one time. Please return

or renew before they are overdue. If you have any questions or would like more information, contact the teacher-librarian.

HOW YOU CAN BECOME INVOLVED

Your child's learning begins at home with you. The school builds on that learning and recognizes that each child learns at his or her own rate. When your child spoke that first recognizable word, that word and its time were unique to your child, as were all those other developmental triumphs like riding a bike, playing cooperatively with friends, and counting to ten. At all times, your child learned each new skill when ready. Your child's experiences and explorations prepared the foundation for this growth and development. You are partners in the educational process and your participation is critical for your child's success. Some ways that you can become involved in your child's learning are:

- read and write with your child;
- participate with your child in community programs which allow for expanded experiences;
- attend meetings and conferences;
- become familiar with your child's programs and activities;
- talk positively about school with your child and share in his/her enjoyment and interest; and
- show your enthusiasm for learning by being a life-long learner.

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

The École Casorso School Parent Advisory Council (P.A.C.) is a group of parents who volunteer their time to help out at our school. The P.A.C. provides an avenue for parental input concerning the operation of our school and is also involved in various fund raising activities. Our P.A.C. meets once a month (6:30 – 8:30 p.m.) in our school library. The meeting dates will be published on the monthly calendars and in the newsletters. The executive for this school year is as follows:

JoJo Baliski	President		SPC Rep
	Vice-President	Michelle Couper	Member at Large
Lucky Wernicke	Secretary	Carleen Faubert	Member at Large
Terri Faulkner	Secretary	Yolanda Krywulak	Member at Large
Milan Boric	Treasurer	Karen Rauser	Member at Large
Tracey Coupal	COPAC Rep	Cheryl Stecko	Member at Large
Sarah DeFrancesco-Berg	Parent Education Rep.	Isabel Withler	Member at Large
Suzanne Gross	SPC Rep		

Our P.A.C. is always looking for help on various committees and projects, and thus your support and participation in meetings, lunch program coordination, and committee work, etc. is always welcomed. Call any of the executive members for further information.

Every parent having a child in attendance at École Casorso School is automatically a member of the Parent Advisory Council.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

Students at our school benefit greatly from additional parent help and assistance in many school activities. If you would like to help out at our school, simply notify your child's teacher, stating days and times you would be available. Also, please list any special interests that you may have so that we can best make use of your expertise. Thanks in advance!!

In keeping with SD#23 Policy, all volunteers must go through a Criminal Record Check, paid for by the School District, before working with students. Information and the appropriate forms are available at the office.

LUNCH PROGRAM

The Casorso Elementary School Parent Advisory Council sponsors an optional Lunch Program at our school. We thank the P.A.C. Lunch Co-ordinators and the other volunteers for their hard work in ensuring the success of this program. The Lunch Program will start in October and lunches will be offered every Friday. Any profits from this activity are used by the P.A.C. to support our school.



2012 - 2013

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Designation	Date(s)
Schools open	September 4
Thanksgiving Day	October 8
Remembrance Day Statutory Holiday	November 12
School closes for winter vacation	December 21
Winter vacation period	December 24 – January 4
School re-opens after winter vacation	January 7
Family Day	February 11
School closes for spring vacation	March 8
Spring vacation period	March 11 – 22
School re-opens after spring vacation	March 25
Good Friday	March 29
Easter Monday	April 1
Victoria Day	May 20
Last day of Classes for Students	June 27
Administrative Day	June 29
School closes	June 29

Non-Instructional Days

District Wide	August 28, 29 & 30	Professional Development Days	
District Wide	October 5	Ministerial Day	Full Day
District Wide	October 19	Professional Development	Full Day
District Wide	February 15	Professional Development	Full Day

Parent/Teacher Conferences

September 20	Early Input Conferences	12:30 p.m. dismissal
September 21	Early Input Conferences	12:30 p.m. dismissal
February 7	Three Way Conferences	12:30 p.m. dismissal
February 8	Three Way Conferences	12:30 p.m. dismissal