



École Élémentaire Casorso Elementary School

Weekly Howl – September 6th, 2024

250-870-5135

School Web Site – <https://cas.sd23.bc.ca/>



WEEK OF September 9th, 2024

MONDAY 9th

- Student Photo Day - *wear your smiles!*



TUESDAY 10th

WEDNESDAY 11th

THURSDAY 12th

FRIDAY 13th

- Coyote Friday - wear your t-shirt!



SAFE DROP OFF & PICK UP TIMES



Supervision Begins: 8:10 am
Supervision Ends: 2:45 pm

OFFICE HOURS

8:00 am 3:00 pm



Our office, *and therefore the school*, is accessible and open, between these times. During these hours, office staff are available to assist both students and families as necessary.

We are so pleased to see our Casorso families back at school! A special welcome to those of you who are new to our community. We hope you enjoyed a happy and healthy summer. We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere "Thanks" to our staff who dedicated many extra hours preparing the school for a new year. We're off to a great start!

Jared Birkeland, Principal & Natalie Morin, Vice-Principal



REMINDER: CUTLERY FOR LUNCHES



Parents, please remember to pack a spoon/fork with your child's lunch when it is required, as we are unable to provide utensils at school. Thank you!

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Central Okanagan Public Schools does not insure expenses for **student injuries** that occur on school grounds or during school activities. Parents and guardians can voluntarily purchase private accident insurance. The Kids Plus Accident Insurance Program that was previously offered to our students was discontinued in 2019. The IA Financial Group now offers the Family Accident Reimbursement Plan (FARP) which is a voluntary plan that provides coverage for students and their families against accidental injury, unexpected medical expenses, and critical illness. To apply for the Family Accident Reimbursement Plan or to find out more, click [here](#).

"CAS – Putting Our Paws Together To Make A Difference!"

SCHOOL DISTRICT'S APPEALS PROCESS

Board Policy 460 – Appeals states that, “A student or a parent of a student who is entitled to an educational program in the Central Okanagan Public Schools may appeal a decision of an employee of the Board of Education which significantly affects the education, health or safety of the student”.

For a complete description of the Appeals Policy along with the recommended steps to follow in attempting to solve a problem, please refer to Policy 460 – Appeals, that can be accessed from the ‘Board Policies’ link under the Board of Education heading on the School District homepage – www.sd23.bc.ca.

School District's Financial Hardship Clause

Within Board Regulation 425R – Student Fees (see www.sd23.bc.ca), the Board of Education has indicated "that a student will not be excluded from any educational program due to financial hardship". Clause 8.5 in the Regulations states: "Principals are directed to establish a procedure in each school which will allow for the private and confidential consideration of financial circumstances of individual students and families. Such procedures will preserve the dignity of families who may be unable to pay".

Please contact the school Principal if you are facing a financial hardship that may restrict the ability of your child to access a school program.

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL NEWS

Website: <https://casorsofamilies.weebly.com/> Email: cas.pac@sd23.bc.ca

PAC - AGM MEETING SEPTEMBER 16th!

The Casorso PAC is hosting its first meeting of the year on **Monday, September 16th, 2024** at 6:30 pm in the Casorso Library. All parents/guardians are welcome and encouraged to attend! **Childcare and snacks will be provided**

Hot Lunch Ordering is now open and will be available at casorso.hotlunches.net until September 18th with the first hot lunch day on Wednesday September 25th. **A new account will need to be created for all families.** If you need assistance with ordering or if you are interested in getting involved as a volunteer please reach out to Kaileigh at kaileigh.battah@gmail.com

Stay informed and find out how to get involved through our PAC website: casorsofamilies.weebly.com! On our website, you will find information about events and fundraisers, volunteering, hot lunch, parent resources, and more.

PLEASE SEE BROCHURES BELOW FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR:

1. Ministry Cellphone Policy in Schools [Cell Phone parent Newsletter Elementary.pdf](#)
2. Casorso Transportation Guidelines [Traffic for Casorso 2024_2025 \(1\).pdf](#)
3. Idling Awareness Campaign & STP Follow-up Survey
4. Partners for Inclusive Education - Letter to Parents
5. Partners for Inclusive Education - September 17th, 2024 – FLYER

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Central Okanagan Public Schools

Updated Restrictions for Cell Phones and Personal Digital Devices.

In accordance with the new [requirements from the Ministry of Education and Child Care](#), schools across our district have updated their Student Code of Conduct to include the restricted use of cell phones and personal digital devices during school hours effective July 1, 2024.

Our School Code of Conduct has been revised to reflect the new requirements regarding cell phone use in schools accordingly. <https://cas.sd23.bc.ca/codeconduct>

SD#23 Central Okanagan Public Schools

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT SECTION

Responsible Student Use of Personal Digital Devices, School Technology, and District Network Services

Student use of personal digital devices (any device used to communicate and/or access the internet), school technology, and district networks at school is for educational purposes.

Students must abide by the school's Code of Conduct and procedures, as well as Central Okanagan Public Schools Policy 486: Student Use of Network Services and Digital Technologies.

Students will:

- Secure, power off and store personal digital devices during instructional (i.e. class time) and non-instructional time (i.e. breaks/lunch) at Elementary schools unless instructed by the Principal or school staff;
- Use personal digital devices during instructional time for instructional purposes and digital literacy skills as instructed by the Principal or school staff;
- Ensure personal digital devices are not used in areas where privacy is expected, such as restrooms and change rooms;
- Be permitted to use personal digital devices to support accessibility, accommodations, medical and health needs;
- Always take precautions to ensure online safety, privacy, and security;
- Treat others with respect and kindness when using digital devices and district network services;
- Always use digital devices and district network services responsibly and with academic integrity.

Schools will ensure that all students have equitable and developmentally appropriate access to technology to meet curricular requirements. Students are not required to have their own personal digital device or cellphone at school.

The use of personal digital devices, school technology, and district networks is a privilege. Staff may revoke a student's access to devices because of inappropriate student conduct.

Violations of the school code of conduct could result in appropriate restorative processes or disciplinary actions including suspension and police intervention.

As part of our commitment to help our students develop digital citizenship, our educators will continue teaching our students how to use their personal digital devices and technology in a responsible and respectful way.

We ask that you support our staff and discuss these new restrictions with your child before the upcoming school year. If parents/caregivers need to contact their child during the school day, they should call the school office.

On a related note, the school is not responsible for lost, missing, or damaged personal digital devices that students choose to bring to school.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact your school's administration.

August 26th, 2024

Dear Casorso Community:

We are excited for the new year of school and want to ensure our families are aware of some of the important safety changes in terms of transportation to and from school.

1. **Parking Lot:**

Our parking lot is only available for staff, daycare providers and families who have a disability parking pass. For the safety of all students, we ask that families please use either:

- a. the Church of God parking lot
- b. side street parking along Barrera Rd
- c. Side street parking north on Casorso Rd (not on Kiss and Go lane)

2. **Encourage active transportation:**

Our school encourages students to get to and from school in active ways. There are many benefits for students to walk, cycle and roll to school – including physical and mental health benefits, environmental benefits, and traffic safety benefits. We have a parent group who works alongside our PAC to support active transportation for our students.

If you are driving to school, consider "Drive to Five." You can park your car approximately five minutes away at the Church of God or Rotary Beach and either walk with your child, or allow them to walk independently the rest of the way. Please consider this as an option for this school year. This will help lessen the congestion at our crosswalks near the school increasing student safety.

3. **Kiss and Go lane:**

Our Kiss and Go lane is available for those families who would like to drop off their child and remain in their car. We have two areas for Kiss and Go and would like to ask all families to avoid this area for parking. We will have Casorso staff at the crosswalk along Casorso (north) to help with students crossing along the parking lot exit.

Kiss and Go lanes:

North and south of the Parking lot exit on Casorso

No parking allowed in the Kiss and Go lane



Extended Data Collection STP Follow-up Survey & Idling Awareness Campaign

For the school's staff, parents and students.



As part of the School Travel Plan (STP), you may have noticed several infrastructure improvements around the school in the past few years. We appreciate your feedback on the progress made through a follow-up survey. Also, as part of the STP action plan, we would like to bring idling awareness to the school community.

WHAT IS IDLING? *And why does it matter?*

Idling refers to leaving a vehicle's engine running while stationary, such as during drop-offs and pickups. Not only does unnecessary idling waste fuel and contribute to air pollution, but it can also expose our children to harmful pollutants, impacting their health and air quality.



Did you know?

Air pollution is the most important environmental contributor to poor health and premature death

Source: Worldbank.org

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Here's how you can get involved:

- **Take the Pit Stop Pledge:** Join us by pledging not to idle when your vehicle is stopped for more than 60 seconds – except in traffic. By signing the pledge, you're contributing to cleaner air and giving your child's classroom a chance to win!



Invite friends and family to take the pledge—**September 29, 2024 deadline**. Provide the school's name and your kids' grade. The grade with the highest number of pledges will win a pizza lunch.

- **Participate in the Casorso Follow-up Survey:** Parents and staff, please share your thoughts on the progress. You can win a \$50 gift card. Open until **Sunday, September 29, 2024**.



Visit the **Pollution Pit Stop** page for more information about the harmful impacts of vehicle idling and how you can help make a positive difference in our community.



WHY YOUR PARTICIPATION MATTERS

We need your support to reduce idling and improve air quality around our school. Collectively, small changes can make a big difference. By reducing idling, we can:

- Contribute to healthier air for our children and our community
- Save fuel and money
- Reduce air pollution for a cleaner environment



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CENTRAL OKANAGAN OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS – LETTER TO PARENTS

Regarding: PARTNERS FOR INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

PIE Offering Letter to Parents

To all parents and caregivers of SD23,

Welcome to the 2024/2025 school year!

Some of our parents and caregivers may have heard of the group: Partners for Inclusive Education. (PIE) This group focusses on topics and questions as it relates to families and students that require additional support in our schools. This support can be for neurodivergent designations, learning support, medical or physical support, or gifted designations to name a few.

Navigating through the school system, while managing any kind of additional need, diagnosis or designation can be challenging. As a group, PIE provides a space for support, education and opportunities to ask questions. We meet once ever 2 months and use this time to present on topics that would be helpful for parents and discuss topics relevant to families as it relates to designations or diagnoses.

Our hope is to create an environment where parents feel welcome, informed and part of a community within our School District, that share unique challenges.

Please join is for out first meeting of the school year on Tuesday, September 17th, 2024 at 6:30PM. The meeting will be virtual, and we would like to give all parents an opportunity to discuss future topics of interests and what support looks like to them.

Link to meeting:

<https://sd23.zoom.us/j/8569391842>

If you would like to receive emails and updates from Partners for Inclusive education, please complete and submit the electronic form below.

<https://forms.office.com/r/5ZWgBTDZ4m>

Thank you and we hope to see you there,

Sarena Smith



Partners for inclusive Education (PIE) is a welcoming online space committed to supporting parents/guardians to learn more about the how students with neurodiversity, disability, support needs and/or diverse abilities are supported in their neighborhood school.

PIE is a space where parents/guardians, staff and community come together as partners to champion inclusive education by learning and supporting each other as we navigate the school years together. We connect virtually five times a year offering workshops, speakers, and opportunities to connect with other parents/guardians.

The purpose of **Partners for Inclusive Education** can be found on the School District website under Parent Resources

Next Event Date:

The next Partners for Inclusive Education meeting is scheduled for:

Date: September 17, 2024

Time: 6:30 pm

Topic: "Your Child's Team...Who is Who?" "The first few weeks of school." "How to Prepare for your Child's IEP."

Location: Zoom: <https://sd23.zoom.us/j/8569391842>