Mrs. Carolyn Ingham~ Principal

*East Chilliwack Hawks **SOAR** – Self Aware and Safe, Organized, Awesome Attitude and Respect*

September 3, 2026.

Dear East Chilliwack Families,

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year at East Chilliwack Elementary!
We are excited to begin another year of learning, growth, and connection with our school community. A special welcome to our new students, families, and staff, and welcome back to our returning students. We are so glad you're here!

At East Chilliwack Elementary, we are committed to providing a positive, inclusive, and engaging environment where every child feels valued, supported, and inspired to succeed. We look forward to working together with families to help our students thrive.
This year, we will continue to encourage our students to **SOAR** by being **Self-aware and Safe, Organized, demonstrating an Awesome Attitude, and Respectful**. These shared values help create a school culture where everyone feels a sense of belonging and can reach their full potential.

Here's to a fantastic year ahead. We look forward to seeing our ECE Hawks SOAR!

Carolyn Ingham
Principal, East Chilliwack Elementary

The first week of school is quickly approaching and the staff have been busy preparing for the students to return next week.

We'd like to extend a warm welcome to our newest ECE Hawks staff members:

- Samantha Bauder - Grade 1
- Nicola Simpson - Grade 1/2
- Michelle McGarvey - K/1
- Iqraa Hussain - Grade 3 (for Mrs. Torok)
- Olivia Bolt - K (for Mrs. Odermatt)

Welcome back to Jacob Sinclair, our Teacher-Librarian (for Mrs. Bergen).
Victoria Chan (Kindergarten) has accepted a position at Rosedale Traditional Community School. Victoria has been a valued member of our ECE community and will be dearly missed. We wish her every success and happiness in this exciting new chapter. We are pleased to welcome back Ella Hodson, who will be filling this position until it is officially posted and filled.
We are also saying goodbye to Shelby Patrick (PE) who has accepted a position for the Abbotsford School District. We will miss her and wish her all the best!

Please find below some helpful information that outlines our week of school.

First Week of School:

Tuesday, September 8: First day of school (8:00-10:05)

Students in grades 1-5 will be in attendance until 10:05 am for the first day. Students do not need to bring anything for the first day. Buses will be running when we dismiss at 10:05 for those students who have registered for bussing.

Where do students go on the first day?

• All returning East Chilliwack students will return to their **last year's class** and line up at their classroom line up spots.

• **New Student Line-Up Location:** Newly registered students at East Chilliwack Elementary will go to the back of the school. A cone will be set up between the playgrounds where new students will line up. A teacher will meet them there and walk them to the library.

• Students will be dismissed to the front of the school to take the bus or car home. **Please talk with your child if they will be riding the bus home on Tuesday, September 8 to confirm that with them.**

September 9 – September 11: Full Days (8:00-2:05)

• Students in grades 1-5 will be in attendance the entire day. Please send your student with snacks and lunch. Returning ECE students will line up outside on the field at their **grade sign** and teachers will take attendance. New students to ECE will also be directed to line up at grade cones.

When will my student find out who their teacher is?

During the first week of school, students will be with their grade-level peers and will spend time with all teachers teaching that grade level (or levels, in combined classes). With an increase in our enrolment over the summer, we anticipate that we may have some multi-grade classrooms. Schools wait for direction from the district office before finalizing class lists. Late registrations and enrollment changes at the district level can cause delays for the entire district finalizing classes. We should be able to finalize our lists by Friday of the first week.

Bus Registration

Please make sure you register for bussing at: https://www.sd33.bc.ca/transportation-department

East Chilliwack Elementary School 2026 - 2027 Bell Schedule	
TIME	
8:00	**Warning Bell**
8:05	**Class Instruction Begins**
10:30 – 10:45	**Recess**
10:45	**Class Instruction Resumes**
12:05 – 12:20	**Lunch – Eating Period**
12:20 – 12:45	**Lunch - Play Time**
12:45	**Classes Start**
2:05	**Dismissal**
2:10 – buses depart ECE	
East Chilliwack Phone Number: 604-794-7533	

School Supplies:

The cost for school supplies and consumables is $60.00 for all grades. Classroom teachers will be distributing school supplies to the students. Families will be able to pay for school supplies online and the school district will be emailing parents a student account statement for the school supplies in September. Classroom teachers will not be collecting any money. If you are unable to pay online, please pay directly at the office with cash or credit card. If you have any questions, call the school or email our school secretary, Ms. Deputan: 604-794-7533 or lisa_deputan@sd33.bc.ca

ATTENDANCE

Being at school regularly helps children feel connected, build routines, and make the most of their learning. We understand that sometimes illness or emergencies keep students at home, but on regular school days, the best place for them to be is in the classroom, learning and growing with their classmates. Thank you for supporting your child's learning by helping them arrive at school each day!

To enter an absence, **use the Safe Arrival App**. Please follow the link for more

information at https://www.sd33.bc.ca/safe-arrival This is the preferred way to log a student's absence, late arrival or early dismissal. You can also call the school at (604) 794-7533, or email Ms. Deputan at lisa_deputan@sd33.bc.ca if your child is going to be absent, arrive late or for an early dismissal time.

Kindergarten

*Busing will start for in-catchment Kindergarten students on Monday, September 21st, 2026 (**if you have registered**).

Please see the gradual entry schedule below for Kindergarten students.

Kindergarten parents were all emailed important start up information which included the gradual entry schedule and an interview time during the first week of school.
If you do not know your interview time or need further information, **please contact Ms. Deputan at the school office at 604-794-7533.**

Date	Hours of Attendance
Wednesday, September 9, 2026	Kindergarten teachers begin student/parent/teacher interviews
Thursday, September 10, 2026	Kindergarten teachers at District Training
Friday, September 11, 2026	Kindergarten interviews
Monday, September 14, 2026	**Gradual Entry** All K students attend 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM Students will need a recess snack
Tuesday, September 15, 2026	**Gradual Entry** All K students attend 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM Students will need a recess snack
Wednesday, September 16, 2026	**Gradual Entry** All K students attend 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM Students will need a recess snack
Thursday, September 17, 2026	**Gradual Entry** All K students attend 8:30 AM – 12:50 PM Students will need a recess snack and a lunch
Friday, September 18, 2026	**Gradual Entry** All K students attend 8:30 AM – 12:50 PM Students will need a recess snack and a lunch
Monday, September 21, 2026	**All K students attend all day** 8:00 AM – 2:05 PM Students will need a recess snack and a lunch

Parking Lot:

We have a small, one-way parking lot. Drop off and pickup times are extremely busy. Student safety is our prime concern. If you are making the choice to pick up or drop off, please be mindful of student safety. Watch for students crossing the

parking lot, exercise patience, and **expect it to be congested**. A couple of guidelines will help keep the parking lot moving:

• The drive through lanes in the middle of the parking lot are for pickup/drop off only. **Do not leave your car unattended in these lanes.** If you need to leave your vehicle, please park in a perimeter parking stall.

• We have three lanes in the parking lot:

a. Lane 1 is closest to the school and is the bus lane.

b. Lane 2 is the Pickup and Drop-off Lane.

c. Lane 3 is the Thru lane. In the morning when traffic is at its busiest, staff may direct you into the through lane (lane 3) to drop off. We do this so that traffic doesn't back out onto the road. Remind your child each day before they exit their vehicle to look both ways before crossing to the school.

d. At dismissal time, parents can park their vehicles in the dedicated parking spots on the east side of the parking lot by our school street sign (back in only) or in both the pickup/drop-off lane and the thru lane **(but not leave your vehicle)**. We do this once again so that traffic doesn't back up onto the road.

• At dismissal time, please make sure you are not blocking our entrance to the parking lot. We must fit 4-5 buses into the parking lot, and they need a wide area to turn into the parking lot. They will honk their horns to have you move if you're blocking access.