



September 14, 2023

Good afternoon Grade 8 Families,

Thank you all so very much for supporting us through an awesome school start up for our grade 8s. We have almost ALL of our grade 8 forms in and are in the very final stages of organizing for next Thursday's retreat. I am including some information in this letter that will be really helpful for you to know, especially as we prepare for the Retreat and as we load all 300 people on busses at 7:40am on the 21st!

HOMEROOOM

Please note that we are having a mandatory **Grade 8 Homeroom on Tuesday morning (September 19th) at 8:45am**. During homeroom, all grade 8s will get their Go Cards (also acts as a library card for the school's library) and their Grade 8 Retreat T-Shirt, designed by one of our student leaders.

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|-----|---|-----|------|--------|-----------------------------|
| 8 | 8 | A | - | Br | 3022 | H08-01 | Pankiw, S |
| | 8 | Bu | - | Del | 1047 | H08-02 | Lowe, J |
| | 8 | Dem | - | Ga | 2004 | H08-03 | O'Connor, T |
| | 8 | Ge | - | Ja | 2002 | H08-04 | Lloyd, T |
| | 8 | Je | - | Le | 1052 | H08-05 | Scott-Desfosses, N |
| | 8 | Li | - | M | 1080 | H08-06 | Ray, N (S1) / Beare, D (S2) |
| | 8 | N | - | Rah | 3015 | H08-07 | Day Lanoue, L |
| | 8 | Ram | - | Sf | 3005 | H08-08 | Pace, S |
| | 8 | Sh | - | To | 2025 | H08-09 | Kovanda, D |
| | 8 | Tr | - | Z | 2011 | H08-10 | Brault, A |

GRADE 8 T-SHIRTS

Please remind your grade 8 to wear their **Grade 8 T-Shirt on Thursday to the retreat** so that we can identify our students easily. We are hoping this is a great addition to and symbol of our theme of Building Connections and "Sticking Together."

RETREAT GROUP NUMBERS

We will be posting Student Groups for Cheakamus this week around the school. These are the same group numbers from our orientation in June and from our meeting in the Grand Commons on the first day of school. **Please remind students to review their group number and record it before heading up to Cheakamus** so that they can meet their student leaders and find their group easily once we arrive.



BUSES

As mentioned, on Thursday morning, all grade 8s will be loading onto buses when they arrive at the school at 7:30am. **In advance, please record your child's Bus Number (listed below) so that you can help remind them the morning which bus – and staff sponsor - they will be checking in with and joining for the ride up and back down.** Your help with this is greatly appreciated. The more we can prepare students in advance, the smoother the process will be on Thursday.

Bus #1

Staff

Arlyn Jordan & Sofia Frith

Student Last Names:

Abbasnezhad – Cowie

Bus #4

Staff

Kory Bogen & Susanne Chow

Student Last Names:

Liang – Pielak

Bus #2

Staff

Robyn Adefokowan & Toby

MacDonald

Student Last Names:

Cox – Griffiths

Bus #5

Staff

Tannis Potter & Marianne Macario

Student Last Names:

Pimental – St. Germain

Bus #3

Staff

Stephanie Carabetta & Catherine

Hartwell

Student Last Names

Grimble – Leung

Bus #6

Staff

Troy Burtt & Guillaume Valette

Student Last Names

Stanhope - Zillmann

FOOD

A reminder that Cheakamus Centre is a nut free facility. Please do not pack any snacks in student bags that contain ANY nut products. **No outside food is allowed on site at Cheakamus** (all food and garbage needs to be finished on and taken from busses) – we will provide lunch and a bagged snack. Please ensure students have breakfast before they head up!



BE PREPARED

To prepare, students should have their t-shirt, water, sunscreen, and raingear (hopefully not needed) if the weather requires it. Students won't have access to their phones during the day – we want to focus on each other and the experience of the outdoors – so unless there is an emergency (**you can call or text Meghan at 778-772-1368**) – please have students leave phones at home for the day or ensure they know to keep them in backpacks and out of sight to avoid any issue with Cheakamus and/or School staff.

SHAPE OF THE DAY FOR THURSDAY

| Thursday, September 21st | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 7:30am | Students arrive at Handsworth Grand Commons |
| 7:45-8:00am | Busses depart from Handsworth Secondary |
| 9:15-9:30am | Arrive at Cheakamus Center – Welcome & Orientation |
| 10:00am–1:45pm | Cheakamus Challenge |
| 11:30am-1:00pm | 30-minute Staggered Lunch Breaks (3 Groups) |
| 1:45pm - 3:00pm | Handsworth Led Activitiy |
| 3:00-3:15pm | Snack and Load Busses |
| 3:15pm | Departure from Cheakamus Center |
| 4:00pm-4:30pm | Arrive back at Handsworth Secondary School |

Again, if your child is NOT able to attend the retreat, we should know at this point. If you have not let me or the office know, please do so ASAP. ALL forms are past due – if a student does not have signed forms into the office, they will not be able to attend on Thursday and will be set up with independent work at school for the day as there are no regular grade 8 classes scheduled. Thank you all for your support in getting the paperwork done!

If you have any questions, feel free to email me at mdownie@sd44.ca. We are really excited about the retreat – and excited to hear about the stories that come home with our grade 8s after.

Kindly,
Meghan Downie