



CLIFF DRIVE ELEMENTARY

# JAN/FEB NEWSLETTER

It's hard to believe we are already at the end of January and ready to mark the halfway point of this school year.

As we embrace the hopeful season of January, the days are getting longer and filled with renewed energy. This time of year brings with it a fresh start and a sense of optimism for what lies ahead.

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our Kindness Initiative, focusing on fostering kindness in classrooms, on the playground, and within our community. This initiative aims to promote empathy, understanding, and positivity among our students. Together, we can build a supportive and compassionate environment for everyone.

Let's make the most of this hopeful time and work together to create a fantastic start to 2025.

*"In the depth of winter, I finally learned that there was in me, an invincible summer."*

— Albert Camus



## IMPORTANT DATES

January 31	Hot Lunch
February 3-7	Lacrosse Week!
February 7	Hot Lunch
February 10	Kindergarten Registration Begins
February 11	Late French Immersion Parent Info Night (6:30pm)
February 12	Late French Immersion Application Deadline (4pm)
February 13	Cliff Drive Magic Show – Tickets available on MunchaLunch
February 17	Family Day (no school)
February 20	Hot Lunch
February 21	Pro-D Day (no school)
February 24	Early Dismissal (2pm)
February 26	Hot Lunch
March 7	Hot Lunch
March 11-14	Bhangra Week at Cliff Drive
March 12	Term 2 Learning Updates (Report Cards)
March 14	Hot Lunch Last Day of School before Spring Break



While students are expected to be lined up with their classes by 8:55am at their assigned doors, sometimes, they arrive late and enter through our front doors.



Our front door is now **unlocked** from 8:30am until 9:30am. Any student entering through the front door should sign-in (late) at the office before heading to class.

Parents, please let your child find their own way to class after they are signed in. *Thank you!*

THINGS  
TO KNOW



The **VANCOUVER WARRIORS** and **DELTA LACROSSE** are coming to Cliff Drive from February 3<sup>rd</sup> until February 7<sup>th</sup> as a part of their **Stick to School** program. We will kick off with a whole-school presentation on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, and then for the rest of the week, students will be introduced to the game of lacrosse during their PE blocks.

January is a common time for students (and staff) to experience some sort of illness. We have noticed both an increased frequency and duration of illnesses amongst our school community over the past month.

If your child is not feeling well, please give them the time at home to rest and recover. We would rather a slightly longer absence for the sake of full recovery than a premature return to school.



Thanks to the generous support from our PAC, we are excited to announce that VanCity Bhangra will be coming to Cliff Drive to teach all of our students the joy of Bhangra dance from March 11-14.

This is an excellent opportunity for our students (and teachers) to participate in a fun, new, and culturally significant activity. *Thank you PAC!*



## WELCOME ... AND WELCOME BACK

You may have seen some different staff faces around Cliff Drive this month. We are very pleased to welcome Stephanie Fontaine to our office staff as a part-time administrative assistant.

We are also thrilled to have Ms. Schiewe back from maternity leave teaching grade 2!

## The Green Slide is Open for Business Again

After a prolonged closure, our popular green slide has been fixed and is now safe for student use.

A shout out to our district maintenance crew for installing the slide back on January 24<sup>th</sup>. HAPPY SLIDING!



## CLIFF DRIVE READING DAY THURSDAY, JAN 30<sup>th</sup>

We welcomed a dozen guest readers to share their love of reading with all 15 divisions at Cliff Drive this week. Our guests included former Cliff Drive staff, Delta Firefighters, District Staff, District Superintendent, Mr. Doug Sheppard, and our former principal, Mr. Klassen.



## It takes a community...

A special thank you to our **staff coaches** who are hard at work, volunteering their time to lead school sports! Basketball season is underway, and we couldn't do this without willing coaches. *Thank you!*

We are also so grateful to have a strong group of **student leaders** under the direction of Mr. D'Angelo. They are instrumental in leading initiatives and bringing their creative voices and talents to the Student Council table.

# CLIFF DRIVE IS KINDNESS

At Cliff Drive, we are excited to launch a school-wide **Kindness Initiative** as part of our larger theme: **Be Kind, Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful**. This initiative will help students understand the power of kindness and how small actions can make a big difference. Over the coming weeks, students will participate in a variety of activities, including kindness-themed displays, classroom lessons, morning announcements, and school-wide challenges designed to spread positivity throughout our community.

## How Parents Can Support Kindness at Home

Kindness isn't just something we practice at school—it's a value that strengthens our relationships and well-being in all areas of life. Research shows that **acts of kindness benefit not only the recipient but also the person performing them**, leading to increased happiness, lower stress levels, and a stronger sense of belonging. Here are some ways you can help reinforce this message at home:

- **Model Kindness** – Children learn by example. When they see you holding the door open for someone, speaking kindly, or helping a neighbor, they understand that kindness is a way of life.
- **Talk About It** – Ask your child, “*What’s something kind you did today?*” or “*Did someone do something kind for you?*” These conversations help children recognize and appreciate kindness in their daily lives.
- **Encourage Small Acts of Kindness** – Simple gestures like writing a thank-you note, sharing a toy, or offering a compliment can help children build empathy and compassion.
- **Read Books About Kindness** – Stories are a great way to teach values. Consider reading books like *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* by Carol McCloud or *Be Kind* by Pat Zietlow Miller, and discuss their messages together.
- **Create a Family Kindness Challenge** – Set a goal to complete a certain number of kind acts each week. Keep a kindness jar where family members can write down acts of kindness they’ve seen or done.
- **Celebrate Kindness** – Acknowledge when your child makes an effort to be kind, whether it’s sharing with a sibling, including a friend at recess, or showing patience. Positive reinforcement helps kindness become a habit.

By working together as a school community, we can empower our students to be kind leaders who make a difference in the world. Thank you for your support in helping us grow a culture of kindness at Cliff Drive! Stay tuned for updates on our kindness journey. 💙