



## CHURCHILL FAMILY UPDATE

### Churchill Alternative School

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September 5th, 2025

Dear Families,

**WELCOME BACK, CHURCHILL!** I promise that all Family Updates will NOT be this long!

It has been wonderful to be back and see new and returning staff and students.

I wanted to extend a HUGE thank you to our entire staff for once again creating warm, welcoming and exciting learning spaces for all of our new and returning students!

Thanks to Dan and his team for their hard work over the summer in making our school shine.

Please join me in welcoming Pete Laughton who will be teaching the Kinder Bees and Avra Kates, the PM Educator with the Bees as well. We also welcome Alice back as our Lunchtime Monitor during second recess and lunch as well as in our Kindergarten classes.



Learning and playing outside is an important part of your child's school experience. ***Please send your child to school dressed for the weather.*** As a school, we want to take advantage of the outdoors as much as possible. ***Students at Churchill will continue to go outside for learning opportunities and for recess in the rain*** (unless it is a downpour or a storm, of course!). **If you have new or gently used rain/snow gear to donate, please feel free to send it in. Together we can make sure that all students are able to comfortably enjoy the outdoors! Please reach out to us or your child's teacher if you need any assistance with rain or winter gear.**

On **Friday, September 12th** CASC will be hosting a **Welcome Back to School breakfast!** This event will take place from 7:30am to 8:30am in the school yard (we will move indoors if the weather is bad). Come and enjoy some breakfast and reconnect with fellow Churchillians. We can't wait to see you there!

**This year, September 29th will be a PA DAY for Ministry priorities. There will be NO SCHOOL for students on that day.**

Please consider joining **CASC (Churchill Alternative School Council)**. CASC meets monthly, and it is a wonderful way to be involved and to learn more about what is happening in the school. This year, **School Council elections** will take place on Tuesday, September 16th at the Council meeting from 6:30pm-8:30pm. All families will receive an email containing a [self-nomination form](#) for those interested in becoming a voting member of CASC. Nominations are accepted up until the voting begins on the 16th. Our students and school community truly benefit from having a School Council that is actively involved in school life. All families are welcome to attend even if you do not wish to be a voting member.

Speaking of our incredible school council, please see the CASC NEWS section below for more information about upcoming fundraisers, pizza day and an exciting welcome back breakfast.

Our Churchill Website continues to be updated to include a lot of information about what's happening at Churchill. Please visit the website here: <https://churchillalternative.ocdsb.ca/>

SUN 25	MON 26	TUE 27	WED 28 Mar 1	THU 29	FRI 30	SAT 31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

← [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up for calendar notifications of

**CASC and Churchill events!** You should receive notifications of events/activities as they are added. If you wish to subscribe to the calendar, please use the link above.

We are so lucky to be part of such a wonderful school community. It's going to be a great year at **Churchill Alternative!**

Have a wonderful weekend,

Vanessa

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## **VULNERABLE SECTOR CHECK- OFF PROPERTY FIELD TRIPS**

**NEW THIS YEAR-** Parent volunteers participating in off-property field trips must complete a Vulnerable Sector Check (VSC). This practice aligns with the OCDSB's commitment to creating a secure environment for all students and is considered a best practice in volunteer screening procedures. The VSC can be requested online and typically only takes a couple of days to receive. The school can provide a volunteer letter for parents who are obtaining their VSC to ensure there is no associated cost.

Requiring a VSC for parent volunteers, especially for activities outside of school grounds, provides an added layer of protection and peace of mind for parents, staff, and the community. It's a proactive step that prioritizes the well-being of the students above all else. If you require a volunteer letter, please send an email to [churchillalt@ocdsb.ca](mailto:churchillalt@ocdsb.ca). If you receive the VSC online you can forward it to us for validation and if you request a paper copy, please bring it to the main office for us to verify the seal. The VSC is valid for a period of one year. If you already have a VSC, we can accept that if it is within one year. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation with this.

### **ABSENCES and LATE ARRIVALS**

Please use the SafeArrival system to input daily absences for your child. If your child has an appointment in the morning or will be late for any other reason, please use SafeArrival to indicate the absence. There is an option to Full Day and then select Late.

**A reminder that our school day starts at 8:00am and attendance is complete by 8:15 am each day.** After 8:30am you can no longer input absences into SafeArrival and will have to call the school.

All students who are not in the building are marked Absent until they sign in at the front desk. During school hours the doors to Churchill are locked. Students who arrive after 8:00am will have to buzz at the front door and come see Matt or Kathleen for a late slip before heading to class. Thank you for your efforts in having children arrive by 8:00am! The first learning block of the day is often when students are most alert and ready to learn.

The late slip that your child receives ensures that they are signing in at the office and indicates to the classroom teacher that the absence has been changed to late in the attendance system.

### **IMPORTANT FORMS**

**\*\*If you emergency contact information, address or any other information has changed, please let us know right away by emailing [churchillalt@ocdsb.ca](mailto:churchillalt@ocdsb.ca). Forms will go home next week with the information that we currently have so that you can verify that everything is correct. We need to ensure that our emergency contact information in Aspen is still accurate as quickly as possible. Please email the office at any point during the school year if your information has changed. \*\***

**Medical:** Please complete the new [OCDSB 963 - PLAN OF CARE FOR STUDENTS](#) **as soon as possible** if your child has any severe or life threatening medical conditions ( i.e. allergies, epilepsy, diabetes etc.). Please remember to "SAVE" at the end of the form once completed. Once the form is saved, a copy of the form will be sent to the school for our records, no paper copy is required.

**Medication:** If your child requires the [Oral Administration of Medication](#) at school (including antibiotics or ibuprofen), the school will require the completed form (which also requires a doctor's signature) prior to administration. Please note that these forms are only valid for the present school year. Please contact the office for more information.

**Media/School Website Permission form:** We **LOVE** to share all of the incredible things happening at Churchill Alternative with our school community. Sometimes through Social Media, the school website and/or the District website we will share photos of what's happening here BUT only with your permission. Please complete the [Media/School Website Permission form](#) as soon as possible. There is an option for YES you grant consent and NO you do not grant consent.

### **NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION**

On Monday, September 30, staff and students at Churchill Alternative will reflect and participate in learning activities that honour the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Our Churchill community is also invited to wear an orange t-shirt on that day as Orange Shirt Day is a movement across Canada helping to educate our students and communities on the history and legacy of Canadian Residential Schools.

### **ROWAN'S LAW DAY**

On September 24th, staff and students will participate in discussions and activities around Rowan's Law Day. This day is dedicated to promoting awareness of strategies to prevent, identify, and manage concussions. On this day, students in the District have an opportunity to learn about concussions so that they can keep themselves and others safe.

### **CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING**

The cross country meet is coming up in early October. There will be a meeting for all students in Grade 3-6 who are interested in participating to learn more about the meet and the practices. Practices will take place at Dovercourt Recreation Centre BEFORE school and students will walk to school to meet their class for 8am. Permission forms (online) and more information will be shared with families next week. Thanks to Cathy for getting this up and running.

More information to come about all of our clubs!

### **VOLUNTARY STUDENT FEES**

Throughout the next couple of weeks we will be collecting voluntary school fees for those who wish to participate. An email has gone out through School Messenger with further information. While school fees are voluntary, family contributions help provide shared resources and opportunities that benefit all students. This approach means teachers don't ask families to supply individual items, which in turn supports our commitment to being an inclusive school community where every child is equipped to succeed. School supply fees are used to purchase essential classroom materials such as stationery, art supplies, learning tools, and shared resources that are used throughout the year. By pooling resources in this way, we ensure consistency across

classrooms and reduce the financial burden on individual families, allowing all students to participate fully in classroom activities.

The voluntary school fees can also be used for field trips, busing, guest speakers, and materials that enhance student learning

The Education Foundation has also provided us with a small supply of backpacks/lunch bags for any family who might need one. If you need one please reach out to [vanessa.ogungbemile@ocdsb.ca](mailto:vanessa.ogungbemile@ocdsb.ca)

## UPCOMING DATES:

September 12: Welcome Back breakfast by CASC 7:30am-8:30am  
September 16: CASC (School Council) virtual meeting & elections- 6:30pm-8:30pm  
September 17: CSA Astronaut Joshua Kutryk VIRTUAL presentation 1-1:45  
September 17: First PIZZA DAY!  
September 25: Grade 6 Kichi Sibi Trail Mural celebration  
September 29: PA DAY- No School for students  
September 30: Orange Shirt Day and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

## \*\*\*\*CASC NEWS\*\*\*\*

The following information items are shared with you on behalf of the Churchill Alternative School Council (CASC).



**Welcome Back Breakfast – You’re Invited!**

Join us **Friday, September 12th from 7:30–8:30 AM** for a cheerful start to the school year!

We’re serving up a **light breakfast for the whole family**—plus **coffee for the grown-ups** (because we know you need it 😊).

Swing by, say hello, and kick off the year with good vibes and great company!



#### YARN CLUB NEEDS NEW VOLUNTEERS FOR 2025-2026!



Yarn club is the MOST POPULAR CLUB at Churchill! Kids from grade 1-6 all get together to work on projects, teach each other skills, and have a great time.

This club cannot happen without a core group of parent/grandparent/caregiver volunteers. Importantly, 2 of our 3 regular volunteers are leaving as their kids are in grade 6 so we definitely need NEW volunteers to join!

#### Can you help this school year?

If you are a knitter, crocheter, or crafter, that can definitely come in handy. However, you don't need to know how to craft with yarn to volunteer. You DO need to be available most Wednesdays from 12:40-1:15pm.

Have questions or want to help? Email [EmilyLAddison@gmail.com](mailto:EmilyLAddison@gmail.com).



**Pizza Lunches are back starting Wed Sept 17!**

Again this year, pizza lunches will be offered in three phases, so please mark your calendars 📅!

Phase 1: September 17 - January 14 (no pizza during Winter Break)

Phase 2: January 21 - April 1 (no pizza during March Break)

Phase 3: April 8 - June 24

Ordering for phase 1 is open now on [MunchaLunch](#) and closes on Friday September 12 at 11:59 pm. **Please ensure that you place your order before the deadline and pay within 24 hours.** We cannot accommodate late orders, and any orders not paid within 24 hours will be automatically canceled and will not show on our reports.

If you already have a [MunchaLunch](#) account, you'll need to update your child(ren)'s class/teacher before ordering. The system will prompt you when you log in for the first time this year. If don't have a MunchaLunch account, instructions for setting one up can be found here: [Using MunchaLunch: Setting up an Account and Placing an Order](#)

As always, we rely on volunteers to keep this program running by sorting and distributing pizza to classes. If you can spare 20 minutes of your time on Wednesdays please sign up [here](#).

If your family could use financial support for pizza lunches, please reach out to your child's teacher or directly to the office who will be happy to help.

If you have any questions about placing or paying for your order, please don't hesitate to reach out to [churchillschoolpizza@gmail.com](mailto:churchillschoolpizza@gmail.com).



✨ **Churchill Equator Coffee Fundraiser** is officially open!

You can place your orders now through **September 17th**, with coffee delivery scheduled for **September 26th**.

By purchasing your favourite coffee, you're also helping to support our **school council initiatives!**

👉 Order now through Munchalunch: <https://munchalunch.com/login>