

Our Transition

Last week, I discussed how we can begin helping our children (and ourselves) respond to the changes ahead of us. According to William Bridges, the first step in the process is **Acknowledging the Endings** and letting go of them. The next stage is called **The Neutral Zone**. This is the place (and space) where there is lots of curiosity, highs and lows, instability and uncertainty. It is where we try to adapt. We use our old strategies in new places and find that some work and some don't. We use the new strategies and they have mixed results, too. It is a bit of a "no man's land" where it simply takes time to figure things out and establish new patterns of behavior that are successful. During The Neutral Zone phase, we all need information, communication, plans and structures. This was the purpose of our Parent Information Meeting on last Wednesday. We hope that it was helpful as a starting point for addressing some of the big questions you might have. Those questions and answers can be found on our new school website as well. You can also begin expecting weekly communication to come to your email inbox each Sunday evening at 6:00 PM. Information always reduces anxiety and I want to keep you informed of our next steps as we move ahead. Thanks for all that you are doing to help us move ahead as we create a new school family. I am blessed to be a part of it. I hope you have a great week ahead.

Mr. Maness, Principal

Communication

We have set up a phone line for Cherry Park Elementary where you can leave a message. It is **803-985-2255**. That will be our main number once we move into our new office. Please note that our school address is **1835 Eden Terrace** (not Cherry Road). Also, our school website is up and running and will be updated with information as we move ahead. It is <https://www.rock-hill.k12.sc.us/Domain/2265>. Please be sure to download the **Rock Hill School District App** and **select Cherry Park Elementary** so you can receive information from it as well. We will set up social media sites soon.

Mascot and Colors

We want to make sure everyone knows that our mascot will be the **bobcat** and our school colors will be **blue, purple and gray**. The blue is in honor of the school colors of Ebinport, Rosewood and Sullivan. The purple honors the school color of Richmond Drive. We value the tradition of the schools that have helped give birth to Cherry Park and the school that will receive our future students.

Transportation Survey

We want to be sure we know how every student is going home. If you haven't already, please fill out one Transportation Survey for each of your children: <https://goo.gl/forms/cZ4jSS98VQ71e7iv2>. Paper copies are in the school offices at EP, RW and RD as well. We need all surveys completed by Friday, November 16.

School Improvement Council

The SIC is an advisory council that addresses issues related to school improvement. You can click on the [SC School Improvement Council Handbook](#) for more information about the functions and rules that govern this group. We will elect six parents and we would like to have representation from all three schools if possible. We are asking that parents interested in being on the SIC election ballot email Mr. Maness by **today**, November 11 (pmaness@rhmail.org). We will hold elections before Thanksgiving and our first meeting will be Tuesday, November 27 at 6:30 PM in the Sullivan Professional Development Room near the Cherry Park school entrance. (Look for the doors below the white arch on the right.)

Parent Teacher Organization

The PTO serves to raise funds, coordinate volunteers and encourage teachers through appreciation activities. This group will meet on Monday, November 26 at 6:30 PM to begin organization efforts. We encourage all parents to come and participate. We will meet in the Sullivan Professional Development Room near the Cherry Park entrance. (Look for the doors below the white arch on the right.)

Listening Sessions

We want to hear from you. We want to know what you think has worked well at your school and what you would like to see happen at Cherry Park Elementary in the future. We will also offer opportunities for you to ask questions. We will hold Listening Sessions at the following days and times: Tuesday, November 13 at 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM and Monday, November 19 at 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM. These will be in the Sullivan Professional Development Room to the right of the Cherry Park Entrance. We will schedule additional sessions as needed.

Got Questions?

Please don't forget that you can ask them at our [Transition Survey](#) site. These are being collected and will be answered on our FAQ page on our school website.

Calendar Dates

This Week—Technology Is Set Up for CPES

Tuesday, November 13—8:00 AM and 6:00 PM Listening Sessions at Sullivan PD Room

November 19-20 Library Books Come and Media Center Set Up

November 19—8:00 AM and 6:00 PM Listening Sessions at Sullivan PD Room

November 21-23 Thanksgiving Holidays

November 26-30 Teachers Packing Up First Load

November 26—6:30 PM First PTO Meeting in Sullivan PD Room

November 27—6:30 PM First SIC Meeting in Sullivan PD Room
November 30—Rock Hill Christmas Parade
December 1—Reindeer Romp (Girls on the Run 5K)
December 3-7 Teachers Setting Up Classrooms
December 6—6:00-8:00 PM School of Choice Fair at Central Office
December 10-14 Teachers Finish Setting Up and Kids Visit
December 12—5:30 PM Cherry Park Ribbon Cutting Ceremony; 6:00-7:30 PM Open House; 4th and 5th Graders Visit CP
December 13—2nd and 3rd Graders Visit CP
December 14—Kindergarten and 1st Graders Visit CP; 9:00 AM School of Choice Tour at CP for Prospective Parents
December 17-21 All Students and Teachers Wrapping Up in Home Schools
December 17—8:30 Follow Up Open House at CP; 6:30 PM School of Choice Tour at CP for Prospective Parents
December 21—Half Day for Students
January 4, 2019—Teacher Workday
January 7, 2019—First Student Day at CPES