



# CHERRY PARK ELEMENTARY

SCHOOL OF LANGUAGE IMMERSION



## What Is “It” About?

Most of the time, the answer to this question is that “it” is not about you. Let me give you some examples of this issue from questions from the last few weeks. **1. Why do I always have to show my ID at CPES? Don’t you know me?** Yes, you have to show your ID and honestly, you will always have to do that (even if we know you, your spouse and even your parents.) Here is the why behind the what. If you come into the office and we know you by face, we may not know the person who comes in right before you or after you. We want every visitor to know that we are a safe school that checks ID’s of everyone. How would you feel if someone in front of you didn’t have to produce their ID (because they “know them”) but then asked you for yours? You would probably feel a little offended because you weren’t immediately recognized. When we check ID’s, we may very well know you but we want everyone to feel they are treated fairly when they visit. We want it to be so well known that we check ID’s that the bad guy won’t even choose to test our visitor check in system. **2. Why do we have to drive in a single file lane in the mornings at the Caswell Drive? That’s not very efficient.** Starting tomorrow, the left lane beside Sullivan’s auditorium will be blocked off. Only one lane of traffic will be allowed to move in that area. Given the volume of students and adults moving in that area between 7:30-8:30 AM, we want cars moving a little slower and drivers to see students getting out of cars. We don’t want to wait for a child to be hit to make us take action and slow down. Our children’s safety is way more important than our need to hurry during arrival time at the Caswell Entrance. **3. Can’t we open the gate after 3:00 so Challenger parents can pick**

**up their students at the CPES main entrance?** Finally, my answer to that is **yes, we can**. Starting tomorrow, the gate at the Caswell Entrance will be open at 3:00 PM. Sullivan car pickup traffic will go to the right just as it always has. Challenger parents must stop at the stop sign at the second yellow gate in front of them before crossing over the Sullivan car loop exit. (Just look for the signs.) The traffic coming from the right from the Sullivan car loop will have the right of way. Be careful. We recognize that many of you have elderly family members who need to park closer to the CP entrance and pick up for Challenger. This gate will only be open after 3:00 PM. It will be closed from 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM each day. Please also note that there is a new stop sign at the end of the Sullivan car loop where you turn left to go back to Caswell Street. As always, please follow the signs. We know that procedures and policies may be a bit different than what was in your previous school. We want you to understand that the “new” rule or requirement may be in place to help make something better for others even if it inconveniences you and me. Most of the time, it really is not about “us” but it is about helping someone else. As we move ahead, we welcome you to always ask the “why” questions. Those questions help us get better at making the best decisions for our children. If we don’t have a good “why” then we probably need to revisit the “what.”

Mr. Maness, Principal

**Sullivan Middle School Immersion Parent Night (For Current 5<sup>th</sup> grade & 6<sup>th</sup> grade Immersion Families.)** Thursday, February 7 at 6:00 PM in the Sullivan Auditorium

Everyone is welcome! We will:

- Inform immersion families about immersion at Sullivan
- Provide insight into the transition from Cherry Park Elementary to Sullivan Middle immersion
- Explain the 6th-grade immersion curriculum
- Current 6th-grade students will share testimonials
- Explain 7th-grade immersion
- School Tours for Sullivan will be January 23 and February 13 from 8:30-10:00 AM

### **First Grade French Immersion Next Fall**

Please help pass on the word to other families that we are going to allow a limited number of new students to join our First Grade French classes next fall. Current kindergarten students who are not at CPESOLI can apply for First Grade French Immersion for next fall. They must complete the application by February 28. Limited slots are available. (This is only for French Immersion in first grade for next year.)

### **School of Choice Calendar**

The application window opened **December 3 and stays open until February 28**. If you have a rising kindergarten student who has a sibling already in the immersion program, you need to complete a School of Choice application. Rising K5 students who have siblings already in the program are grandfathered into the program if an application is filled out during the application window. You can go to the [School of Choice Webpage](#) to complete the application. Please tell

friends and neighbors about our program. We will have tours at CPESOLI on Wednesday, January 30 at 8:00 AM and Tuesday, February 12 at 6:30 PM.

### **Parent Teacher Organization and School Improvement Council Update**

The PTO serves to raise funds, coordinate volunteers and encourage teachers through appreciation activities. We had a great meeting last week and minutes from the meeting were sent out earlier this week. We will meet again on **Monday, February 18 at 6:30 PM** to continue organization efforts. We encourage all parents to come and participate. We will meet in the Cherry Park Elementary Library starting in January. Meeting dates have been set for the following Mondays at 6:30 PM for the rest of the year: **March 18, April 22 and May 20. Our School Improvement Council will meet on the same days at 5:30 PM** in the Office Conference Room. All parents are invited to attend either or both meetings. Both groups are working on bylaws and have started organizational efforts. There will be a table at Open House to sign up for PTO and to volunteer. **We would like to have at least one representative from each of the schools on the PTO Leadership Team** so we can take the best ideas from all the PTO's and put them into practice for our CPES PTO. The group at PTO divided into committees to work on Bylaws, Fundraising, Volunteers and Teacher Appreciation. We hope you can come and join one of these subcommittees.

### **Got Questions?**

Attached are answers for our Transition FAQ. 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 as well.

### **Calendar Dates**

Wednesday, January 30--Prospective Parent/School of Choice Tour for CPES at 8:00 AM

Wednesday, February 6--CARLA Conference School Visit (During the morning we will host 40 attendees of the Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition Conference that will be in Charlotte, NC.)

Thursday, February 7—Current Fifth Grade and Sixth Grade Immersion Parent Meeting at 6:00 at Sullivan Auditorium

February 12--Prospective Parent Tour for CPES at 6:30 PM

February 13—8:30-10:00 AM Sullivan Middle School of Choice Tour

February 14—Valentine's Day

February 15 and 18—Bad Weather Makeup Days (School is in session.)

February 18--5:30 PM SIC (Office Conference Room); 6:30 PM PTO (Media Center)

February 23—2:00 Winthrop Back the Pack Game (Bring a food item for Back the Pack and get in free. More information to come.)

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