



**H.J. Cambie Secondary School**  
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*Principal: Mr. R. Laing, Vice Principals: Mr. D. Partridge & Mrs. P. Stone-Charlton*  
**Parent Newsletter – August 2016**

**Principal’s Message:**

To Students & Parents:

I hope you are enjoying the summer holiday. On behalf of the entire H.J. Cambie Secondary School staff, we would like to extend a warm welcome to all new and returning Cambie students and their families.

Cambie is an outstanding school with a very committed staff and a supportive and caring community. I am excited about the year ahead and know that every student will receive quality teaching and an opportunity for learning. Cambie students also have a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities to participate in through the numerous clubs and athletic teams we offer. We encourage all students to become involved in our school community!

We believe in a strong partnership between the school, parents and students. We continue to update our Cambie website at <http://hjcambie.sd38.bc.ca> which we hope you will find user friendly and informative.

This newsletter will provide you with valuable information about school start-up and important events taking place in September. Enjoy the rest of your summer and we look forward to seeing all students again on September 6<sup>th</sup>.

Rob Laing  
Principal

**Regular Office Hours starting on Monday, August 29, 2016 (8:00am-4:00pm)**

**Staff Update:**

We would like to welcome back some returning staff members and introduce some new staff members who will be joining the Cambie teaching staff:

Mrs. M. Salameh	-Math	Ms. Mei	-English
Ms. Chang	-Home Economics	Mr. Meier	-PE, Rec. Leadership, Planning, Resource
Mrs. Fleming	-Math	Ms. Yam	-Chemistry

**Welcome to the “Cambie Commons”**

We have now completed our first year in the Cambie Commons and are very pleased with the level of service that it has provided to our students. The Cambie Commons is a drop-in learning support center. The “Cambie Commons” will be open and available to ALL students to drop in as needed throughout the school day. A minimum of 2 teachers will be available in the Cambie Commons during each block to provide targeted support to students. Students may be referred by their teacher or may individually request to work in the Cambie Commons to access learning support, resources, materials, and/or to have a quiet place to complete work.

This year, over 85 % of Cambie students visiting the Cambie Commons for learning support at least one time throughout the school year and we have tracked almost 4000 hours of support. This is outstanding and demonstrates that we are able to support a greater number of students through this new model. We are committed to enhancing our student support through the “Cambie Commons: Any Student...Any Subject...Any Time.”

## **First Day – Tuesday, September 6 – Homerooms ONLY**

Students report to Gym A at the following times for an assembly followed by a homeroom class:

9:00 a.m.	Grade 8 students - welcoming activities, grade assembly, school tour, homeroom class
11:00 a.m.	Grade 9/10/11 students – grade assembly & homeroom class
1:00 p.m.	Grade 12 students – grade assembly & homeroom class

Gr. 9-12 students can expect the assembly and homeroom procedures to take approximately 60-90 minutes. Grade 8 students can expect their Gr. 8 welcoming activities to last approximately 2.5 hours. Students will be dismissed from their homeroom class to end their first day.

Students will attend a homeroom class each morning during the first week for the purpose of collecting various forms and fees. Students are asked to return their completed forms and school fee payment (included in this mailout) on the first day of school to their homeroom teacher. Students will be assigned a locker and receive their agenda book only after they have paid their student fees. We suggest that all students come prepared with something to write on and something to write with. Students do not need to bring a lunch with them on the first day of school.

### **Homeroom Assignment:**

**Homeroom lists will be posted on the windows near the front entrance of the school on Friday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4:00pm showing students' names, homeroom numbers and homeroom locations.** For the most part, returning students will have the same homeroom teacher as last year. New students are encouraged to check these lists prior to the first day of school so that they know their homeroom teacher and classroom location.

### **Home-School Communication:**

Success in school requires an ongoing and supportive relationship between the student, the home and the school. We will do all we can to support your student in their learning; however, it is important for parents/guardians to stay actively involved in their teen's education during secondary school. Parents are encouraged to check the website, read the email notices, attend information nights or perhaps consider joining our PAC or Dry After Grad (DAG) groups.

Every weekend, a 'Week-at-a-Glance (WAAG)' newsletter will be created specifically for parents to highlight important information, news, and upcoming events. This WAAG will be emailed home to parents who have provided us with their email address and have given us consent to receive electronic communication from the school. The Parent WAAG will also be posted on the school website. Parents are encouraged to read this WAAG to remain informed about school events and important dates.

It is also recommended that parents visit the Cambie website: <http://hjcambie.sd38.bc.ca> and click on the "SUBSCRIBE" button. This will enable you to automatically receive an email everytime a new item is posted on the school website.

### **Consent to Receive Electronic Communication:**

Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL) came into effect on July 1, 2014. As a result, the Richmond School Board would like to ensure that we have your consent to continue to receive newsletters, school and board updates, and other electronic messages that may contain information on field trips, student photos, 'Week at a Glance' notices, and other athletic and school events.

Our goal is to provide ongoing communication throughout the year by email. Therefore, it is very important that we collect parent email addresses for every student in the school. **If you are a new family to Cambie or if you did not receive our electronic communication last year, please ensure that you contact the Cambie office to provide us with your email address.** If we have your email address on file, you will receive an email in late August from the Richmond School District asking you to provide consent to receiving our notices.

### **Absent During the First Week?**

Please note: If your son or daughter will be absent during the first week of school in September but intends to return to Cambie, it is vital that the school be informed. Please complete the 'Late Return' form and submit this to the school office before September 7<sup>th</sup>. The 'Late Return' form can be downloaded from the school website and is located under the 'Parents' tab.

## Student Counsellors:

The counsellors are available for students who need help with course planning and timetabling starting on August 29<sup>st</sup>. Please phone the school to make an appointment. Students with last name starting with A-L are assigned to Ms. B. Li and students with last name starting with M-Z are assigned to Mrs. P. Wilding; however, students may see whichever counsellor they feel most comfortable working with.

## Regular Daily Schedule:

8:18am	Warning Bell
8:25 – 9:40am	Period 1
9:45 – 11:05am	Period 2
11:05 – 11:20am	Break
11:20 – 12:35pm	Period 3
12:35 – 1:20pm	Lunch
1:20 – 1:35pm	Reading Block
1:35 – 2:48pm	Period 4

## Regular Bell Schedule:

Our regular schedule will begin on Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> – Day 1. School begins at 8:25am and a warning bell rings at 8:18am. Parents are asked to help ensure that students arrive to school on-time each day.

## Student Timetables:

All students will receive their official timetable in homeroom class on the first day of school showing the subject, teacher, period and classroom location.

Our current timetable was constructed based on enrolment and course selections last March. We worked with students between April –June to make any requested course changes. At this time, most classes are full and it is very difficult to make further course changes. We will do our very best to accommodate any changes that are required as a result of summer school. Course changes will not be made for teacher preferences or to accommodate students who have changed their mind on elective course offerings.

## Student Agenda:

All students will receive a H.J. Cambie student agenda. We recommend both students and parents read through the Cambie Code of Conduct and school rules and policies. We strongly encourage all students to use the agenda daily throughout the year to record homework, upcoming due dates, marks and all other important responsibilities.

## Lockers:



Students will be moving from classroom to classroom during the day and will need a place to store their books, coats, gym clothing and other belongings. All students need to bring their own lock with them to place on their assigned locker or purchase a lock from the school for \$6.00. Lockers will be assigned to students on the first day of school in homeroom class. It is a good idea for parents of grade 8 students to practice opening a combination lock as this reduces anxiety on the first day.

Lockers must be locked to ensure belongings are secure. Students are advised not to share their lock combination with anyone. Although every precaution is taken, sometimes lockers can be broken into. **We ask students not to bring valuables to school.** All lockers are school property and, therefore, we reserve the right to check them if deemed necessary.

## What Supplies Do I Need?

Individual course teachers will inform students of required supplies during the first week of school. Students should come prepared with a binder, paper and pens/pencils on the first day of school.

## Student Photographs:

Student photographs will be taken on Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. Students who miss the first photo date, or who need retakes, will be able to have their photo taken on Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. All students' need to have a photo taken to be used for the students ID Go-Card and Yearbook. Families may wish to purchase photo packages directly from the photographers (Artona Group). Formal grad photos will also be taken from January 15-18 with the option of group photos on January 19 and 20. Gr. 12's will book their formal grad photo sitting time online later in the year.

## Yearbook Memories Last a Lifetime!

The Cambie 2016-2017 yearbook captures this year's events and experiences. Remember all the friends, trends, fashion, fun, teachers, classes, teams, games, music, art, dances and everything in-between. Students may purchase a yearbook for \$45.00 which is included on the fee statement.

## School Fees:



All secondary schools in Richmond have a standard school fee. This fee covers the cost of a student agenda, locker use, communication fee and some student activity costs. The General School Fee for all students is \$28.00. There are optional and additional activity and enrichment program costs. For instance, the Yearbook may be purchased for \$45.00. Grade 12 students will have optional costs for the Graduation and Valedictory Ceremony, Grad Boat Cruise, Dinner and Dance and Dry Grad. Each student should receive an itemized fee statement included in this mail out and these fees are due in the first week of school to the student's homeroom teacher.

## Medical & Media Release Forms

The school requires an updated medical card for each student. Blank forms will be sent home in the first week of school and we must have them fully completed and returned promptly. These medical forms are invaluable in the event of an emergency at the school. Students will also receive a Media Release form that needs to be signed and returned in order for us to be able to include the student's name and/or photo in the yearbook and newsletters.

## Drop-off and Pick-up of Students:



We encourage students to walk or cycle to school as often as possible. Not only is this the healthy and environmentally friendly alternative, it also reduces traffic congestion around the school each morning and afternoon. If you are driving to school, please note that the school parking lot can get busy from 8:05-8:20 a.m., so please plan accordingly to ensure your child is not late. Also, please drive slowly and carefully and follow the entrance and exit signs.

## Lunches at Cambie



Lunch at Cambie is from 12:35pm to 1:20pm daily. Students may go home for lunch or may have lunch in the school rotunda or outdoors. Cafeteria services at Cambie are open from 7:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. The cafeteria offers breakfast, lunch and snack items. All food and beverage offerings provided meet the provincially mandated guidelines for food and beverage sales in schools.

## Meet the Teachers – Thursday, September 22, 2016

Meet the Teacher Evening is a time to meet all of your child's teachers and to hear information about their courses. The Administration will address the parents at 7:00pm and then from 7:15pm – 8:40pm parents will follow their child's timetable and have an opportunity to formally "Meet the Teacher" for each subject to find out what they will be learning and course expectations. We will also be offering a presentation to parents at 6:30pm on September 22<sup>nd</sup> to provide an overview to parents on the structure and design of the new BC Curriculum. The partnership between the student, home and school is a key to success and we hope all parents/guardians attend the 'Meet the Teacher' evening.

## Cambie Parent Advisory Council:

Parent involvement and support at school makes a significant positive difference to student success. We hope that parents will become part of the school's many events and activities. All parents are members of the Cambie PAC, and we encourage all parents, especially those with children entering grade 8, to attend the PAC meetings throughout the year to meet other parents, find out more about the changes to education in BC and other interesting topics. The PAC group provides valuable feedback to the principal on school issues, plans and hosts some special events, and applies for and distributes BC gaming funds. The first PAC meeting is on Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the school library.

## Some Important Dates to Note:

September 6	First day of the new school year:
September 7	First Day of Regular Classes – Day 1
September 14	Photo Day
September 15	PAC Meeting 7:00 p.m.
September 21	Club Fest @ Lunch
September 22	New BC Curriculum Overview 6:30pm
September 22	Meet the Teacher 7:00 – 8:40pm
September 23	Pro-D Day (Students not in attendance)

September 26/27	Gr. 8 Retreat
September 28	Collaboration Day – School starts at 9:45 am
September 28	Grad Boat Cruise
September 29	Terry Fox Run

For other dates such as holiday times and professional development days for 2016-2017, please refer to the school calendar located on the Cambie School website.