



## Chautauqua Elementary Principal's Newsletter

June 2022

[ESPAÑOL](#)

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# June at Chautauqua

### **Important Information:**

School [Summer Program](#) for students receiving math and reading support runs for two weeks in August.

**New School Hours Next Year: 9:15am-3:50pm.** Doors open at 9:15, we begin dismissal at 3:50. (We are pushing the day ten minutes later to accommodate student transportation at the middle and high school and our two or three boat schedule.)

**New PDD Schedule next year: EVERY FRIDAY school starts at 10:45, 1.5 hours late.**

*Wondering why? This will allow for a consistent weekly collaboration and learning time with our staff, providing consistency for our schedule and students. We have found that PDD on Fridays is best for elementary students, as they have a consistent academic schedule M-Th and then Friday we extend our learning with fun projects, celebrations, deep dives into science and social studies themes (and continuing math and reading). Fridays are important school days for us and we appreciate your planning to ensure regular attendance. The morning works best for our middle and high school students as research shows they need more sleep and a later start once a week will help their learning and engagement. Student needs and staff collaboration guided this decision. We thank you for your support.*

**School Starts August 29th, Sept. 1st for Kindergarten.** [Here](#) is the calendar.

**Garden Coordinator:** We will be starting a new, contracted position for a garden coordinator at Chautauqua. They will work about 200 hours in the year: 100 supporting student work in the garden with classes, 75 hours supporting open garden times at recess and 25 hours organizing volunteers to support the garden and open garden times. This will keep our garden growing. Thanks to FACE and VSF for supporting this vision with a donation of \$5,000 to cover the

contract! If you are interested in this position, please let Rebecca Goertzel know, [rgoertzel@vashonsd.org](mailto:rgoertzel@vashonsd.org).

**Outdoor Tuesdays:** Next year, we will be adding a program called Outdoor Tuesdays, where students will spend a half hour outdoor time with their teachers and mentors from Vashon Wilderness Program. Each grade level will have a time when they go out, choose from four different activities and engage activities in our field, garden, trails, or forest. We will be looking for parent volunteers to join for half or full days.

-----JUNE HIGHLIGHTS-----

Thanks to our librarian, our parents, our students and the Masons for a successful Orca Reader June reading celebration! Keep reading!

**Community Happenings:** Did you notice we added a community happenings page to our website. This is a place to find out about community programs - Did you know it's time for soccer sign ups? Summer camps at VCA? A bookmobile delivering books to student homes this summer? Check it out here: [Community Happenings](#)

This year, we've been collaborating with the Nature Center for monthly nature updates we share with our students and families as well as several on island field trips. This month's update is about Low Tide.

[Nature Center - English](#)    [Nature Center - Espanol](#)

**What's been happening across the school?**

We are hard at work learning to read, write, understand math and use our learning skills in our science and social studies themes. We've also been assessing students to see how much they have grown, and they've made great progress!

**What can you do this summer?**

Keep Reading! Students can also access the MyPath math program through Clever and keep building their skills.

**What more fun has been happening?** Too much to note, but here are a few highlights:

Kindergarten has been celebrating the last months of school with a count down for each day, focused on a fun spirit day for each letter of the alphabet. U was Under Your Desk Day, for example. B for Bubble day was a favorite among many.

First grade is creating an amazing collage of under sea ecosystems.

Second grade has studied the power of legends and storytelling using the curriculum designed by local Native tribes called Since Time Immemorial.

Multi-age is diving deep into the study of Japan.

Our straight third grade is wrapping up a bee Action Network project, which Caleb highlighted in his weekly memo.

Our fourth grade had the project with an extensive collaboration - combining the Artists in Residence, Nature Center, and the Vashon Audubon Society for a decades long tradition of collaboration about birds on Vashon including research, identification, painting and ceramics.

Fifth grade went to outdoor school at Camp Sealth (day only this year) and is getting ready to celebrate moving up to middle school!

Our specialists continue to expand the experiences of our students in Spanish (they made amazing Diego Rivera murals), Art, Music, PE and Library.









