



That is the big question about Cherry Park Elementary. Of course, you are asking which drive (Cherry Road or Caswell) you use to drop off your children and pick them up. My best answer to you is “Either one. You pick and tell us.” Here is what we are thinking. At the Cherry Road

Entrance, kindergarten and first grade kids will find it easy to get out of their cars and walk straight into the building closest to their downstairs classrooms. Traffic may back up some at the light, so we don't want to load up all our kids there. At the Caswell Entrance, second through fifth grade kids can get out and have an easy walk to their classroom areas. If you have kids at both grades (such as a first grader and a fifth grader), you can drop them off at either area and they will walk to their waiting spot. In the afternoon, we will get the kids to the pickup area (Cherry Road Entrance or Caswell Entrance) you tell us. You will let your child's teacher know at Open House on Wednesday, December 12 from 6:00-7:30 PM.

As I've thought about this question, it reminds me that we're always asking this question. Should I take this job or that one? Do we move to another house or stay where we are? Should I listen to this medical opinion or that one? We want to be sure. We don't like risks. We want to be right, not wrong. Sometimes, when we ask "which way do I go?" we have to acknowledge that we get stuck in the paralysis of analysis. We certainly want to do our homework and make informed decisions but there are also times when we are simply not going to know the answer and we need to make our best guess. Most of the time, I find that when I do that, I am relieved to finally make a decision. Even if it is the wrong one, it can be corrected most of the time. The world doesn't end and in a couple of weeks, I have completely forgotten about the situation. Which way do you need to go? I don't know but don't miss the blessing of the ride in getting there. (That really is true in choosing which entrance to use at Cherry Park Elementary. Treasure the time in your car with your kids. It doesn't last long. I promise.)

Mr. Maness, Principal



### **Ribbon Cutting and Open House**

Please mark your calendars for our **Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at 5:30 PM on Wednesday, December 12**. The Ribbon Cutting will be at the main entrance to Cherry Park Elementary. We want to celebrate the opening of our new school. Feel free to invite your family and friends. This will be followed by our **Open House from 6:00-7:30 PM**. At our Open House, you can tour the school, visit your child's classroom, and ask questions. Our Nurse, Challenger Directors, Cafeteria Manager, Transportation Staff and Office Staff will be readily available to help you in any way needed. **Parking**—We ask that families with fourth and fifth grade students park in the Sullivan Faculty lot located near the Tennis Courts. You will enter off of Eden Terrace near the track. Please carpool as much as possible. We are expecting a big crowd to come. Please plan to arrive early so you have time to move about the campus. **Accessibility**--If

you have any needs for special accommodations in order to attend the event, please contact our main office at 985-2255.

### **Parking Team for Ribbon Cutting and Open House**

We are expecting lots and lots of visitors for our Ribbon Cutting and Open House on December 12. We would like to have 15 volunteers who would be willing to help us from 5:00-6:30 PM who could help our visitors park safely and efficiently. We will be done by 6:30 PM so volunteers can still attend the Open House with their families. If you can help, sign up at this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/1gYQyDV7AUY8QEK11>

### **School of Choice Calendar**

The application window opens **tomorrow and stays open until February 28**. If you have a rising kindergarten student who has a sibling already in the immersion program, you will 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. Our tour dates before Christmas holidays at Cherry Park Elementary will be Friday, December 14 at 9:00 AM and Monday, December 17 at 6:30 PM. We will have additional dates after the holidays as well.

### **Parent Teacher Organization**

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 **on tomorrow, Monday, December 3** at 6:30 PM to continue 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 and “Sullivan Falcons” on the right.)

### **We Need Painters**

We need help painting one accent wall in each of our fourth and fifth grade classrooms (11 total). (This work falls in the “above and beyond expectations” category of our normal maintenance efforts in the district.) With lots of hands, it won’t take long to do this. We can make the rooms available in the morning, afternoon, evening or on a Saturday. (Thank you to **Norma Fichtner, Stephanie Greer, Mary Ann Kennedy, Angela Thompson, Mark Graney and Michael Missaggia and some of their kids** who came on Friday and Saturday to help!!!!) If you are interested in pitching in, email Mr. Maness at [pmaness@rhmail.org](mailto:pmaness@rhmail.org) and let him know when you might be available. If you are a part of a group who would want to do some of this as a community service project, we welcome you to invite others to come and help. We can supply the paint, brushes, and dropcloths. We would love to accomplish this by our Open House date of December 12 if possible.

### **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**

December 3-7 Teachers Setting Up Classrooms

December 3—5:30 PM School Improvement Council; 6:30 PM PTO Meeting (Both Meetings in the Sullivan PD Room to the right of the Cherry Park Main Entrance. Look for the white arch with "Sullivan Falcons" above the doors.)

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; 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Graders Visit CP

December 13—2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders Visit CP

December 14—Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> 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 AM Community 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