

May 7, 2026 – Special Edition
CPES NEWSFLASH

Knowledge for Today, Wisdom for Eternity



A Tribute to Mrs. Dana Chant

Beloved Teacher, Colleague & Friend

How does one sum up 30 years of teaching ministry in a few short words? Or capture the wonder and love of learning that Mrs. Chant planted in the little ones who sat at her feet? How does one share the dedication and love she had for her students, colleagues, and our extended CPES family? We will attempt to provide a glimpse of all that Mrs. Chant meant to us and recognize the goodness of God in our lives through **Dana Chant.**

Mrs. Chant started teaching at CPES in September of 1996. Throughout the years she taught various grades ranging from Kindergarten to Grade 4. Regardless of the grade level Dana could be counted to put her full heart into her teaching. Dana's classroom was always the first to be ready! As soon as Mr. Chang gave the all clear, she would be in - early summer - sorting, planning, strategizing, arranging, moving furniture, creating an inviting space for her students. Nooks and cozy spots would be intentionally curated, flexible seating provided. Poor Jim spent countless hours moving and assembling furniture, putting up shelves or large wall-size maps only to take them down again a little while later.

Dana didn't remain stagnant - she was always changing, evolving, tweaking, making things better. As the learners changed, Dana changed, she adapted and met the needs of the students entrusted to her care.

Forever in our  hearts



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Dana was not one to sit back and wait for things to happen; she did not allow her hopes and dreams for her students and their learning environment to get waylaid or sidetracked in the machinery of the 'system'. She was resourceful; if she wanted something, she made it happen! When she wanted a wall-size mural painted in her room; she found an artist, enlisted their help, provided supplies, and voila beautiful wall art remains that will decorate the walls of CPES for decades to come.



Dana was not afraid to innovate and introduce new tech! She moved with the times! She was the first to incorporate an iPad in her classroom as a student tool, Alexa for spelling help, a talking microphone ball to ensure all had a voice, and new platforms and software once chromebooks were introduced.



Dana engaged her students in thoughtful and intentional ways! She created meaningful learning experiences! Recently the students of CPES were asked to share what they remembered most about Mrs. Chant – replies varied and it was obvious that Mrs. Chant impacted each one differently. Common themes that arose were:

- Using white sticks to bring the song "It's About the Cross" to life in Easter church performances.
- Quiet reading time and chapter book read-alouds after lunch.
- Nurturing chrysallis and releasing monarch butterflies at recess.
- Pioneer day – an annual event where Dana transformed into an olden day school marm and removed all evidence of a modern classroom. Students came with their lunch pails, dressed as pioneers and experienced a day in the life of a pioneer child.
- "Yes Day" (based on the picture book "Yes Day") was a student favourite! On this day, she had to say "yes" to all student requests! Bubble gum and extra recess abounded!
- STEM exploration days where she allowed the kids to embrace 'messy' learning and create using all sorts of recycled materials and the cardboard "ChompShop" machines she had purchased for her class!

Yes, Dana didn't just teach – she didn't just show up. She was present and intentional! Her last year teaching I admit, I was a bit concerned. The Lord provided her with a class of 15 boys and one fair maiden! Dana, a mom of two girls, was non-pulsed. She purchased boomwhackers and rhythm instruments and looked up beat and rhythm challenges to provide her boys with some movement! She was creative; thought outside the box!



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Education on a good day can look a bit like ‘herding kittens’ but Dana was ever graceful, always polished. She rarely, if ever, raised her voice; she wasn’t afraid to have hard conversations and hold students accountable. She planted seeds of wisdom and intentionally helped students navigate big emotions and challenges big and small. She equipped them to succeed and succeed they did!

Dana was dedicated and determined to stay in her classroom as long as possible and we were blessed to have her! Even this year she volunteered on several days! Dana still had “it” – students settled at her feet. This year there was something sacred about each time she came. It was as if even the students knew they were lucky to have her in their classroom.

One of the last times I recall her teaching Bible class I remember she was leading out in an end of unit activity where each second grade child recited Psalms 23. She was dressed up as a shepherd. As the students finished reciting the psalm, staff in hand, she would praise them, provide them with a shepherd’s certificate and challenge them to be shepherds in the real world. To go out and lead well and care for others! I recall one student was having some difficulty remembering the ending and Dana jumped in to help him and they finished together:

*“Surely your goodness and love
will be with me all my life.
And I will live in the
house of the Lord forever.”
(Psalm 23:6, ICB)*

Without missing a beat, Dana exclaimed,
“Won’t that be beautiful? I can’t wait!”

Yes, indeed – we cannot wait for the day
when all things “will be made right” and we
will see our beautiful Dana again! Until
then she will remain forever in our hearts
and live on in the hearts of the children
she impacted!

With love,
Team CPES

