



News from the Nest



Friday, January 7th, 2022

Weyt-kp parents, guardians, and caregivers,

I would like to express to you how thankful I am for you all and the time and space you gave us this week to prepare for what has turned out to be an uncertain restart. I hope that this extra week of Winter Break has not been too much of an inconvenience to you and your family, and that you were able to take advantage of the warmer weather and get outside. Teachers worked diligently re-organizing the physical space of their classrooms to maximize space and minimize gathering and planning for the potential of some on-line learning. The enhanced safety measures and continuity of learning plan has been explained in the letter that was e-mailed out to parents today at around 1pm. Both of these plans are also posted on our school website for you to access.



I hope that your child/ren is looking forward to coming back to school, as we are very keen to see our students. Three weeks is a long time, and I'm sure that many have grown considerably and I'm assuming that there will be some teeth missing where there used to be some. On the other hand, some children, and maybe even some of you, may be a bit nervous to come back to school, and that is ok. You can let them know that everyone at school has been working and will continue to work hard to ensure that school is as safe as it can be. Encouraging them to speak to a trusted adult (teacher, CEA, Mme Lisa, principal or vice-principal, etc.) at school about what is worrying them, may be helpful in allaying some of his/her/their fears, as we can explain in detail what we are doing to keep everyone safe.

That being said, school may look a little different than it did when your child/ren left in December. We have had to return to some of the safety measures we had in place last school year, and some new routines will need to be taught and older routines re-taught. You can reassure your child/ren, however, that we are **not** going back to cohorts and playground recess zones at this time, so they will be free to play with whomever and wherever they would like at school. I know this caused some strife last year and we will only use it as a last resort if necessary.

I feel confident that our school team is ready for the twists and turns that are undoubtedly on the way, and have no doubt that your child/ren will be able to adapt to the everchanging nature of our school environment. I will do my best to send out a newsletter every couple of weeks, but will send out communication if/when any updates come my way. We take the responsibility of keeping your child/ren safe very seriously.

Daily Health Check

With the extension of the Winter Break, I hope that your child/ren are looking forward to their return to school on Monday. While we are very much looking forward to having him/her/them back in the building, it is of utmost importance that you do not send him/her/them to school if he/she/they are not feeling well. As hard as we are working to keep COVID-19 and other illness at bay by washing our hands frequently and wearing masks, the most effective way for us to keep them out of our school,



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and students and staff healthy and ready to teach and learn, is to keep children home when they are not feeling well.

Please perform a daily health check with your child/ren before they come to school every day. Take a moment to re-read the [Daily Health Check](#), access the [K-12 Health Check Website](#), or download the [App](#).

Masks

Although some find them uncomfortable and a nuisance, wearing a mask while indoors at school is a Public Health Order which everyone at school needs to follow. The [PHO order](#) states that all students, staff and visitors are required to wear a mask indoors (this includes the gymnasium). Everyone who is able to (i.e., does not have a mask exemption) is expected to wear a mask.

While most students do a great job of this, some have become complacent and a few problem areas have popped up at school. Transitioning from outdoors to indoors causes some problems as some students bring their mask outside and then lose it when playing, while others leave it at their locker, in the hopes of not losing it outside. Both of these instances create an issue with the number of students entering the school without a mask during times when there are increased students in the hallway. We are working closely with our teachers to develop some new routines which will mitigate the number of students in the hall without a mask. What you can do to help is ensure that your child/ren has a mask at the ready when they arrive at school. Teach him/her/them how to put it in their pocket and zip their pocket closed if/when they chose to take it off outside.

We will have some masks on hand in classrooms for those students who arrive to school without a mask.

Vaccines

Vaccines are the most effective way to reduce the risk of COVID-19 in schools and communities. If you are looking for more evidenced-based information regarding vaccination or to book your vaccination appointment for yourself or your child, please visit the websites listed here:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/schools/parents-and-students>

<https://immunizebc.ca/>

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/register#community-events>

Restricted Access

Our schools and facilities are open, but with restricted access. **Visitors must call ahead to make an appointment before entering any SD73 facility.** Visitor access during school hours will be prioritized to those supporting activities that benefit student learning and well-being (this includes District staff, teacher candidates, and meals coordinators). This promotes the safety of all students and staff. We need to work together and follow the direction of the Public Health Officer of BC.





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If you need to drop your child off late, they know which door to enter and how to get to their classroom on their own; however, **if you must**, you may accompany them to the front office to get them checked in, but you are **not permitted** to walk them to their class without permission from the office. Public Health Guidelines in schools do not allow for parents in the school at this time. All students make their way to their classroom and put on and take off their winter gear several times a day independently, and, thus, do not need an escort.

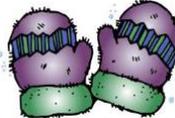
Volunteers are also not able to visit the school at this time either. We have a very robust list of parents who have gone through the Health and Safety training and criminal records check, but we are not permitted to invite you into our classes at the moment. Unfortunately, this includes field trips as well. We have gotten word earlier today, that field trips may go ahead as planned; however, we cannot allow parent chaperones/supervisors to accompany these trips. I am hoping that we will soon be able to welcome you back, as your support goes a long way in helping our students be successful.

Dressing for the Weather

We try to get students outside every day, even if it is only for 10-15 mins in very cold weather; therefore, it is very important for your child/ren to come to school prepared for the weather. In addition, teachers will continue to bring their students outside for some much needed “mask breaks,” so appropriate winter attire will be necessary.

The sliding hill will be open, as we have ample snow, so students are welcome to bring their sleds back to school on Monday. Remember in order to sled, students need to be wearing the following:

- Winter boots
- Snow pants
- Jacket
- Mittens or gloves
- Hat (optional)



Kindergarten Registration, Schools of Choice Information Night, and Kindergarten Round-Up

It is hard to believe that it is that time of year already. We are starting to plan for the arrival of our new Kindergarten students for the 2022-2023 school year. If you, or anyone you know, has a child/children who will be 5 years old by December 31st, 2022 (i.e. were born in 2017), please take note of the following important dates:

- **Wednesday, January 12th** @ 6:30pm – Information Night for Schools of Choice
- **Monday, January 24th** – Friday, January 28th – Registration Week for Schools of Choice
- **Thursday, February 3rd** – Kindergarten Round-Up Information Night
- **Monday February 7th** – Friday February 11th – Registration Week for Neighbourhood Schools



For up-to-date details about information sessions and registration, please check the website [here](#).



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For those of you who already have a child attending school with us, registration packages will be sent home Monday, January 17th with a sibling. They are due back to Mme Lisa in the office **no later** than **Friday January 28th @ NOON.**

Basketball



As far as we know, our basketball season will be starting in January; however, we don't know what exactly our season will look like. In the event that we have league games against other schools, we will need some basketball referees to officiate. If you think you might be able to spare a couple of hours a week for a 6 week plan, this might be just the thing that you can do to help support athletics at our school. Contact Mme Clare (lclare@sd73.bc.ca) if you are interested.

Grade 7 boys will have try-outs/initial practices Wednesday, January 12th at 7:00am and Friday January 14th at 3:00pm. Other teams do not have a schedule yet. This will be communicated once finalized.

Family Literacy Week

L'École Élémentaire South Sa-Hali will be celebrating **Literacy Week January 24th to 28th**. Here are a few fun things that we have planned for our school. This is the same week that the School District is running the **Unplug and Play Challenge**. It is an opportunity for students and family members to become more aware of their screen time at home and to "unplug" more often during this week. More information about this challenge will be sent home with primary students.



We have a number of activities happening each day that week:

- At some point every day this week, we will be participating in a surprise D.E.A.R.:**Drop Everything And Read** – if your child has a book they are reading at home, feel free to send it to school with him/her/them time
- .On **Monday, January 24th** students are welcome to wear clothes that have words on them if they like. All appropriate of course!
- On **Tuesday, January 25th**, we are having a **school-wide pajama day** with lots of time for reading.
- On **Wednesday, January 26th**, reading rocks so wear some **funky socks** today!
- On **Thursday, January 27th**, students are encouraged to carry a **poem in their pocket**. Teachers may work on this with their students during the week and you could also come up with ideas as a family, if you like. English and French poems are both acceptable.
- On **Friday, January 28** we are having a special "**Dress Up As Your Favourite Book Character Day**". This is optional and could be a very simple costume with only a prop related to one of your child's favourite book characters. If you have the book, send it along, or ask your child to borrow it from the school library.



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E.R.A.S.E. Tool

Expect Respect and a Safe Education is all about building safe and caring school communities. This includes empowering students, parents, educators and community partners who support them to get help with challenges, report concerns to schools, and learn about complex issues facing students. If there is something worrying your child or your child's friends at school, let an adult know who can help resolve the situation.

The erase Report It tool is an easy to send a message to your school or school district's safe school coordinator, who will follow-up on the situation right away. They will also follow-up with you privately, if you provide your name. **DON'T WORRY, YOU DON'T HAVE TO GIVE YOUR NAME AND THE PROBLEM WILL BE KEPT PRIVATE.**

Erase Report It Tool – Scan here with your phone

erase | EXPECT RESPECT &
A SAFE EDUCATION
ON THE WEB: erase.gov.bc.ca.
ON TWITTER: [@erase](https://twitter.com/erase)



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School Messenger - Texting

In the new year, near the end of January, you will be getting a message from our safe arrival system, School Messenger, asking you if you would like to get messages via text. From that message, you will be able to choose your preferred method of contact. If there are changes to your contact information, you will need to make those changes at school, as School Messenger uses the SD73 database to contact you. More information will come in January to make you aware of these changes.

MyEducationBC Parent Portal

For those of you who do not have an older child in High School or are new to SD73, the Parent Portal Accounts in MyEducationBC will become live on January 18th. If you have not already accessed the MyEd Portal, you will be receiving an e-mail from the MyEducationBC system to log in and set up your account. You can also watch the videos [here](#) to give you more information.

You may be asking yourself what is this "MyEducationBC Parent Portal"? It is an on-line platform through which parents can access their child's report card, learning portfolio, and other information. It is also the platform that our Grade 7 students will be using to register for their courses at SKSS.

This February, report cards will be published on the parent portal, as well as hard copies distributed. We will eventually be moving away from hard copies, and strictly publishing them to the portal, unless parents request a hard copy.

PAC Hot Lunch

Because students were not in session on Thursday, January 6th, its delivery has been postponed to Tuesday, February 1st.



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PAC Fundraising

Mabel's Labels (ongoing)

1. https://mabelslabels.ca/en_CA/by-occasion/school-labels.html
2. Click support a fundraiser
3. Search for South Sahali. Select our school
4. Shop as normal! 20% of your purchase comes back to the PAC.

PAC Meeting and PAC FB page

Our next PAC meeting will take place **Thursday January 20th at 6:30pm**. This meeting will be a hybrid in that we will hold the meeting in person at the school, and we will broadcast it via Zoom. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you are planning to attend at the school, you will be required to watch [this health and Safety Orientation](#) prior to coming in, perform a health check, sign in and wash/disinfect your hands upon arrival, and wear a mask while indoors.

Our PAC also has a [Facebook page](#) (South Sa-Hali Elementary PAC-Ecole South Sa-Hali PAC) that you might want to consider joining. In order to be granted access, you will need to answer the questions posted.

Important Upcoming Dates

Monday, Jan. 10 th	All students return to school Mme Magalie and Mme Nancy's class to Stake Lake for X-Country Skiing
Wednesday, Jan. 12 th	Kindergarten Schools of Choice Information Night 6:30 (via Zoom)
Thursday, Jan. 20 th	PAC Meeting 6:30 (via Zoom)
January 24 – 28 th	Kindergarten Registration for Schools of Choice
January 24 – 28 th	Family Literacy Week
	Monday – Wearing Words Day
	Tuesday – Pyjama Day
	Wednesday – Funky Socks Day
	Thursday – Poem in your Pocket Day
	Friday – Dress as your Favourite Book Character Day
Monday, Jan. 31 st	Earth Rangers Presentation (Grades 1-6)
Thursday, Feb. 3 rd	Report Cards Go Home
Friday, Feb. 4 th	Professional Development Day (no school for students)



As always, if you have any questions or have any concerns that you would like to discuss, please don't hesitate to call the office.

Sincerely,

Susie Mabee
Principal