



News from the Nest



Tuesday, November 30th, 2021

Weyt-kp parents, guardians, and caregivers,

Only 3 weeks left until the Winter Break, and I'm sure that you are all very much looking forward to some rest, relaxation, and quality time with family and friends as much as I am. There are certainly going to be a few lazy mornings in my near future, on the couch with some coffee, my dog, and a good book. If you are planning on traveling either within Canada or outside of the country during the holidays, please take note of both the provincial and federal travel [requirements](#). As per the SD73 daily health check, fully vaccinated students, staff and other adults who have travelled outside of Canada may qualify for the [fully vaccinated traveler exemption](#). Students, staff, and other adults who are **not** fully vaccinated and have travelled outside of Canada **CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL FOR 14 DAYS AFTER ARRIVAL**, as part of [federal requirements](#).

If you qualify as a fully vaccinated traveller, your unvaccinated children must follow specific requirements when you return to or enter Canada. This applies to unvaccinated children under 12 years of age who are accompanying a parent, step-parent, guardian or tutor who qualified as a fully vaccinated traveller when they entered Canada.

- Unvaccinated children under 12 must complete [pre-entry, arrival and Day-8 tests](#), unless you have evidence that the child had a positive COVID-19 test taken 14 to 180 days prior to arrival in Canada or the child is under 5 years of age.
- **For the next 14 days**, the children must also:
 - **not attend school**, camp or daycare
 - not attend large or crowded settings, indoors or outdoors, such as an amusement park or sporting event
 - not take buses, subways, trains or other crowded transportation
 - not attend a setting where they may have contact with vulnerable people (e.g. long-term care facility), including people who are immunocompromised, regardless of that person's vaccination status or public health measures
 - stay in a place that allows the child to avoid all contact with any person that:
 - has an underlying medical condition that makes the person susceptible to complications related to COVID-19
 - has a compromised immune system from a medical condition or treatment; or
 - is 65 years of age or older
 - limit contact with others:
 - remain with their fully vaccinated parent or guardian, as much as possible
 - wear a mask and physically distance when in contact with non-household members

Whatever your family chooses to do over the holidays, I hope that you enjoy yourself and come back to school on Tuesday, January 4th rested and ready for all that 2022 has in store for us.



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School Clothing

Thanks to those of you who ordered school clothing. I have my fingers crossed that everything will arrive prior to the Winter Break; however, with the recent road closures due to landslides and flooding and current shortages in supplies coming into the country, I am not confident that they will arrive on time. If you had planned on giving this clothing as a Christmas present, I would make alternate plans in the highly likely event that they will not be here until the new year.



Parking Lot and Drop Off



There continue to be many parents are driving over the curb in the drop-off lane when picking up and dropping off their child/ren in the morning and after school. While I appreciate you trying to get as far to the right to let traffic pass, it does create some issues now that the snow and ice are here. Vehicles parked here block the flat area for your child/ren to disembark your car, requiring them to try to climb the slippery hill, frequently sliding into this high-traffic area. We want to keep a flat space onto which children to get out of their car safely. I am pleading you to please stay off this area with your vehicle. I thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

I have also noticed a number of cars driving up the driveway to the staff parking lot to drop off their child/ren in the morning. Unless you have a handicapped parking sign clearly displayed, or you have sought special permission from the office, you should not be accessing the staff parking lot before or after school.



Another thing you can do to help with the flow of traffic as it increases during the winter months, is to pull up as far as possible in this drop-off lane. You are more than welcome to stop on the east side of the crosswalk to let your child/ren out. When one car stops early on in the lane, it backs up traffic.

Interim Reports

Interim reports should have gone home by today at the very latest, so if you have not heard from your child/ren's teacher, please contact him/her/them for an update on your child/ren's learning. A formal report card will be coming home at the beginning of February. If you have any questions or concerns about your child/ren's learning, please make sure to connect with his/her/their teacher to discuss them.



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Dressing for the Weather



As the air temperature varies and the amount of precipitation increases, it becomes increasingly more important for your child/ren to come to school dressed for whatever Mother Nature decides to throw at us for recess and lunch hour. **We will be sending students outside in inclement weather, so it is crucial that they are prepared with outside shoes/boots, a jacket, and soon enough mitts and a tuque.** In preparation for the wet weather, we have put mats in the hallways for everyone's boots, and we ask everyone, staff and students, to take their boots off at the door. It just takes one pair of wet and snowy boots to make the hallways slippery and dangerous. Also, no one likes to step in wet snow in sock feet on their way to putting on his/her/their indoor shoes. Please make sure to send a pair of indoor shoes to school with your child, if you haven't already done so. Sending a change of dry clothes for your child to have on hand in case of emergencies is also a great idea, as we won't have to call you in the middle of your busy day if your child gets wet.



Ugly Holiday Sweater/Pyjama Day

Friday, December 17th, we will be having our second annual Ugly Holiday Sweater/Pyjama Day. Students are invited to wear either or both a Holiday/Winter-Themed sweater and/or pyjamas! If you don't have a sweater as such, you are encouraged to make one. I can't wait to see the interesting creations you all come up with.

Winter Concert

We will be sharing our winter concert with you in the same way we did last year. An unlisted YouTube link will be shared with families and the video will be open for a week for you to watch with your family at your leisure. If all goes according to plan, and technology doesn't fail us, I will provide the link with you on Wednesday, December 15th, and I will be taking it down on Wednesday December 22nd. There will be no student or teacher names in the video, nor will there be any tags or other identifying features. Classes will be filming their portion on **Wednesday December 8th**, so please do your best to have your child here, dressed in whatever they are supposed to be wearing, that day to take part.

Basketball

Our basketball season will be starting in January and we are looking for coaches. If you or someone you know is interested in coaching this year, please contact our vice principal, Mme Leah Clare (lclare@sd73.bc.ca), to let her know. Once we know how many coaches we have, we will be able to determine how many teams we can offer to our students.

We don't know what exactly our season will look like this year, but in the event that we have league games against other schools, we will also need some basketball referees to officiate. If you cannot commit to coaching a team several days a week, this might be just the thing that you can do to help support athletics at our school. Once again, contact Mme Clare if you are interested.



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Sledding Hill

We had a very short taste of winter a couple of weeks ago, but the snow has melted in recent days. I have no doubt that we will get more in the coming weeks and months and wanted to let you know that the sliding hill will open, when it is safe to do so. When the slope gets too icy, or the snow gets too thin, we close it to keep students safe and to maintain the ground quality (grass growth in the spring and such). While last year we limited sledding to students at particular times of the day due to cohorts and playground zones, we are not repeating this system this year. Students are welcome to slide at recess and at lunch, at their leisure. What we do ask, and would love your backup at home, is the following:

- Sliding happens only at the front of the school where there is enough of a runout at the end and no asphalt on which to land.
- Sliding happens at recess and lunch only. If students wish to slide after school, they must be accompanied by an adult, as there is no school supervision at this time.
- Students must be dressed appropriately in order to slide (i.e. snow pants, snow boots, a jacket and mittens/gloves).
- Students may slide on their bottom if they like.
- Students may bring a soft sled only.
- Sleds must be brought home every night; we do not have the space to store sleds overnight, nor is the school responsible for lost or stolen sleds.



Classroom Volunteers

We will be holding our **very last** Health and Safety Orientation for those parents wishing to volunteer at our school on Thursday December 9th @7:00pm via Zoom (click [here](#) for the meeting link or visit the school website). You will also need to undergo a criminal records check. Once you have completed the evening orientation session, you will be provided with the link and the school access code. I have been contacted by a few grandparents who would like to take part, so if this sounds like someone in your family, please pass along the information to them.

PAC Hot Lunch

The PAC will be opening up the ordering for the next Hot Lunch period on Friday December 3rd. Popcorn orders for this period are included as well. Orders and payment will be due Friday December 17th. **NO LATE ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** To order, visit <https://ses.hotlunches.net>. If your current financial situation is a barrier to ordering Hot Lunch for your child/ren, please contact Mme Mabee (smabee@sd73.bc.ca) to discuss options for your family. We do not want to see anyone who would like to participate, go without.



If you haven't already created an account, you will need to use the access code SESH. There are some registration/ordering instructions attached to the e-mail from Mme Mabee for your convenience as well. The PAC is trying to figure out a way to add a donation option for those who wish to contribute to buying a lunch for those families who cannot afford it, so keep your eyes open for that in either this period or the next.



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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

If you subscribe to the calendar on our [school website](#), updates to the calendar will be sent directly to your e-mail.



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| Nov. 30 th (at the very latest) | Interim Reports go home |
| Wednesday, Dec. 1 st | Tier 1 Girls' Volleyball: Blue Team vs Dallas @ Dallas
Mme Charlotte's and Mme Graf's classes participating in Mental Wellbeing Forum (Zoom) |
| Thursday, Dec. 2 nd | Tier 1 Girls' Volleyball Yellow Team vs. Pac Way @ Pac Way |
| Monday, Dec. 6 th | Professional Development Day (no school for students) |
| Wednesday, Dec. 8 th | Winter Concert Filming |
| Friday, Dec. 17 th | 7pm Parent Volunteer Health and Safety Orientation (LAST TIME)
Ugly Holiday Sweater/Pyjama Day |

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