



News from the Nest



Tuesday, October 12th, 2021

Weyt-kp parents, guardians, and caregivers,

First of all, I would like to apologize for the lateness of this newsletter. If you can believe it, I did start it at the beginning of last week, but it has been so busy that I have not had the chance to finish it until now.

It is hard to believe that Thanksgiving has come and gone. We are more or less settled into the routines of the school environment, and working hard to adapt quickly to the changes that come our way. It's amazing to see how much learning has taken place already. I was in a kindergarten class the other day and we counted to 20 in French. WOW! Last week, I also got to be in a grade 7 class where they were learning about how to sample a population of organisms in an environment. I can't wait to visit even more classes in the coming days and weeks to witness the new and exciting learning taking place.

October is a busy month full of assessments in order for teachers to have a clear understanding of where their students' abilities lie and what areas need to be addressed. Our intermediate students are participating in the Non-Fiction Reading Assessment (NFRA), District Engagement, Wellbeing, and Resiliency Survey (DEWRS), and Foundation Skills Assessment (Grades 4 and 7 only). Primary students typically undergo a Primary Reading Assessment (PRA in English and ELAP in French). We also use the data from these assessments to guide our School Learning Plan goals:

1. Students will show growth in their ability to recognize the appearance of and the monetary value of currency, solve real-world problems involving money, and identify their needs and wants with respect to spending and saving.
2. Students will show growth in their organization, sentence structure, vocabulary, and conventions in informational texts.
3. Students will show growth in their self-confidence by taking risks in their learning.

Communicating Covid-19 Exposures

While we are all living, learning, working and playing during this global pandemic, it is important that we continue to be diligent with the layering of control measures to keep ourselves and others healthy. At school, we will continue to align ourselves with the measures expected by SD73, which are mandated by the provincial government. We will continue to take our lead from them and promptly adjust our practices when required to do so. Our key control measures continue to be:

- daily health checks (click [here](#) for the most recent form)
- staying home if sick or going home if you become sick at school
- frequent hand washing and using hand sanitizer
- using proper respiratory etiquette
- wearing a mask indoors for everyone staff, students, and special guests
- using specific entrances and exits



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- staying within gathering guidelines and limiting congestion within small spaces (i.e. hallways)
- limiting visitors and volunteers
- encouraging keeping respectful personal space between individuals

Please ensure the office has up-to-date contact information, in case your child becomes sick at school and needs to go home.

All communication around exposures, close contacts, etc. comes from **Interior Health**. While some families choose to share their COVID status information with the school, we are not permitted to share this information with our school community, as all of the schools in SD73 follow the direction of Interior Health regarding sharing information with families and school community members. Please understand that staff cannot share information about school or classroom exposures, or cases of COVID. The communication process requires us all to be patient, as the health authorities work through their protocols and case investigations. When messaging is provided to the School District from Interior Health, it will be forwarded from Administration at the school, by email, to those who have been advised to receive it. If you have concerns, please contact Interior Health at the following website: <https://www.interiorhealth.ca/AboutUs/ContactUs/Pages/default.aspx>

I encourage families to read the [SD73 Healthy Facilities Communicable Disease Prevention Plan](#) as it outlines the responsibilities of pandemic management in the K-12 setting. Schools and their respective School District are bound to this [CDPP](#) document which has been developed by Ministry of Education under the direction of the Ministry of Health, and as such have NO authority to change or develop their own protocols. The development of these health and safety protocols falls solely under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health in conjunction with the regional Interior Health Authority.

I do want to acknowledge that this is a challenging time that we are all experiencing. We all have similar yet unique contributing factors that are of concern to our individual families. We appreciate the difficulty in deciding to send your child/ren to school each day in these uncertain times and the impact it has on you and your family members; however, remote learning is not available. Unless your child/ren have been told by Interior Health to self-isolate, teachers are not required to send work home for you. Thank you in advance for understanding our role during this difficult time. Together, we will work in and through this pandemic.

Parent-Teacher Conferencing

Parent-Teacher conferences will take place **Thursday, October 14th**. As such, students will be **dismissed at 12:51** that day. Please arrange for your child to be picked up at this time. SD73 school busses and the City of Kamloops School Special have been contacted and should be here to pick up those students at dismissal.

Teachers have been, or will be in touch with you to make an appointment for you to discuss your child/ren's progress to date. Most are offering a choice of in-person or Zoom meetings. If you are



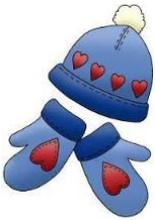
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coming to the school for an in-person meeting, you will need to familiarize yourself with the Health and Safety Guidelines by clicking [here](#) and wear a mask while you are in the building.

Dressing for the Weather

As the air temperature drops 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. We will soon be putting 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.



Volleyball

After much discussion within the Elementary Sports Council, a decision was made for schools to focus on intramural volleyball in elementary schools this year. It was clear at the meeting that school representatives wanted to ensure students have an opportunity to play and develop their volleyball skills, while also limiting unnecessary travel between schools as several schools had already committed to running only an intramural league within their school. In the absence of not scheduling games between school sites, school staff are strongly encouraged to provide opportunities for students to develop their volleyball skills in a meaningful way over the next several weeks either through school-based coaching clinics and intramural games. Thank you for supporting this difficult decision.

This year we have four teams: Tier 1 boys and girls, and tier 3 boys and girls. We will continue with practices and we will do our best to schedule some games amongst the teams that we have at our school. Although this arrangement is not what we had in mind when we started, it is better than nothing and students will get the opportunity to learn and practice their volleyball skills. We have our fingers crossed that we will get to play against opponents at another school once again sometime soon. A big thank you to our school and community coaches who have agreed to take on a team this year: **Mme Underwood, Mme Farkas, Mme Funk, Mme Williams, and Mme Clare**. Those students who are on a team should already have their practice schedule, but if not, please connect with your child/ren's coach or Mme Clare to get one.

Field Trips

Pumpkin Patch field trip season is about to begin. With the introduction of our SchoolCash online system, you are encouraged to pay for these field trips online whenever possible. It makes record keeping quicker, more secure and more accurate than sending cash to school. If you have any issues navigating the system, please phone Mme Lisa at the office so that she can help you to trouble shoot.



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She would like me to remind you to log into your account to ensure that you have indeed paid your school supplies, as these are now due.

Terry Fox

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of you who supported our fundraising efforts for the Terry Fox Cancer Foundation. Our original goal was to collect \$2.00 per student for a total of \$750.00. We almost doubled that, raising \$1262.00. I have never been so happy to get pies thrown in my face. Because everyone in Mme Sarah's and Mme Nancy's classes brought in a toonie, they also volunteered to get a pie in their face. It was a messy afternoon, enjoyed by everyone, including the pie throwers and the pie throwees alike.





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Halloween

Students are welcome to wear their Halloween costume Friday October 29th if he/she/the choose to do so. Please contact your child's teacher about their plans for the day and when they will expect their students to change back into their street clothes. Please remember the following guidelines when choosing a costume to wear to school:

- No masks
- No weapons
- No ultra-violent or gory costumes/make-up (we don't want to frighten the younger students)



Because of COVID-19 restrictions, there is no sharing of homemade goodies. However, if you would like to send individually pre-packaged goodies for your child's class, you are welcome to do so, but please check with your child's teacher first. Also keep in mind that there are many food allergies at our school.

Pumpkin Carving Contest



The PAC is organizing a Pumpkin Carving contest for us. Students are invited to carve or decorate a pumpkin at home and bring it to school on Thursday October 28th to enter in the contest. There will be a small fee to enter the contest as there will be prizes given, but all classes are welcome to come down to the gym to view the pumpkins on Friday, October 29th.

Lost and Found

Our Lost and Found boxes are already almost completely full. Please make sure to label your child's belongings so that we can get them back to him/her/them when we find them. This includes masks and water bottles.



Supervision

While we have supervision after school until 3:15 pm, it is intended for bus students. If your child would like to stay after school to play on the playground, it is your responsibility to arrange supervision for him/her/them. Lately we have seen students waiting until 3:30 or later for their parents/guardians to come pick them up. If for some reason you are running late (i.e. behind



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unexpected traffic, extenuating circumstances) and will be later than 3:15, please call the office so we can have your child wait in the office for you to arrive.

Lunch Time Activities

With the loosening of some Health and Safety restrictions, we are no longer in cohorts, allowing us to offer some lunchtime activities.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Drawing Club Volleyball (Tier 1 Girls)	Volleyball (Tier 3 Boys)	Volleyball (Tier 3 Girls)	Board Games	

For the Board Games Club on Thursdays, if your child/ren have a board game or card game that they would like to play, they are welcome to bring it to school. If it has a lot of small pieces, I would think twice about bringing it, as the likelihood of losing one of these pieces is high.

Health and Safety

All students and all adults are required to wear masks in all areas indoors. If for some reason your child cannot wear a mask, please connect with your child/ren's teacher to let them know.



This is just a reminder that you need to continue assessing your child/ren daily for symptoms of illness before sending them to school. If your child/ren have any of the following symptoms, he/she/they must stay home and are not to enter the school:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Difficulty breathing
- Diarrhea
- Nausea and/or vomiting
- Extreme fatigue or tiredness
- Body aches
- Loss of appetite
- Headache
- Loss of sense of smell or taste



***If your child/ren experience symptoms consistent with previously diagnosed conditions, he/she/they may continue to attend when they are experiencing these symptoms as normal. If he/she/they experience any new or unexplained symptoms, you should call 811 to seek assessment by a health care provider.



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Safe Arrival

A big thank you to the many of you who are using the **SchoolMessenger Safe Arrival app** or phone number 1-844-350-2647 to report your child/ren's absences. SD73 is asking that if you are reporting your child's absence as illness, to please designate the appropriate type of illness that applies to your child. Interior Health needs to keep track of any abnormalities in our attendance data, in the case that there a health concern that our community needs to know about it. If those options don't appear on the app, refresh the app on your phone.



PAC Meeting and PAC FB page

Our next PAC meeting will take place Thursday October 20th at 6:30pm. Because of the everchanging nature of the Public Health Guidelines, they have decided to hold this meeting virtually via Zoom. Meeting invitation information will come out closer to the date. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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 phone. You may also opt for a weekly e-mail as to the week's upcoming events.

Monday, Oct. 11 th	Thanksgiving (School Closed)
Wednesday, Oct. 13 th	Pumpkin Patch (Mme Viaud and Mme Mélissa)
Thursday, Oct. 14 th	Early Dismissal @ 12:51 for parent-teacher interviews
Tuesday, Oct. 19 th	Pumpkin Patch (Mme Wigness)
Thursday, Oct. 20 th	Pumpkin Patch (Mme Venables and Mme Jayme)
	PAC Meeting @ 6:30pm
Friday, Oct. 22 nd	Professional Development Day (School is not in session for students)
Friday, Oct. 29 th	PAC Pumpkin Carving Contest
	Wear your costume to school (if you want)



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