



# News from the Eagles' Nest

Thursday, September 2, 2021

Welcome back! Weyt-kp

I hope that you all managed to find some time to rest and recharge despite the continued COVID-19 restrictions, evacuation orders and wildfire smoke. I was fortunate enough to sneak away to Vancouver Island for some ocean fishing with my father and got to see my sister and her family after not being able to see them for almost two years. My most important take-away from the challenges we have encountered during the global health pandemic and the destructive wild fire season is the importance of focusing on the joy of time spent with family and loved ones (even if they get on your nerves at time). I am truly grateful for all that I have, and that includes all of you in my EESS community as well.



The entire staff at École South Sa-Hali is very much looking forward to safely welcoming your child/ren back to school next week on **Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 – 12:00**, and then from **8:40 – 2:51\*** daily from September 8<sup>th</sup> onward.

## \* New dismissal time due to 2-week Spring Break

Because there has been some significant movement of students into and out of our school over the summer months, Tuesday and Wednesday September 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, we will be meeting in grade groups, in order to give the school staff time to finalize the school configuration and class lists. Tuesday at 10:30, teachers will meet your children on the field. They will be holding a sign with a grade number on it. It is possible that this will NOT be your child's teacher for the year. After being separated into cohorts last year, we wanted to give students the opportunity to spend time with all of their peers in their grade. Before they leave on Wednesday afternoon, our goal is to let students know to which class to report Thursday morning.



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## Health and Safety

As the health landscape in British Columbia morphs and changes, so must our protocols and routines at school. Although schools continue to be considered low risk settings for COVID-19 transmission, we will have some new routines, based on the **Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings** in addition to the additional restrictions for our health region, in order to help keep students attend school safely. Thanks to the high vaccination rates in B.C., we are starting school in a very different environment than last September. Because of this, there have been some very positive changes to the routines that we had in place last year.

- No more cohorts
  - This means that we can have Big/Little Buddies, Lunch monitors, Leadership activities, etc.
- No more playground zones!!!!
  - Exception – Primary students will have access to the field at recess and intermediate students will have access at lunch.
- Water fountains are available to students once again; however, they are not encouraged. We recommend that students access the water-filling feature at our water fountains to refill their water bottle.
- Volunteers are once again permitted, but must undergo school-specific health and safety training prior to entering the school. Training sessions will be offered this Fall.
- Drop-off and pick-up times will not be staggered. There will be a CEA on supervision at the bus loop at 8:20 am. There will be a CEA on supervision in this area until 3:15 in the afternoon.
- Extra-curricular programming is allowed to take place, which means our athletic program can resume. Unfortunately, the District cannot hold outdoor events with more than 100 people, so X-Country running is not permitted, but volleyball and basketball both fall very easily within the guidelines. As such, we will be looking for parent volunteers to help coach these teams once school begins. Please e-mail the principal [smabee@sd73.bc.ca](mailto:smabee@sd73.bc.ca) if you are interested in coaching volleyball this year.

That being said, we will be keeping some of the routines we had in place at the end of last year.

- **Parents/caregivers** must assess their child daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to school. If their child is ill or is exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19, they must not go to school. There is a Daily Health Check sheet attached to this e-mail. Please print it off and have it somewhere handy for you to do your Health Check before leaving your home.
  - If your child(ren) develop(s) symptoms while at school, you will be contacted to pick him/her/them up as soon as possible. You should then contact your healthcare provider for further assessment.



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- When a student or staff member can return to school depends on the type of symptoms they experienced and if a COVID-19 test is recommended. See the [K-12 Health Check app](#) and BCCDC "[when to get tested for COVID-19](#)" resources for specific guidance. They can also use the [BCCDC online Self-Assessment Tool](#) or call 811 or their health care provider.
- Students in Grades 4-7 and all staff are required to wear masks in all areas indoors.
- Students in Grades K-3 are encouraged to wear a mask.
- Students and all staff should wash their hands frequently while at school:
  - when they arrive at school.
  - before and after any breaks (i.e. recess and lunch).
  - before and after eating (excluding drinks kept at a student's desk or locker).
  - before and after using an indoor learning space used by multiple classes (i.e. gymnasium, library, music portable, etc.).
  - after using the toilet.
  - after coughing or sneezing into hands.
  - whenever hands are visibly dirty.
- The school remains closed to the general public. If you need to enter the school for any reason, please phone the office to make an appointment. Pick-up and drop off must take place outside.
  - However, **we are permitted to have volunteers this year**. Please keep your eyes open for further information regarding this opportunity in the coming weeks. Volunteers will require some special COVID-19 training. A couple training sessions will be offered this Fall.
- Students will be entering and exiting the school via their classroom fire door, as this limits the number of students in the hall at heavy traffic times.
- At this time, we are not allowed to have gatherings larger than 50 people, so assemblies are on hold for right now, but I have my fingers crossed that we will be able to get our entire school population together sometime soon. Our grade 7 students have been waiting many years for the privilege of sitting on the benches at the back of the gym.

## **Two-Week Spring Break**

At the end of the year last year, SD73 was able to re-institute a 2-week Spring Break. In order to make up the loss in instructional time, we needed to add 11 minutes to the school day, hence, the 2:51 dismissal time. Bus schedules will be adjusted to these times.

## **Drop-Off/Pick-Up and Parking**

Drop-off and pick-up times will **not** be staggered like they were last year. There will be a CEA on supervision at the bus loop at 8:20 am in the morning. There will be a CEA on supervision in this area until 3:15 in the afternoon. There is bound to be more congestion in the drop-off/pick up and



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parking areas as I anticipate more families arriving at the same time.

Please keep in mind the following rules for these areas:

- The drop-off/pick-up lane is for that purpose only. **DO NOT** park your car here and wait for your children to walk up, have conversations with other parents, or get out of your car. We need to keep this lane moving as not to back up traffic on the very busy Summit Drive.
- If you need more time with your child in the morning or if they are not down at the pick-up area when you arrive, please park your car in a designated spot either in our parking lot or on a neighbourhood street and wait there.
- **DO NOT ENTER** the staff parking lot. This driveway is used by families walking up to the school, and we want to make sure that it is kept safe for everyone. If you need to access this parking lot for some reason, please make sure that you have appropriate signage on your vehicle or seek permission from either the principal or vice-principal beforehand.

## Staff Members

There are a number of new faces gracing our halls this year. I'd like to take the opportunity to introduce our new vice-principal, Leah Clare. Leah has been in education for 14 years, formally, but she has also learned a lot about children and how they learn, from her own children, most of whom are now adults, ages 28, 25, 23, and 13. Her husband, Andrew, is also in education; he is a teacher at Brock Middle school. Last year was her first year in the vice principal role, and she found herself in Clearwater at Raft River elementary, but also responsible for Vavenby and Blue River elementary schools. She loved her time in the North Thompson, but both she and her family are glad to be back together at home. As a family they like to spend a lot of time outside or at the arena, as her youngest daughter is a hockey player, but she can also be found very commonly with her nose in a book. She is thrilled to be the new Vice Principal at EESS! Please do not hesitate to come introduce yourself to her if you see her out and about or via email: [lclare@sd73.bc.ca](mailto:lclare@sd73.bc.ca)





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Also joining our team this year is Mme Lindsay Schroder, who will be our new Learning Assistance Resource Teacher and Mme Janine Williams who will be teaching Kindergarten with Mme Pam Venables. Welcome to the Eagles' Nest!

<b>EESS Staff Members</b>			
<b>Mme Bolster</b>	Grade 7	<b>Mme Hunter</b>	Library/Literacy
<b>M. Hugues</b>	Grade 7	<b>Mme Cowley</b>	Art/Music
<b>Mme Funk</b>	Grade 6	<b>Mme Schroeder</b>	LART
<b>Mme Wallis</b>	Grade 5/6		
<b>Mme Graf</b>	Grade 5	<b>Mme Franzen</b>	CEA
<b>Mme Mahoney</b>	Grade 4/5	<b>Mme Nevin</b>	CEA
<b>Mme Magalie (T-F)</b> <b>M. Gorman (M)</b>	Grade 4	<b>Mme Farkas (M-W)</b> <b>Mme Partovi Rad (T-F)</b>	CEA
<b>Mme Donas</b>	Grade 3/4	<b>Mme Murphy</b>	CEA
<b>Mme Nancy (M-Th)</b> <b>Mme Spooner (F)</b>	Grade 3	<b>Mme Schafthuzien</b>	Library Aid
<b>Mme Sarah</b>	Grade 2/3	<b>Mme Lynn</b>	AEW
<b>Mme Muraca</b>	Grade 2		
<b>Mme Diederichs</b>	Grade 1/2	<b>Mme Lisa</b>	Secretary
<b>Mme Smith</b>	Grade 1/2	<b>Mme Bergey</b>	Day Custodian
<b>Mme Viaud</b>	Grade 1	<b>M. Coughlan</b>	Night Custodian
<b>Mme Cloet</b>	K/1	<b>M. Black</b>	Night Custodian
<b>Mme Venables (W-F)</b> <b>Mme Williams (M-T)</b>	K	<b>Mme Clare</b>	Vice-Principal
<b>Mme Wigness</b>	K	<b>Mme Mabee</b>	Principal

You may have noticed that Mme Hamson's name is not on our staff list. In exciting news for her, she announced her retirement just a couple weeks ago. We all wish her well as she begins this new chapter in this adventure that we call life.

## Dress Code

There have been some changes to SD73's student dress code, and while I will only highlight some of the most salient points here, please feel free to look it up on the [SD73 Website \(AP 350.2\)](#).

Students must not wear clothing which undermines the District's commitment to a safe and inclusive learning environment. This includes:

- Clothing that promotes the use of tobacco, illegal drugs or alcohol;
- Clothing that advocates illegal activity;



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- The wearing of clothing, insignias, symbols or adornments that denigrate or promote hatred of a person or persons, including, but not limited to, clothing that denigrates or promotes hate based on race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, or age;
- Clothing which contains profanity, pornography or obscene images.

Student clothing must conform to health or safety requirements, including requirements arising from participation in specialized programs and events.

Other than for religious purposes, health and safety requirements, or where required to accommodate a disability, students must not wear clothing which obscures their face.

Please make sure that your child comes to school dressed in order to fully participate in the day's activities. Flip flops are discouraged, as they have a hard time staying on feet. Shoes with laces or Velcro and those which are securely fastened to a person's foot are preferred as they allow for and promote active play at recess and lunch.

## **September 30 and Orange Shirt Day**

You may or may not be aware that September 30<sup>th</sup> has been designated as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, and as such, the school will be closed. This statutory holiday was established to fulfil the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Call to Action #80 and to honour the Survivors of Residential Schools, their families and their communities. It also serves to ensure that the public commemorates the history and legacy of residential schools.

As September 30<sup>th</sup> is typically Orange Shirt Day, and school will not be in session, we will hold our Orange Shirt Day on Wednesday September 29<sup>th</sup>.

## **School Supplies**

School supplies are provided at the school at a reduced rate, and save you the trouble of going out and buying supplies that might not be the right fit. Your child/ren will be coming home with a school supply form on Thursday September 9<sup>th</sup> which explains how much you need to pay. Due to inflation and to COVID, the prices have gone up a bit. This year, we will be moving to an on-line payment process, which is explained below. As this is new to everyone, we will ask you for your patience while we work through the trials and tribulations of this new system. Please take a moment to read the Letter of Intent attached to the e-mail regarding this new online payment system.



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Some important things for you to note:

- Your SchoolCash profile must be created with the same email address you have on record in MyEdBC. The matching is how SD73 confirms that the SchoolCash profile should have access to the student's school fee information.
- Once the primary parent/contact has signed in, **they are the only ones** able to attach additional users to their child/ren by sending an email to anyone they want to give the ability to pay for fees (i.e. second parent/guardian, grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc.). For example, if the mother is the primary contact, the dad won't be able to pay for the kids' fees until the mom grants him access. The primary contact will also have the ability to remove any other users from the account.
- If a parent changes the email address they have on file in MyEdBC they will need to change their SchoolCash profile to match. Any changes in the primary parent/contact in MyEdBC will result in access being removed until the primary parent/contact signs in and grants access.
- Until school fees have been assigned to your child/ren, a parent won't have anything to pay when you sign in. This will be dependent on a combination of the student data file being transferred by I.T. to SchoolCash (which we anticipate starting the week of September 7th) and Mme Lisa having had the time to attach the fees to students.
- The school recommends for you to create your account with SchoolCash to be ready to pay their school fees online and that fees will be assigned once they are available as school schedules are finalized in the coming weeks.
- Also, when you are registering there is a "Say Yes To Email Notifications" that we want to encourage you to say **Yes** to. This will send you alerts when fees are attached to your child/ren and when fees are overdue, etc.

## **PAC Meeting and PAC FB page**

Our school Parent Advisory Committee meets monthly to discuss initiative, issues and plans for fundraising events for our school. They also organize and distribute Hot Lunches each Thursday, which is a big hit for both staff and students alike. Last year the PAC paid for all of the bussing for field trips, and a new set of Chromebooks for our school, and they give each classroom funds to spend on incidentals such as fun art projects, stickers, and other supplies. All parents are welcome to attend all meetings.

Our school's first PAC meeting will take place September 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.



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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.

Tuesday September 7 <sup>th</sup>	School in Session from 10:30 – 12:00
Wednesday September 8 <sup>th</sup>	School is in Session 8:40 – 2:51
Friday, September 17 <sup>th</sup>	Terry Fox Run @11:00 – 12:00
Thursday, September 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Raise-a-Reader Day
Monday, September 27 <sup>th</sup>	Professional Development Day (School is <b>not</b> in session for students)
Sept 27 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup>	Truth and Reconciliation Week
Wednesday, September 29 <sup>th</sup>	Orange Shirt Day
Thursday, September 30 <sup>th</sup>	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – <b><u>School is closed.</u></b>

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. I can't wait to see you and your kiddos next week!

Sincerely,

Susie Mabee