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Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Principal Update April 21st 2021

Spring arrived with little fanfare after a cold and blustery winter. The sun is starting to show itself on a more regular basis, and I think I am finally ready to put away my down-filled coat until next winter. Because the sun has started to make more of an appearance during recess and lunch, it is a good time to remind everyone of the importance of sun safety. It is a good idea to apply sunscreen with an SPT of at least 30 to your child/ren's skin in the morning before coming to school and including an extra tube in his/her/their backpack for re-application at lunch. Hats and sunglasses are also a good idea to keep the harmful UV rays at bay.



This month we had our first Presentation of Learning, and although we weren't able to invite you all into the school to have your child/ren share his/her/their learning, teachers were able to pivot and use alternate ways to communicate his/her/their progress. There were some hiccoughs along the ways, as not all teachers used the same means of communication or style of presentation; however, we are all trying to adopt a growth mindset here and are striving to do better next time, hopefully in person. Because it was the first time we did this type of sharing, we would like to hear from you. If you could take a few moments and complete [this very short survey](#), we would really appreciate it.

During these last few months of school, it will be important for all of us to keep working on our growth mindset and perseverance. When we try new things or when things get difficult, sometimes it seems easier to give up, but we have to remember Les Brown's words "The harder the battle, the sweeter the victory." Parents, when you encounter something difficult, it is very beneficial to tell your child/ren about this challenge and to model to them the strategies that you use to get through these tough times.



May and June tend to be months laden with assessments and evaluations in order for teachers to measure what your child/ren has/ has/have learned over the course of the year, so regular attendance is paramount.

Masks, Water Bottles, and Cutlery

Since the announcement of the new mask mandate by the Provincial Health Officer, we have been going through disposable masks at a markedly increased rate, sometimes even passing out two masks to the same student in the same day. While we understand that it is important that our students are protected, and as such, we will never deny a mask to a student, it is incumbent on these students to be more responsible with the mask that is issued to them and attempt to keep it for more than one day if possible. If your child/ren has/have a reusable mask at home that he/she/they are comfortable wearing, he/she/they are welcome/encouraged to wear it at school as well. Please label your child's reusable mask with their name so we know to whom to return it if/when we find it around the school.

It seems as though I make this comment every update, but students are continuing to forget their water bottle at home. The school will no longer be purchasing disposable plastic cups for students to use, so it will be imperative for your child/ren to bring his/her/their own bottle to school. This goes for disposable cutlery for lunches as well. Please make sure to pack any utensils that your child/ren might need to consume his/her/their lunch.

Dressing for the Weather

Warmer Spring weather is here (finally) and we would like to remind students and their parents/guardians about the expectations for appropriate attire for school:



- **Flip flops**, while incredibly comfortable and convenient, should not be worn to school. We encourage students to be active during recess and lunch and running around in flip flops can be dangerous. Please save flip flops for the beach or pool deck. Running shoes are preferred, as they are needed for Daily Physical Activity (DPA) and PE classes, as well as break time games. Sandals which can be fastened around the child's ankle are also acceptable as they stay on one's foot.



- **Tank tops and shorts** should cover enough to be respectful of the learning/working environment.
- **Hats** can be worn outside, but should be removed upon entry to the school. Please remember that all clothing, including hats, must not include insignias, symbols or adornments that:



- may promote the use of controlled substances, including but not limited to drugs, alcohol, or tobacco,
- feature offensive or vulgar words, pictures or drawings,
- contain phrases and/or pictures of a sexual nature,
- denigrate a person's 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, and/or
- feature a group or philosophy that advocates violence.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation with this matter.

Ticks

It is [tick](#) season. Along with the warmer weather of Spring, comes the arrival of these pesky insects that can be quite a nuisance. Ticks are very common in Kamloops. Ticks are generally



seen as long as the daytime temperature remains above 4°C, though they are most common from February to July. **Ticks** can carry a variety of diseases such as Lyme disease and blood-borne diseases, but those types of **ticks** are not common in the **Kamloops** area.

Because our school is located very close to Peterson Creek Park, the ticks that usually live in the trees and tall grasses do not have far to travel to inhabit our playground. Added to that fact, we have a number of classes that visit the park frequently to do nature walks, ecological studies and DPA in the park. It is a good idea to check your child/ren's for ticks daily.

Parent Input for Student Placement

Each May and June, teachers meet to begin organizing classes for the following school year. Consideration is given to gender balance, learning needs, teaching styles, social dynamics, class size limits, and when possible and appropriate, parent input. Tentative class lists are made through staff conversations before parent input is considered. However, for those families who have significant concerns about their child's educational placement, we welcome you to fill out the Parent Input for Class Placement Form and return it to school by **Thursday, May 21st** at the very latest. While this form gives families the opportunity to advocate for their child's educational needs, it by no means guarantees that their request will be honoured. Ultimately, the School Act, gives the principal the final decision on any child's placement in their school. Please complete **one form per child**, and please note that *name requesting a particular teacher you want or do not want is not the intent of this process.* If you would like one of these forms, please contact either Mme Lisa, Mme Dumas, or Mme Mabee in the office and we will get one to you.

Talent Show

Our 2021 Talent Show is FINALLY ready. Staff has decided to present it to their students during the week of April 27th to 30th. Throughout the week, students will have the opportunity to watch it with their classmates, either all at once, or over several shorter intervals. This is the beauty of a recording, you can pause it at any time and press play when you want. We would like to congratulate our 42 participants. It takes great courage to put oneself out there to be recorded and know that the performance will be showcased in front of the entire school, and this year, in front of all parents and guardians as well. On **Friday, April 30th**, Mme Mabee will email the link to all parents to provide them with the opportunity to watch our talented students. Thank you for your patience and support.



Another big thank you needs to go to Mme Dumas, who has devoted an inordinate number of lunch hours to filming students, and too many evenings to count, piecing the video together with sound and background visuals. If you see her in the halls (students) or down at the bus stop, please make sure to pass on your appreciation to her.

Track and Field

At this point in a typical year, students in Grades 4-7 are usually busy learning and honing their Track and Field skills in preparation for the School, Zone and District meets. As with everything else this year, we are having to adapt in order to comply with the everchanging COVID-19 safety guidelines. That being said, we are planning on having some sort of Track and Field



event this year; however, we are not 100% clear as to what it might look like. Intermediate classes will be doing their own preparation and practicing with their students in cohorts, and we have ear-marked Thursday and Friday June 10th and 11th for our Track Meet mornings. We will need some parent volunteers those days to help with measuring and timing, so if this is something that might be of interest to you please let Mme Dumas know (mdumas@sd73.bc.ca).

Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

I would like to extend a heartfelt “Thank-You” to our hardworking PAC. All of our students are benefiting from the money that they raise with their fundraisers. Recently they have paid for busses for field trips, entry fees to Science Fair, Red Cedar books for the library, and loose parts for story-writing lessons with Mme Hunter. The PAC meets monthly and all parents are invited to attend. The next meeting will take place on **Thursday, May 27th @ 6:30**. They will be holding the election for the 2021/2022 PAC executive positions at the meeting on **Thursday, June 17th**. This year, the meetings have been via Zoom and the invitation is posted on the [South Sa-Hali Elementary PAC](#) Facebook page the day of the meeting. If you’re not already a member of this group, I would recommend that you ask to join, as there is lots of helpful information for parents. Make sure to answer the membership questions in order to be admitted to the group quickly.



Kindergarten Orientation

We will be welcoming our new kindergarten families the morning of Wednesday May 19th. While following COVID-19 safety guidelines, we will offer very short 15-minute sessions for families in the kindergarten rooms so that they can get a look at what the classroom looks like and alleviate some of the anxieties they have about Kindergarten. Each child will go home with a bag full of goodies to help them get ready for Kindergarten in September. Our current Kindergarten students will have a fun morning in the gym! We can’t wait to meet our new families.

Upcoming Events

Monday April 26 – Professional Development Day (no school for students)

Tuesday, April 27th – Spirit Day -Tropical Day

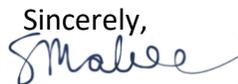
Wednesday, May 19th – Kindergarten Orientation (for new 2021-2022 Kindergarten Families)

Friday, May 21st – Professional Development Day (no school for students)

Monday, May 24th – Victoria Day (School is closed)

For a more detailed account of the school’s events, visit our school website <https://south-sahali.sd73.bc.ca/en/index.aspx> and subscribe to the calendar to have the week’s events delivered straight to your e-mail.

Thanks for staying with me to the end. As always, please reach out if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Sincerely,

Susie Mabee