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Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Principal Update

Dear families,

We are just a few school days (10 but who's counting) away from Spring Break, but we are still very busy learning at school. It's hard to believe that we only have 4 months left this school year. Typically, these last few months is when we really start to see gains in student learning. It is when all of the time spent drilling in those foundational skills starts to pay off, and deeper level thinking starts to emerge. It's also a time when our youngest students start to understand more French and begin to communicate with the adults in the building in French. It is definitely an exciting time of year.

Outside Shoes and a Change of Clothes

As much as we have enjoyed the snow, I have to admit that I am happy to see it leave our playground and field and am looking forward to when the puddles and mud have dried up. Then we have the April showers to contend with. This is the reason we ask that all students continue to bring both indoor and outdoor shoes. Much like you would not like it if someone wore wet/muddy/grassy shoes throughout your home, we don't appreciate it when someone wears these in our hallways and classrooms. It just takes one pair of wet, dirty shoes to make a real mess, which our custodian then has to clean up. Her time is better spent cleaning and disinfecting our high-touch surfaces such as door knobs, bathrooms and lockers, etc., particularly in these times of COVID-19.

On the same note, it is a good idea to pack a change of clothes, particularly for your younger child/ren, in case he/she/they slip unintentionally and get wet. This will allow for a quick change and not necessitate us to call you to bring some dry clothes for your child.

Welcome to New Staff

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce a few new staff members to our South Sa-Hali Eagles' Nest. Mme Kristilee Bolster is back in the folds of Grade 7 after her maternity leave. M. Taylor Featherstone will be joining Mme Nancy's classe on Fridays after Spring Break, as Mme Goertzen begins her maternity leave. We are very happy to welcome these team members!

Student Learning Survey

The Provincial Student Learning Survey is unique in its scope, size and usefulness to schools. It gathers information from parents/guardians/caregivers, teachers and students on topics related to school environment, safety, and achievement. The information is used for planning in individual schools and provides a district and provincial perspective.

The Ministry of Education worked in collaboration with the BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC) to update the parent and guardian/caregiver survey in 2018/19 to

make it more useful for parents, guardians/caregivers, teachers, and schools. Your valued participation is an important contribution to improving the educational experiences of children.

The parent and guardian/caregiver survey is available online in 18 different languages at www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey/access.htm. The survey will be available until **Friday, April 30th** and will take approximately 30 minutes to complete. Any computer with an Internet connection can be used, and access to the e-survey is simple and secure. The survey can be accessed through the link without an anonymous logon code by selecting the school district and school name where your child attends school. Provincial, District and School Reports for previous years can be viewed at the same site under the *Results* section. Your responses are voluntary and anonymous, and your child will not be identified as a result of your participation in the survey. Any personal or identifying information will be deleted before results are stored. Data will be stored and accessible only within Canada.

This Student Learning Survey will be administered to students in Grades 4 and 7, their parents/guardians/caregivers, and all school staff. We encourage parents/guardians/caregivers to participate in this survey, as the results are important in identifying and celebrating current strengths, as well as determining where the school needs to focus improvement.

School Learning Plan

We are creating new goals for our School Learning Plan and would like your input. I have put this survey out a number of times, but I thought I would try one more kick at the can to see if I can get a few more parents to share their ideas. I will close the survey down Thursday, March 4th. <https://forms.gle/ByMWj5pVzbNGobYr7n>.

Staying Home when Ill

A big thank you to all of you who are keeping your child/ren home when they are not feeling well. This is the easiest way to keep the students and staff at school healthy. Just a reminder that the symptoms that you are looking for during your Daily Health Check are: fever, chills, cough or worsening of chronic cough, shortness of breath, loss of sense of smell or taste, diarrhea, nausea and vomiting. As allergy is soon to be upon us, it will be important for you to manage those symptoms at home in order for your child not to be mistaken as ill and sent home.

Scooters, Bikes, and Other Wheeled Items

As the weather gets warmer and the streets and sidewalks are cleared of gravel, students may be more inclined to use an alternate mode of transportation (i.e. scooter, skateboard, bicycle, etc.) to get back and forth to school. While we welcome and encourage these green methods of transportation, we ask that they are not used on school property from 8am to 3pm in order to keep all of the pedestrians safe. Once students arrive to school, we ask that they dismount and walk their equipment to where they plan on storing it for the day. We also ask that all students using these implements wear a helmet.

Water Bottles and Cutlery

We continue to distribute an alarmingly large number of plastic cups and cutlery to students who have forgotten to bring their water bottle to school or have a lunch where cutlery is necessary. When you or your child is packing his/her/their lunch, please take care to ensure that adequate cutlery and a water bottle is included.

ERASE Reporting Tool

I would just like to draw your attention once again to this anonymous reporting tool available to students. If they hear of or see anything about which an adult should know or be aware, (ie. someone is hurting others or themselves, there is an unsafe situation, etc.), they can use this online tool to report it and an adult will respond. The person making the report is kept completely anonymous, but clear information about the person/people in harm's way is needed for a speedy investigation. The tool can be found at the bottom of our [school website](#) or on the [SD73 website](#) by clicking the pink rectangle with the word ERASE on it.



Parking Lot and School Driveway/Staff Parking Lot

It has been brought to my attention that there have been some close calls with regards to students being hit in the bottom parking lot. While I can appreciate that you all have places to get to in a timely manner, it is more important that everyone gets there safely. Please be aware that children's movements are not always predictable, so take your time to back out of your parking space carefully and drive slowly, as not to endanger these students who are walking to their awaiting car.

We have had some complaints from our neighbourhood community about parents parking on the driveway leading up to the school, as cars are parked partly on their private property, destroying their back-alleyway yards. This is a reminder that parents are not permitted to park on this driveway or the staff parking lot. Students are to be dropped off at the traffic loop at the bottom of the hill. Please keep your goodbyes short as not to hold up the traffic behind you. If you need to get out of your car for any reason, please use the parking lot or street parking to do so.

Science Fair

Many of our intermediate classes have been working diligently on their Science Fair projects for the past several weeks. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 restrictions, we are not permitted to open the viewing of these projects to our families and the public this year; however, students will still be able to showcase their learning to our school community. Projects will be on display in the gym on Thursday, March 11th, and students will be able to view them within their cohort. Winners from the fair will participate in the Regional Science Fair at a later date. A big thank you goes out to Mme Funk who organized the fair this year and the teachers for supporting their students in completing their projects. I can't wait to see all of the scientific breakthroughs!

Spectacle de variétés /Talent Show

Mme Dumas and some grade students are in the process of putting together a “Spectacle de variétés” (aka a Talent Show). Here are some important guidelines and dates to remember if your child/children would like to participate:

- Presentations will be limited to no more than 4 minutes.
- Students may only take part in one presentation.
- Students wishing to play piano for his/her/their presentation may be asked to try out on a different day when the school piano is available.
- All music needs to be approved by Mme Dumas for language and content.
- For singing presentations, students will be allowed to use background/karaoke music, but not songs where a singer’s voice is already present.
- If costumes are required for the presentation, they will need to be here for their presentation day only.
- **March 3rd:**
 - 11:45am tryouts for Mme Graf and Mme Magalie’s students in Mme Graf’s class.
 - 12:35pm tryouts for Mme Bolster and M. Hugues’ students in M. Hugues’ class.
- **March 5th:**
 - 11:45am tryouts for Mme Donas and Mme Bournival’s students in Mme Bournival’s class.
 - 12:35pm tryouts for Mme Funk and Mme Moffat’s students in Mme Funk’s class.
- **March 8th:**
 - 11:45am tryouts for Mme Nancy and Mme Sarah’s students in Mme Sarah’s class.
 - 12:35pm tryouts for Mme Charlotte and Mme Muraca’s students in Mme Charlotte’s class.
- **March 10th:**
 - 11:45am tryouts for Mme Jayme, Mme Niwa, and Mme Wigness’ students in Mme Niwa’s class.
 - 12:35pm tryouts for Mme Viaud and Mme Smith’s students in Mme Smith’s class.
- **March 12th:**
 - Participants of our 2021 Spectacle de variétés will be announced.
- **March 12th to March 21st:**
 - Participants refine their presentation for the recording of Spectacle de variétés.
- **March 22nd to 26th:**
 - Recording of the presentations.
- **April 1st**
 - Link to watch all presentations will be made available.

*****Please note that is a proposed schedule that we will do our best to follow; however, as you may very well know, sometimes events pop up that require us to be flexible and change course. We thank you in advance for your patience if we need to change dates or locations.**

Also, because this will be a public video link put on our school website and the PAC Facebook page, a signed media release form will be necessary to participate.

PAC Hotlunch

The link to order hotlunch is once again open for the last few months of school. Ordering for Spring Term will be up and running **Friday February 26th at 8:00am** - it will be open until **March 15th at 10:00pm**. Parents this is just a friendly reminder that late orders will not be accepted. The system closes at 10:00pm so please get your orders in before that!!!

To order please go to www.sses.hotlunches.net You will need your user ID and password that was created with registration in September. Select the Spring Term and place orders for each student. Payment can be made through Bambora with all major credit cards, Etransfer or Cheque (made out to SSES PAC in an envelope labelled hot lunch with your child/ren's names on it.). If you have any questions please email Karlee at sses_hotlunch@hotmail.com , or contact her by message on Facebook.

*Please note that meals will not be held if your child is absent and a refund will not be issued, if your student does not receive their meal, he/she/they will need to go to the office as our volunteers are not responsible for tracking them down.

Upcoming Events

Our much needed and much anticipated Spring Break will take place **Monday, March 15th – Friday March 19th**. Enjoy this week with your family and your COVID-19 bubble.

For your future planning, Easter Break will be **Friday April 2nd – Monday April 5th**.

There will be an early dismissal day on **Wednesday April 14th** to accommodate some sort of presentation of learning. **Students will be dismissed at 11:28 am**. We are currently in the process of determining what that will look like, while maintaining COVID-19 restrictions. The purpose is for students to share with you what they are learning and how they are learning it, and as such, it won't look the same for every classroom or for every student in each classroom. Once we have a clearer picture as to what it might look like, your child/ren's teacher will be communicating it directly to you.

Thank you for taking the time to read to the very end of this very long and informative update.

Sincerely,



Susie Mabee