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Wednesday, March 31, 2021

Principal Update

Greetings parents and caregivers,

Well we thought that winter was behind us, and just like that, Mother Nature said "Psych!!!" The blast of arctic air we had this week was a good reminder for everyone that the weather in Spring can be unpredictable and we need to always be prepared. Watching students arrive to school Monday morning wearing only shorts and hoodies made me shiver to my bones. This is just a friendly reminder that we will be sending students out for recess and lunch, even during inclement weather, so it is imperative that you send your child/ren to school ready for the elements (outside shoes, hoodie/sweater, rain jacket for those wet days, etc.).



New Mask Mandate and Daily Health Check

As I am sure that you are all very aware, there was an announcement by Dr. Bonnie Henry a couple of days ago mandating that all students in Grade 4-7 wear a mask. Since that time, the language has softened a bit to state that we will encourage and support mask wearing on behalf of students in Grades 4-7. All that being said, we are waiting for critical updates to our "Maintaining Safe and Healthy Schools Guideline – COVID 19" document and official word from SD73 as to what we will be doing at an individual school level. As soon as I have those details, I will share them with you. Until that time, your child/ren are most welcome to wear a mask at school.

A big thank you to all of you who have kept your child/ren home when they are feeling ill. We have only had to send home a small number of students due to illness, and that is all thanks to you. That being said, cases of COVID-19 continue to be on the rise in the province, allergy season has now arrived, and it's highly probable that it has been a while since you have looked at the Acknowledgement to Complete Daily Health Check document, so I thought I would take this opportunity to remind you of what you are looking for before sending your child/ren to school.

- Fever
- Chills
- Cough or worsening of chronic cough
- Shortness of breath
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting
- Returning from travel outside Canada in the past 14 days
- Confirmed contact of a person confirmed to have COVID-19

If you have answered yes to **one** of the key symptoms of illness, **EXCLUDING FEVER**, you should stay home for 24 hours from when the symptoms started. If the symptom improves, your child may return to school when he/she/they feel well enough. If the symptom persists or worsens, seek a health assessment by calling 811 or your primary health provider.

If you answered yes to **two or more** of the key symptoms or have a **fever**, you are to seek a health assessment by calling 811 or your primary health provider.

If you answered yes to being a **confirmed contact of a person confirmed to have COVID-19**, you must stay home, self-isolate and take your direction from Public Health.

As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call us at the office and we will do our best to find the answer for you.

One final reminder that parents are not allowed into the school without an appointment. If you need to drop something off for your child, please come to the front door and call Mme Lisa for her to come greet you at the door.

Early Dismissal and Presentation of Learning

Students will be dismissed at **11:28 on Wednesday, April 14th** to allow for our first ever "Presentation of Learning" to take place. In a perfect, non-COVID world, we would have invited you all into the school to visit your child/ren's classroom and have him/her/them showcase all of the fantastic learning that has taken place. Unfortunately, this cannot occur at the moment with the current restrictions in place, so we have been working hard to think outside of the box to find a way for our students to share their learning with you. What we have come up with is a smattering of presentation styles and formats, which may be different for each of your children. Your child/ren's teacher will be communicating directly with you to inform you as to exactly what they have in mind. What will be similar to all of the presentations, however, is that your child/ren has/have some part in the conversation. The goal is for them to present what they are learning with you, and for the teacher to be there as a guide to help prompt discussion and answer any questions that you might have. Some of the presentation formats are as follow:

- Families coming to classroom fire exit doors or an outside table area and students sharing their learning (projects, portfolios, etc.)
- Students sharing digital portfolios at home and teacher is available for Zoom meetings in the afternoon
- Interim report and teacher is available for Zoom meetings in the afternoon
- Video link shared to parents (musical performances for Fine Arts)

Please keep in mind that this is the first time we are doing anything like this, and we are doing it in less than optimal circumstances, so please be patient with us as we try something new and experience some pitfalls and challenges in the process. That being said, we welcome your

feedback, as it will help us to make this Presentation of Learning more effective and meaningful in the future. Please keep an eye open for a feedback survey after April 14th.

You may see this stamp begin to appear on your child/ren’s work. We are hoping that it will help to paint a clear picture of what your child/ren does/do well and areas requiring further development. If you see it, don’t hesitate to engage them in a conversation about what they could do to improve the quality of their work. For those of you who do not speak French: **Émergente** – Emerging, **En voie d’acquisition** – Developing, **Maîtrisée** – Proficient, and **Approfondie** – Extending. This is the language that you would have seen on our most recent formal progress report in February, and will see again on our final June progress report.

	Émergente	En voie d’acquisition	Maîtrisée	Approfondie

Talent Show

It is clear that ESS has lots of talent. Mme Dumas has been working tirelessly to record each performance and put them together in a video for you to enjoy. We have upwards of 50 presentations, so as you can imagine, this is taking a great deal of time to aggregate. As soon as the Show is ready, we will send out the link to you, and we will post it on the PAC Facebook page for you to enjoy.

Student Learning Survey

Each year, the Ministry of Education asks parents to complete a Student Learning Survey to assess the effectiveness of educational programs and to report on student performance and achievements towards system goals such as Human and Social Development and Career Development. If you haven’t already, please take a few moments to fill out the survey located here: <https://www.awinfosys.com/SurveyFull1/central/main/access.asp> . You do not need a logon number. Go to the Direct Access section (highlighted in yellow) and choose our school district (Kamloops-Thompson 73). Thank you in advance for your time and attention to this.

Parents

- Please complete one survey for each child.
- Parents have two options for accessing the survey: either by using a logon provided to you by your school, or by using the Direct (logon-free) Access (please select one of the options below).

<p>With a logon number from your school</p> <p>Logon # <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/></p> <p>Language English ↕</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><input type="button" value="Log On"/></p>	<p>Direct Access — no logon number required</p> <p>District [Blank] ↕</p> <p>School: Please Select District First</p> <p>Language: English ↕</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><input type="button" value="Log On"/></p>
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Roll Shutters

You may or may not have noticed that our school is finally getting roll shutters installed on all of our exterior windows. The majority of schools in SD73 have these already installed and they have gone a long way to limit vandalism damage. Once fully installed and functioning, the shutters will automatically open in the morning well before the students arrive and close well after the students leave for the day. Teachers also have switch in their classrooms to control these shutters manually. They can also be controlled centrally at the office.

PIRLS (Progress in International Reading Literacy Study)

Our school, along with a handful of other schools in the district, has been randomly selected to participate in the PIRLS. The PIRLS is an important study to keep parents/guardians and citizens informed about how our students in Canada are performing in comparison with their peers in other countries. Students in some of our grade 4 classes will begin this assessment mid-April, and it will last only a few days. Parents of students in selected classes will be receiving a letter shortly to inform them of the details and to ask them to complete an online survey. More information on this study can be found here:

[https://www.cmec.ca/399/Progress_in_International_Reading_Literacy_Study_\(PIRLS\).html](https://www.cmec.ca/399/Progress_in_International_Reading_Literacy_Study_(PIRLS).html)

Water Bottles, Cutlery and other Stuff

We have started to go through disposable cups and cutlery quite quickly again at the office. Please make sure to send your child to school with whatever he/she/they will need to eat their lunch and a water bottle that he/she/they can refill at our water stations. Also, please ensure that the water bottle is labelled with your child's name so that we can return it when it indubitably gets lost. The same goes for student clothing. As the weather gets warmer, students tend to take off layers of clothing when they are playing outside, and forget to bring it back inside when the bell rings. It is far easier for us to get the clothing back to your child if it has his/her/their name on it. If you could help us to help you to spend less money on replacing lost items by labelling your child/ren's belongings, that would be great!

Track and Field

Usually after Spring Break the intermediate team begins to discuss Track and Field. Last year, it was cancelled due to the suspension of classes; however, we are meeting in the coming days to come up with a plan that will allow for students to participate in some sort of Track and Field meet, while meeting the COVID-19 safety guidelines outlined by the BCCDC. Because they will be participating outside within their cohorts, I believe we will be able to make it happen this year. We will need a few volunteers to help with timing and measuring. Once we choose dates (probably in mid to late May), I will be looking for volunteers. If this is something that is of interest to you, please don't hesitate to let either me or your child/ren's teacher know.

Community Opportunities

Please see the two documents attached regarding some athletic opportunities available in the community (Soccer and Track and Field).

- **New Children's Recreation Programs at the Boys and Girls Club**

We are excited to offer two new programs for children ages 8-12 at our John Tod Centre starting next month. Girls Group will run every Wednesday from April 14 to June 2 from 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. and Kid Food Nation will run every Thursday from April 15 to June 3 from 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Each of these programs will run for 8 weeks and cost \$125. Registration is required. For more information and/or to register, go to the [website](#) or contact Megan Campbell at children@bgckamloops.com

- **EUREKA! Science Camps**

Are you between the ages of 7-13? Do you love STEM? If so, come join the EUREKA! Science Program this summer for a week of fun-filled hands-on science experience! This summer we will be running week-long camps from July 5 to August 27 and would love to see you there. Registration will open on May 3, so be sure to mark your calendars! Please contact us by phone at 250 371-5534 or by email at eureka@tru.ca if you have any questions about camp! <https://www.tru.ca/eureka.html>

I can't believe that we are in our final three months of the 2020-2021 school year. This is typically when time moves into warp speed, as we work hard to finish the year strong and try to find some meaningful activities and field trips to create some positive memories, which is markedly more important this year than it has been in previous years. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to pick up the phone and call me at the school or send an e-mail. Enjoy the upcoming 4-day long weekend and we will see you all back at school on Tuesday, April 6th.

Sincerely



Susie Mabee
Principal

