
February Newsletter

Dear Parents/Guardians:

It is hard to believe that we have already reached the half-way point of the school year! So much has happened over the past few months for our students with much more to come as we head towards Spring Break and on to the end of June. In February we look forward to celebrating Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day, 100's Day, Jump Rope 4 Heart and Anti Bully Pink Shirt Day. We will also be engaged in Parent/Teacher Conferences, District Wide Professional Development, Student Learning Surveys, Emergency Drills and Mid-term Reports, all in the month of February.

Covid Protocols:

I would like to send out a huge thank you to all our families, students, and staff for their efforts in limiting the risks of Covid transmissions in our school. Despite the very contagious Omicron variant that has rapidly spread throughout our communities, our school has fared very well in limiting its effects compared to other schools throughout the province. Continued vaccinations amongst staff and students, consistent wearing of masks, social distancing strategies (including postponement or cancellation of events), virtual meetings and assemblies, regular hand washing and staying/returning home when sick have really helped most of us remain healthy. During the past month, student absences have averaged about 45 per day, with the majority of those at home due to parental choice, rather than illness. Our staff as well have been able to maintain regular educational programming with only a few absences that have been covered mostly from within our school staff.

As the pandemic progresses, we will be sure to update all of you on any changes to our health and safety protocols, possible outbreaks resulting in closures, or changes to the way in which we deliver educational programs. We are hopeful, however, that over the next few weeks and months we will begin to see a reduction in the number of transmissions in our province and, in the absence of another variant, might be able to get back to normal school life.

School Enrollment/Registration:

Thank you for sharing your intentions for return to school next year with us. We are now looking ahead to September and how best to organize our classes for the next school year based on the information you have provided for us along with any new Kindergarten registrations. Throughout the next few months, we will engage in our staffing and student placement processes in preparation for September. If you have any important information to share with us regarding your child's learning style, friendships, etc. please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher or myself.

Black History Month:

February is recognized as Black History Month and will be discussed in many classrooms across Richmond School District this year. Topics of discussion include prominent Black Canadians, Black Lives Matter and anti-racism.

Parent/Teacher Conferences:

Term 2 conferences are scheduled for in and around the week of Feb. 14th through 18th. Teachers will be sending letters home asking parents to choose a time to meet. Parents are encouraged to attend, either in person or virtually depending on restrictions, and learn about your child's progress at school. Students will be dismissed early at 11:15 on the 17th to help accommodate these meetings.

Emergency Drills:

Parents should be aware that throughout the year we engage in different types of emergency procedure drills in case of fire, earthquake, or other potentially dangerous situations. So far, we have already had some fire and earthquake drills and have reviewed our Hold and Secure and Lock Down procedures with students. We will continue these drills this coming month and beyond to help ensure the preparedness of students and staff during a real emergency.

Jump Rope For Heart:

Our annual Jump Rope for Heart event will take place during the month of February, with the kick-off virtual assembly happening soon. Notices and pledge forms will come home later in the month in support of the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Students who collect pledges or make direct donations will have their names placed in a draw for some fun prizes!

Valentine's Day:

Some of you may be wondering if it is possible, within Covid-19 restrictions, for students to exchange valentines this year. We will be recommending to staff to begin the process a little early this year so that valentines can sit for a couple of days before students receive them from one another on the 14th. Of course, it is up to parents whether or not they want their child to participate, but at least this way all can be assured of enjoying the event in a safe and protected manner.

Anti-Bully – Pink Shirt Day:

Please join us in showing school spirit by wearing a pink shirt on the nationwide anti bully day that takes place on Wednesday, Feb. 23rd. Together, we can take a stand and combat bullying in our schools!

PAC News:

Your Parent Advisory Council continues to meet virtually each month to discuss fundraising ideas, PAC spending and other school related topics. If you are interested in joining the next meeting, simply click on the link below on Friday, February 25th at 10:00am and enter the passcode for access. All parents are welcome to join!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79265786070?pwd=UGxqRC9YUXQ5TnNmYnZRRFJISWpLQT09>

Meeting ID: 792 6578 6070

Passcode: pac

Sincerely,

Darryl Unger