



January 29, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

Re: Information Bulletin

I hope everyone is having a positive start to the new year. It has been a busy January for the District with many updates to share with our students, staff, and families. The District is committed to keeping our school community informed in all aspects of health, safety, and education.

COVID-19 School Exposures

Thank you to students, staff, and parents/guardians for all of your hard work in following COVID-19 guidelines and staying home when sick. The District expects school exposures to happen, as they are a reflection of the community, but we will continue to do our best to keep them at a minimum. To date, our District has had 84 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in 32 of our schools since September. Health and safety of students and staff is our priority. We are continuing to take direction from the Ministry of Education and the Provincial Health Office. The Fraser Health Authority has shared a COVID-19 School Update for Winter containing helpful tips for families, which can be found on our District website [here](#).

SchoolMessenger Notification

Earlier this week, our schools shared information regarding SchoolMessenger, which is a notification system for parents/guardians and students. This tool enables our schools to communicate emergency broadcasts, school information, and attendance alerts to families right away. This service sends out recorded phone messages, emails, and texts for those who prefer to opt-in for that option. As we continue to move to a mobile phone-based world, we want to ensure our communication is easily accessible. Our District believes this service will help us keep up with communications demands which continue to evolve due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If you have any questions about the service, please contact your principal. You can review the letter to the community on our website [here](#).

School Closures

In addition to enhancing communications, the District is always looking at operational improvements. A recent winter storm causing power outages resulted in the closure of six of our schools. It is important to understand, we do our best to keep schools open, as we recognize closing a school impacts students, staff, and parents/guardians. The factors considered in closing a school include the condition or access to the building site, health and safety, student learning, staff work ability, and disruption for families (work/pick-up/drop-off).

With the pandemic and our expanded use of technology, our District is currently reviewing our procedures around school closures. We are working with our partner groups and parent community to gather information and feedback. More information on this process will be shared at a later date.

Here are some items which are under consideration:

- Timeline to communicate potential school closure as a result of a power outage
- Method of communicating school closures (e.g., website, SchoolMessenger)
- Delayed start as an option (e.g., 9:30am or 10:00 am)
- Student learning expectations (e.g., online learning class or posted assignments online)
- Staff work expectations (e.g., work from other District site, work from home)

The District continues to have strong relationships with our partner groups and parent community. We are always ready to listen and make operational changes with health and safety and the best interest of students at the forefront.

School Trustee By-election

As you may be aware, there is a vacant school trustee position on our Board of Education. An election will be held on Saturday, February 27, 2021 to elect one school trustee. All qualified electors living in the Township of Langley will be able to vote in-person or by mail-in ballot (requested by February 15, 2021). As a District, we encourage our staff and families to exercise their right to vote. You can find more information on the Township of Langley's website [here](#).

Anti-Racism in our Schools

As part of our District's vision and mission, our schools foster an inclusive and nurturing culture. We recognize racism in our schools and broader community, and as a District we are committed to instilling anti-racism in our schools. Over the last eight months, an Anti-Racism Working Group comprised of administrators was established to identify racism and develop a plan with strategies to eliminate racism in our school community. Here are examples of our work so far:

- Our District has created a new role, District Principal for Wellness and Diversity, which is intended to focus on the roll-out of an anti-racism plan. The District is pleased to announce Magdy Ghobrial, former principal of RE Mountain Secondary, is taking on this role and is excited to get to work to ensure all of our students, staff and families know and feel that they belong.
- The District, in consultation with the Anti-Racism Working Group, will be reviewing administrative procedures with an anti-racism perspective. Administrative procedures are operational guidelines in schools.
- Administrators have started learning journeys in anti-racism personal and professional development. The next stage is expanding this learning to staff and students, and later on in the year to the broader community.

The District will be sharing more information with the school community next month ahead of Diversity and Respect Week. Moving forward, we encourage families to discuss and share their learning with each other. We are ready to start the journey with the support from everyone in our school community.

Sincerely,



Gord Stewart
Superintendent of Schools

Cette notification est importante. S'il vous plaît demandez à quelqu'un pour la traduire afin d'être bien informé(e) à propos de l'école.

هذه الرسالة مهمة، الرجاء ان تطلب من احد الأشخاص ترجمتها لك لأنها تحتوي على معلومات مهمة من المدرسة

这是一个很重要的通知。请找人翻译它的内容，这样你就可以及时知道学校的情况。

ਇਹ ਸਿੱਖ ਬਹੁਤੀ ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਹੈ। ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਕੋਸੀ ਜਿਸ ਨਾ ਕੋਸੀ ਪਾਸੋਂ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਕਰਵਾਓ ਜਿਸ ਤੋਂ ਅੰਤਰਰਾਸ਼ਟਰੀ ਸੰਬੰਧੀ ਬਹੁਤੀ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਹੋ ਸਕੇ।

이것은 중요한 공지사항입니다. 이것을 번역할 수 있는 분에게 부탁해서 여러분이 학교에서 공지하는 것에 대하여 정확하게 인지할 수 있기 바랍니다.

Đây là một thông báo quan trọng. Xin vui lòng nhờ người dịch để bạn có thể biết thêm những thông tin về trường học.

Este es un aviso importante. Por favor consiga que alguien se lo traduzca para que usted pueda mantenerse bien informado sobre la información de su escuela.

Ito ay isang mahalagang notisya. Mangyari po lamang ay magkaroon ng taong tagasalin ng wika upang ikaw ay maging batid tungkol sa impormasyon ng paaralan.