



## Spul'ukwuks Elementary School

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### Important Information – Please Translate

這是一份重要資訊 — 請找人為您翻譯 这是一份重要信息 — 请找人为您翻译

Mahalagang Impormasyon - Paki salin sa sariling wika

Thông tin quan trọng - Xin tìm phiên dịch

ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਨ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ-ਮਿਹਰਬਾਨੀ ਕਰਕੇ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਕਰੋ/ਕਰਵਾਓ

महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी - कृपया अनुवाद करें

중요한 정보 - 번역 부탁드립니다

Información importante - Por favor traducir

معلومات مهمة - الرجاء الترجمة

重要な情報-翻訳してください

اطلاعات مهم - لطفا ترجمه کنید

January 7, 2022

Good afternoon Spul'ukwuks Families,

Happy New Year! We hope that you enjoyed the break, although a little longer than expected, and are eager to have your children return to school. We are excited to see our students again and to hear about their holidays!

I am writing to share some details with you about how we are preparing to welcome all students back to school on Monday, January 10. As you know, the Richmond School District has worked closely with public health officials and has carefully followed their guidance throughout the pandemic. The health, safety and well-being of students, you as families, and staff remains our top priority.

Within our district, we have implemented health and safety measures as advised by public health, and carefully followed the [Communicable Disease Prevention Plan](#) to reduce the risk of COVID transmission in schools. A few of these measures include:

- Encouraged all eligible members of our community to become vaccinated against COVID-19
- Reminded staff and students to conduct daily self-health checks and to stay home if ill
- Provided a supply of 3 layer disposable masks for staff and students to access
- Updated and modified [ventilation systems](#) to upgrade filters and maximize air exchange
- Ensured frequent and regular cleaning including daily cleaning of high touch surfaces
- Limited visitor access to schools
- Shared information with students and staff in our school about hand and respiratory hygiene, proper mask use and spacing out as much as possible.
- Installed portable handwashing sinks in classrooms without sinks, and hand sanitizing stations

This past week staff at our school have taken time to review our health and safety measures and I want to highlight some key items for you as we prepare for Monday:

- Students will enter and leave through their classroom doors for: morning entry, recess entry/exit, lunch exit/entry, end of day exit
- Handwashing/Sanitizing upon entry/exit to classroom, before and after using class materials, eating, and if hands become dirty

- Increased signage in hallways to indicate where to walk and wait
- Reconfiguration of classroom seating to provide more space between students
- Patterns for traffic flow in classrooms
- More distance between students during activities
- Masks to be worn inside and outside
- Expectations for moving within the school, eating times, playing outside, and using the washroom
- Number of students permitted in the hallway washrooms reduced to 2
- Games played at recess and lunch should not involve touching
- Presentation to be shared in every class on Monday morning to outline expectations
- PAC Hot Lunch has been put on hold for the month of January. Orders will be moved to February (if we are able to resume Hot Lunch)
- Your child's classroom teacher will also have routines and expectations specific to the class

Our Lunch will stay the same (11:55 – 12:47), but we have switched the eating and playing times. Students will eat from 11:55 to 12:15 and will play from 12:15 to 12:45, with a couple minutes at the end to get back to class before 12:47. This will allow teachers to be in the classroom when students reenter at the end of lunch.

### **Support From Home:**

We need all families to work with us and to complete the **Mandatory Daily Health Check** at home every morning before school. DO NOT send your children to school if they show any symptoms of illness. It would be a good idea for families to have a plan for childcare in case their children become ill.

Also, we ask that parents **do not crowd** around outside the classrooms. Please leave your children at the door to do their entry routines on their own. If you wish to watch from a distance, you may. There is not enough room outside classrooms at the front of the school, so you will have to watch from the side of the school and keep the sidewalk clear. Also, please ensure you are distanced from others while you drop off and wait for your children and leave instead of staying and talking to other parents and children.

Students should **bring several masks to school each day** (three-layer are recommended). Occasionally masks are lost or become dirty, so it is helpful if students have more than one. We have some masks to provide to students, but not a great enough supply to be giving masks regularly. You may also wish to review what proper mask wearing looks like.

Please **review expectations at home on a regular basis**. You can remind your children that they should not be touching others and they need to be respecting personal space. Ask them to show you what it looks like...how do they work with someone and respect personal space, how do they play with others, how do they line up, how do they eat snack and lunch, etc.

### **Possible Closure of Schools:**

The school and the district will be monitoring student and staff absences on a daily basis and responding quickly if we see numbers of absences due to illness rising significantly. It is possible that at some point, a school may need to temporarily close because of the impacts of the Omicron variant. This could occur for one of two reasons:

- A 'health closure' of the school would be determined by public health officials because of the number of staff and students who have tested positive with COVID-19.
- A 'functional closure' of the school would occur if there is a shortage of available staff and we are unable to keep the school open for in-person learning and safely supervise students.

As each case would be handled individually, it is not possible to predict exactly how long a temporary closure would be in effect, however it is estimated that most closures would be for approximately seven days. A number of factors would need to be taken into consideration in determining the length of a closure. What we do know is while we hope that

there will not be a need for a temporary closure, we will work hard to ensure we support everyone who is impacted during such a time.

This week, staff spent time planning how to respond should the school need to temporarily close in the coming weeks. In the event of a closure we will notify families as soon as possible. During a functional closure, we will shift to providing remote learning opportunities for students to ensure continuity of learning and course completion. We also hope to be able to continue to provide in-person support during a functional closure for students with additional needs, such as students with special needs and children of essential workers. This will be dependent on the availability of staff and will be determined and communicated at the time of closure.

While we hope there will not be the need for a closure, it is easier for all of us if we are prepared in advance. If you haven't already received an email from the School District about how to access Teams meetings (not Zoom this year), you should soon. Please make sure that you do the set up as soon as possible and don't wait until you hear of a closure to try to get access.

We know these days are challenging and uncertain in many ways. You can continue to count on us to keep you informed and do everything we can to meet students' needs. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. We look forward to welcoming your children back to Spul'u'kwuks as we navigate the upcoming weeks together!

Mrs. E. Stapleton  
School Principal