



From the Raven's Nest...

for Friday, January 7, 2022

Dear Families,

Welcome Back... It has been a very unusual start to the 2022 calendar year, but we are excited to welcome all of our students back on Monday. We have been working to ensure that we have as many continuity plans in place given the potential of increasing illness due to this Omicron variant. We appreciate your support at home, and we will be continuing to reinforce the expectations here at school.

These include:

- **Completing a Daily Health Check prior to coming to school and staying home if you have Covid 19 symptoms.** Please see the attached Daily Health Check document as this is similar to what has been expected all along, but given the nature and transmissability of the Omicron variant this is now more important than ever.
- **Mandatory mask wearing for all members of our community.** Please help by ensuring that you child has a mask (and if possible a second mask in their backpack) before they head for school.
- **Maximizing space between people** – teachers have been working to spread students out as much as possible in classes and we will be asking that students please try to maintain their personal spacing from others at all times.
- **Avoid crowding during drop off, pick up and transitions** – we have changed things a little in that we are asking all students to please line up at their classroom external doors. We are very fortunate that all almost all of our classrooms have doors to the outside (except Ms. Mann's class which will use their regular entrance) and we are asking student to please enter and exit the school through these doors.
- **Holding all school events and gatherings virtually** – we will continue to use Zoom for all meetings and get together until further notice
- **Limiting school visitors-** We know that we were very excited to be welcoming more people back into our buildings, but for the time being this will be halted unless it is to support learning activities. We will still be having our volunteers that help with food and lunch programs, but will be restricting other visitors. If you are picking up your child please call the office (250) 384-7125 and we can sign them out and send them out to you.
- **Pausing extracurricular sports tournaments-** We know how important these activities are to students and are looking at planning intramurals so students will still get to learn and play various school sports. The first will be volleyball so we know there are many students interested in joining our school teams so we believe we have enough to run a great intramural program.

Thank you for taking a few minutes between now and Monday to review these expectations with your child. We will also be having a full school Zoom meeting on Monday morning to ensure that everyone is up to speed on these expectations. I have also attached a letter from our Interim Superintendent that provides an update on the protocols and procedures for the Omicron variant including the potential for school closures.

Please see below for more information about this week's events and activities...

1250 Highrock Ave. Esquimalt, BC V9A 4V7 Ph: (250) 384-7125 Fax: (250) 384-7263

What's happening at Rockheights next week:

Monday, Jan 10th – Students return to school!

Tuesday, Jan 11th -

- 6:30pm PAC meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, Jan 12th -

- Noon - Music Pizza sales

Thursday, Jan 13th -

Friday, Jan 14th-

- Dollar Dog Day – Hot Dogs and Freezies
on sale for \$1 each

Looking Further Ahead:

January 20th – Lockdown Drill

January 24th – Middle School Pro D Day

Transition time

We know that this is the time of year that we start talking about transitions for our outgoing grade eight students as they prepare for high school as well as our incoming grade five students.

Many high schools are offering virtual information sessions for the various programs they offer as applications are typically submitted by the end of the month. These programs include things such as Challenge and sports academies. For instance the Spectrum Hockey academy has an information session next week (Jan 13, 2022 at 07:00 PM

<https://gvsd61.zoom.us/j/66463290343?pwd=M01DU0wzY2NmOUp5MVF2dSsvUIRodz09>)We will be sending home information to grade 8 families, as it is made available, so please watch for it. If there is a program that your child is interested in then please also check the high school websites for upcoming events.

Near the end of January we typically start connecting with our feeder schools as well to start to connect and welcome next years incoming students. It is an exciting time to start to look toward the future so if you have a child in grade five you will likely hear about those late this month.

JUST A REMINDER....

RMS PAC News: PAC Meeting this Tuesday

RMS PAC is a way to stay connected and involved in your child's education. We will be meeting, via Zoom on Tuesday January 11 and hope you can join us at the following

link: <https://gvsd61.zoom.us/j/67088204741?pwd=eDhDd2w0Z2tWVVBjeDdIYUJBMUpNUT09>

We really appreciate your support especially given how challenging these times are for all members of our community. We know that we must keep working together to keep everyone as safe as we can and if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me here at the school

Sincerely, *Mr. Maxwell*

