



*"Home of the Thunderbirds"*

510 Carisbrooke Rd E North Vancouver BC V7N 1N5 p: 604. 903. 3380 f: 604.903.3381 w: carisbrooke@sd44.ca

---

April 26, 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends,

In his letter dated March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021, Superintendent Mark Pearmain addressed the updated Provincial Health Order regarding children wearing masks at school. As you know all K-12 staff and all students in grades 4 to 12 are required to wear non-medical masks in all indoor areas, including when they are at their work stations/desks, both within and outside of their learning group. Of course, there are always exceptions made due to extenuating circumstances. Students in kindergarten to grade 3 are strongly encouraged to wear a mask indoors in schools – both within and outside of their learning group – though mask wearing remains a personal or family choice for these students.

Since that letter staff and student have been learning a lot about mask wearing, mask hygiene and mask etiquette. The World Health Organization has produced a video on children and mask wearing: <https://youtu.be/UmUxYGKA7as> . It is short and covers the 'how to' basics for children. You may want to view it with your child(ren).

Students should put on a clean mask each day, and be ready with a spare mask or two so that they can change throughout the day when it gets wet or dirty. At school we spend a lot of time talking, playing and running around. This means that your child will likely need to change their mask at least once during the day. It may be good to pack a third extra mask just in case.

The school has lots of extra disposable masks that we are happy to give to students if they have forgotten theirs or need an unexpected change. Cloth masks are best however as they are washable, re-useable and are a more sustainable option for our planet.

We are so happy to have your children at school and look forward to seeing them daily! Having said that, our school team is here to support them on their learning journey during this very challenging year. We know that family circumstances are vastly different due to health issues or multigenerational living, and that each family needs to make the best decisions for their context. We support you.

If your family has a period of self-isolation or you are choosing to keep your children home 'just in case', I want to remind you that the Window Into the Week is posted on Microsoft Teams to keep them engaged in their learning program(s). This Window Into the Week is not intended to replace the full classroom program as this is simply not possible. The Window will focus on maintaining connections to ongoing literacy and numeracy programming.

If your child misses large chunks of school please be aware that their report card may only reflect the work that they have been able to participate in. You might see a comment on the report card like: Due to frequent/extended absences the performance standard provided reflects achievement in a limited selection of learning activities. Alternately, you might see something like: Due to extended absences in third term, it is not possible to provide a performance standard in this area.

Neither of these comments are intended to be punitive in nature; they simply reflect the learning experiences of your child(ren) doing the very best they can during a difficult time.

### **Early Dismissal this Wednesday!**

There will an early 2pm dismissal this Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> in support of Staff Collaboration. Our team will be engaged in planning to the end of the year as well as looking ahead to next year. Thanks in advance for ensuring your child is picked up at 2pm on this day.

### **FSA Mail Out**

FSA's completed by grade 4 and 7 students will be mailed to the attention of their parents/guardians this week. Please look for them in the mail.

It is my most sincere hope that you and your family are doing well and that you are able to find calm and joy in the emergence of spring. Please feel free to contact me at the school if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Lisa Upton

Principal, Carisbrooke