



"Home of the Thunderbirds"

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November 27, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends,

The recent increase in the COVID-19 case count across the province is concerning for all of us. To keep our loved ones healthy and safe, and to keep our essential services, and especially schools, in operation, we must continue to practice the behaviours and follow the guidance and orders as shared by Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry.

Last week, Dr. Henry announced that the restrictions that had been in place for the Fraser Health and Vancouver Coastal Health regions would be extended province-wide until December 7, 2020. British Columbians are being asked to **significantly reduce all social interactions, avoid non-essential travel and be vigilant about social distancing, hand washing, and keeping sick children home.**

We currently have a lot of wonderful adults and children on site before and after school to visit and watch children play. In keeping with current Public Health Orders, I respectfully request that parents and guardians **"drop and go"** when bringing children to school, if safe to do so. Similarly, please **depart the school grounds as quickly as possible after school** or advise your 'old enough to walk' children to **go straight home.**

To be honest, having all of you here socializing and enjoying our wonderful community is one of my very favourite things. I miss the Ice Cream Social, the Hallowe'en Dance and all the joy these social opportunities bring. These are "strange days indeed" when I find myself asking you all to go home as soon as possible. As Dr. Henry says, school is a reflection of the community. We must all model social distancing and adhere to Health Orders by not gathering to ensure reduced spread of the virus. My apologies, but this request is coming from a place of caring. This too shall pass.

Foul Weather Gear

With Covid-19 precautions in place, students do not get as many opportunities to move their bodies inside the school as they used to. The preservation of outdoor play time for children is more important than ever to their mental and physical well-being. Please ensure that your child(ren) is/are dressed in water-proof and warm layers so that he/she/they can enjoy outdoor recess and lunch. Students should also have a full change of clothing that can be left at school, including shoes, socks, and pants.

Holiday Sharing

"Soup and Socks": The grade 7's will be collecting cans of soup and cosy, adult-sized socks for Covenant House in support of homeless and at-risk street youth. Covenant House helps youth aged 16 to 24 who have fled physical, emotional and sexual abuse; those who have been forced from their homes; and those who have aged out of foster care.

The Giving Tree: The Carisbrooke Community will be supporting Mountainside Secondary again this year. Seven sponsor families will be identified and assigned for sponsorship to Carisbrooke. Two divisions will contribute to one family, ie. Divisions 1 & 2 will contribute to one family, Divisions 3 & 4 to another and so on. Here is the plan:

- One sponsor family is assigned to two divisions.
- Office sets up online sign up. Community sign up will begin Monday, November 30.
- Families sign up online and start buying. The donation is sent to school with child(ren).
- Teacher secures items, labels any gift cards and brings them down to the office to go into the safe. Be sure to label the gift cards.
- Teachers check class online sign up periodically to encourage sponsorship.
- Classrooms make gift tags as appropriate and attach to each gift.
- **Deadline to bring in gift items is Friday, December 11th.**
- School team organizes hampers and coordinates transfer of items to Mountainside.

First term is almost finished and soon the holidays will be upon us! Keep doing your daily health checks and please do not send even mildly ill students to school.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Lisa Upton
Principal, Carisbrooke