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October 30, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends,

Happy Hallowe'en! We wish you all a COVID safe and healthy Hallowe'en weekend.

Hallowe'en and after -

People often come to the school grounds to set off Hallowe'en fireworks. While this is not preferred, I understand that some folks do not have an alternate space to do this safely. If you must set off fireworks, please **pick up after yourself**. Left over explosives on school property are not ideal, and definitely not safe for children. Our custodial team is busy keeping the inside of the school COVID safe and clean. It is not fair to expect them to clean up after your fireworks.

From the Superintendent-

On Wednesday, October 28th, Superintendents Mark Pearmain, NVSD, and Superintendent Chris Kennedy, WVSD hosted a Q&A session with Dr. John Harding, Vancouver Coastal Health's new Medical Health Officer for the North Shore. Dr. Harding provided our community the opportunity to have their COVID-19 questions heard and answered, and for keeping all of us informed. The [recorded session](#) is now available for viewing on our school district Vimeo account. Chapter markers are included for your convenience and highlight each question asked. I highly recommend that you watch it.

Send in updated comfort kits -

Many thanks to the CPAC volunteers for distributing the old comfort kits. Please replenish or update the kit and return to the school by Friday, November 6th. CPAC would like to get the kits back into the emergency container so that we are ready 'just in case'.

Comfort kits can include: pocket-size travel games (snakes-and-ladders, checkers, chess or a puzzle), an activity book (I-Spy, Where's Waldo, crossword or word searches), a snack or gum, a note from you, tissue, a rain poncho and a silver emergency blanket.

Cold and wet weather ahead!

Please ensure that children are dressed for the weather, rain or shine. We are spending a great deal of time outdoors so warm jackets and rain gear are a must. Hoods and umbrellas up please. Consider keeping an extra set of shoes and socks in the classroom.

Student-Family-Teacher Conferencing

Student-Family-Teacher Conferences are coming soon, November 16-19. Please stay tuned for specific booking information. All conferencing will occur remotely, either through MS Teams or by phone and will last 20 minutes. There will be early dismissal at 2pm on each of these days, so please plan for early pick-up and/or childcare as appropriate. Please come with goal suggestions and any academic questions you may have ready to go.

Home as a learning place

Now is the time to think about what items your child may need at home in case a hybrid or 'learning from home' stage is mandated. Keep it simple; no Pinterest searches required! Consider how much supervision your child(ren) may need to complete their work, and identify a homework location accordingly. Pick a quieter space and set up a bin with the basics (paper, pencils, erasers, pencil crayons, etc.).

Children and Covid-19 (From the BCCDC website)

Children (ages 0 to 18) are at low risk of catching and spreading COVID-19. Child care and schools can be operated safely by following public health safety measures and guidelines. These include staying home when sick, minimizing physical contact, practicing excellent hand washing, good cough and sneeze etiquette and frequent cleaning and disinfection. Parents and caregivers should assess their child daily for key symptoms of illness before sending them to school. Appendix C of the [Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools](#) provides an example of a daily health check.

What will happen if there is a COVID exposure in the school community?

Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) is in charge of all public health decisions, including those impacting the Carisbrooke School community. If there is an exposure VCH will contact individuals and family DIRECTLY. Only public health can determine if students or staff may have been exposed. VCH will advise you of next steps, which might include testing, self-isolation or self-monitoring.

"Self-isolation means staying home and avoiding situations where you could come in contact with others. You may have been exposed to the virus and are at risk for developing COVID-19 and passing it on to others. You should not self-isolate in a place where you will be in contact with vulnerable people, such as seniors and individuals with underlying health conditions.

Self-monitoring for COVID-19 means you pay attention to your health, and record daily your temperature and any COVID symptoms. Self-monitor for 14 days from when you returned to Canada or were last exposed to a COVID-19 case. The symptoms of COVID-19 are similar to other respiratory illnesses including the flu and common cold and can also include gastrointestinal symptoms such as diarrhea, nausea and vomiting (From the [BCCDC FAQ](#))."

Coming up in November

11: Remembrance Day. No school in session

16/17/18/19: Early Dismissal at 2pm for Student-Family-Teacher Conferencing. Conferences will take place online or by phone only. Come prepared with goal suggestions and any questions (social, emotional, academic, etc.) that you might have.

I hope that you enjoy an extra spooky weekend! Please contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Lisa Upton

Principal, Carisbrooke