

# Newsletter

## Principal's Message

Dear families,

Welcome back to school. I hope that everyone enjoyed a wonderful, rejuvenating spring break with family and friends.

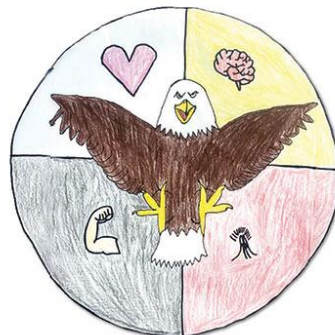
As we return to school this week we will focus on indigenous knowledge with the theme of well-becoming through emotional, physical, intellectual, and spiritual Indigenous values. We are looking forward to our 9th annual Day of Sucwentwecw on April 7th, 2022. The Day of Sucwentwécw (Acknowledging One Another) is an annual initiative to recognize and celebrate the Secwépemc People (Secwepemcúl'ecw) and other Aboriginal people residing within the Secwépemc Territory.

This year's theme "Wellbecoming" is based on the First People's Principles of Learning and the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions Calls to Action. The First People's Principles of Learning is incorporated into the content of the BC Curriculum and so is the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action which calls to "integrate Indigenous knowledge and teaching methods into classrooms."

We are looking forward to having Noreen Pankewich join us this year on Thursday morning as we celebrate, learn, play, sing, create, and dance together.

Jennifer Boyle, Principal

### Day of Sucwentwecw "Yiri7 Sxyentwecw-kt" April 7th, 2022



Well-becoming through emotional, physical, intellectual, and spiritual Indigenous values.

Poster design by Teresa Seymour, Grade 6 Parkcrest Elementary School



## HEFFLEY ELEMENTARY

### Upcoming Events

- April 7<sup>th</sup> .....Day of Sucwentwecw
- April 8<sup>th</sup> .....Pizza Day
- April 8<sup>th</sup> .....PAC Meeting
- April 15<sup>th</sup> .....Good Friday  
.....Closure
- April 18<sup>th</sup> .....Easter Monday  
.....Closure
- April 25<sup>th</sup> .....Pro D Day  
.....Closure
- May 20<sup>th</sup> .....Pro D Day  
.....Closure
- May 23<sup>rd</sup> .....Victoria Day  
.....Closure
- May 28<sup>th</sup> .....Bottle Drive
- June 29<sup>th</sup> .....Last day of Classes

For a full list of events, visit the [Events Calendar on our school website](#).

To receive email updates of events, click on "Sub-scribe" (located above SAT on the events calendar).

## After School Care Next Fall

We are looking into the possibility of after school care from the Boys and Girls Club next fall. We would need to have enough students registered for this to be feasible (Max 12). After school care would cost about \$250/month but families can apply for affordable care subsidies. If you or you know someone who would be interested in having your/their child attend next year, please contact the school. If we have enough interest, it could help families needing after school care at Heffley Creek.

## Early Pick up/Drop off

Please note, although we have early supervision for **bus students**, we do not encourage drop off before **8:00 am** for all other students. At the end of the day, we encourage students to stay and play together but we ask that parents are actively engaging and supervising their children. We want everyone to feel safe and included at our school at all times. We continue to encourage imaginative and creative play, but do not allow reenacting of violent video games or pretend play with weapons. We discussed this with all students but ask that you remind your child as well. Thank you for your continued support.

## Student Transfers for 2022-2023

Requests for a transfer to another school for the coming school year will be accepted starting on March 1, 2022, and ending at 12:00 noon on Thursday, September 1, 2022. As per Administrative Procedure 305, "only transfer requests submitted in writing to the receiving principal, and approved by the student's parent/guardian, shall be considered".

## Easter Break

Enjoy your Easter together. There is no school on Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> or Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Easter is on Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. Have a fantastic time collecting Easter eggs!



## PAC News

The next PAC meeting will be on Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm at the school. All parents and guardians of Heffley Creek students are invited to attend.

On Thursdays, students can purchase snacks, such as granola bars, chips, cookies, applesauce goldfish, bear paws and juice boxes. All items are \$0.50. Students, who purchase snacks will have their name entered into a weekly draw for a free snack of their choice.



The next Pizza Day will be Friday April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022.



Save your bottles and empties. We will be hosting a bottle drive on May 28<sup>th</sup>.

## In the Classroom

March was a short but busy month. The students have been enjoying the warmer temperatures and dryer conditions. They can go out into the field and play soccer, baseball and tag games. Designing and making Leprechaun traps was a hit with all the students. They had a choice to work on their own or with a partner. On the first day they had to decide on the materials they were going to use and then plan and draw their trap. The next day they got down to cutting, gluing, taping, and constructing their trap. On March 17<sup>th</sup> Mrs. Lord informed us that there were tiny green footprints throughout the library. We went to investigate and sure enough tiny green footprints were all over the students' traps. The Leprechaun almost got caught in Gemma's and Banks' trap (a piece of the Leprechaun's clothing was left behind). The Leprechaun was so generous, he/she left some treats for the children's efforts in trying to capture him/her.

Ms. Claudette  
Silva





## 100s Day

Students shared various collections of 100 things as part of our 100s day school celebrations.



# Communicable Disease Prevention

On Thursday, March 10, 2022, Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry announced changes to safety measures for K-12 schools, which are detailed in the [Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#). These changes started on the first day of Spring Break, which was **March 21, 2022** in our district.

## Summary of Safety Measures:

- Continue daily health checks, stay home when sick, and practice hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.
- Return to classroom and learning environment configurations and activities that best meet learner needs and preferred educational approaches. We will consider strategies to create space between people.
- For events with visitors in schools (e.g., parent/caregiver spectators):
  - Should not exceed 50% capacity and proof of vaccination should not be implemented while the PHO Gatherings and Events Order is in place.
  - When the PHO Gatherings and Events Order is lifted (expected end of day April 7, 2022), we can return to 100% capacity.
- Follow routine sign in/sign out practices. Schools do not need to keep a list of the dates, names, and contact information of visitors for communicable disease prevention purposes.
- Continue field trips, and schools should make every effort to avoid venues/locations that place additional requirements that could prevent a person from being able to participate. If the trip cannot occur otherwise, schools can require participants to confirm they are able to meet additional requirements (e.g., are able to provide proof of vaccination).
- **Wearing a mask or face covering is a personal choice.** A person's choice is to be supported and respected. **If you have been travelling internationally, please see the explanation as to requirements for masks in schools as provided by the Ministry of Education.**

On March 28, 2022, Deputy Minister Zacharuk communicated the following information about **International Travel Requirements** with respect to wearing masks after travel:

*Following Return to Canada from international travel, staff, students, and families are responsible for understanding and adhering to all COVID-19 international travel requirements outlined by the Government of Canada, including those required following return to Canada.*

*Requirements currently include that adults and children (aged 5 and older) who travelled internationally must wear a well-constructed and well-fitting mask in indoor and outdoor public spaces, including K-12 schools, for the first 14 days after entry. **This means wearing a mask at schools is not a personal choice for those who have travelled internationally for 14 days after entry.***

Adults and children must also monitor for symptoms for 14 days after entry and follow federal requirements for self-isolation and quarantine if symptoms develop and/or they test positive for COVID-19. When there are differences between federal and provincial rules, individuals must follow the stricter rules. Full details on requirements for travellers are available [here](#).

### [Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings.](#)

## SchoolMessenger

SD73 enhanced SchoolMessenger in January. We hope you have now wet up text messages as an option for the SchoolMessenger announcements. This enhancement is to provide more choice to parents on how they receive important information from schools.

The benefits of SchoolMessenger include:

- Parents can choose how to be notified (email, phone call, text message)
- Absences are easier to report at 1-844-350-2647, on the app, or website
- More timely notification in an emergency
- Schools can respond faster when a student is unexpectedly absent

## Safe Arrival

Heffley Creek Elementary uses an automated safe arrival system called SchoolMessenger. The system handles parent contact (including phone calls) when a student absence is unexpected, and will allow parents to interact directly with the system in a variety of ways:

- By phone either when the system calls, or when a parent initiates a call to notify of upcoming absence
- By internet through login, controlled webpage interface
- By smartphone app (iOS and Android versions available for free)

Toll-free number to call: 1-844-350-2647. Website for parents' access: [asp.schoolmessenger.ca/ktsd73](http://asp.schoolmessenger.ca/ktsd73)

Parents use the above method to report student absences rather than phoning the school. We ask that parents please report student absences before 8:30 am on the day of the absence, although the system also allows for reporting of student absences long in advance for holidays, trips, etc. For tech-savvy parents, we encourage you to download the iOS or Android apps for free from their respective app stores. To find the app, search for SCHOOL MESSENGER and install the free app.

Please always be sure to inform the teacher of your child's absence as well so that they are aware of any sickness or trips planned and to plan for instruction missed.

## Rapid Antigen Tests

Ministry of Education is supplying one box of 5 rapid antigen tests for every student enrolled in Heffley Creek Elementary school. If you haven't already, parents can pick up a box of 5 tests per child at the school office. These rapid antigen tests will come with instructions for how to properly administer the test at home. For more information on using rapid antigen tests please refer to the [BC Centre for Disease Control Rapid Testing at Home website](#).

## Cashless Schools

### Why Use SchoolCash Online?

[SchoolCashOnline](#) is a convenient, secure way to pay for your children's school fees, field trips, and activity fees.

Use this [cashless schools](#) link for more information.

