

Newsletter

Principal's Message

Dear families,

Spring is almost here! It is incredible how quickly the winter has sped by, and it has been wonderful to see the sun coming out spring is on the horizon!

February at the school was dedicated to kindness, and the staff and students took part in several activities to promote kindness within our school. We spent the month celebrating diversity while promoting acceptance, respect, and compassion towards each other. The month culminated with our pink shirt day. I was proud of the students who shared what kindness meant to them and had a kindness challenge for their fellow peers.

We had an amazing time together at McQueen Lake. It was wonderful to see the students completely engaged in learning. What a special day!

Let's take care of one another and make sure everyone feels safe, supported and included. The students have all been working hard and I encourage them to get outside and enjoy the fresh warm air!

The next two weeks will be filled with St. Patrick's Day fun and exciting learning opportunities. I hope that everyone has a restful spring break, and we look forward to seeing the students continue to work hard when they return.

Jennifer Boyle, Principal



**HEFFLEY
ELEMENTARY**

Upcoming Events

- March 21st - April 1stSpring Break
- April 8thPizza Day
- April 8thPAC Meeting
- April 15thGood Friday Closure
- April 18thEaster Monday Closure
- April 25thPro D Day Closure
- May 20thPro D Day Closure
- May 23rdVictoria Day Closure
- May 28thBottle Drive
- June 29thLast 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).

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration for the 2022/2023 school year is still open. To be eligible for attendance in kindergarten in September 2022, a student must be five years of age by December 31, 2022. Please bring your child's original birth certificate, BC Services Card, and proof of address with you when registering as well as any legal documentation concerning custody (if applicable).

Please refer to [Heffley Creek Elementary](#) website for more information on registration and policies, such as: Administrative Procedure 305 School Boundaries and Student Transfer Request.

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 would be interested in having your child attend next year could you, please contact us at the school. If we have enough interest, it could help families needing after school care attend Heffley Creek.

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

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, although we encourage students to play, we ask that parents are here to supervise their children, unless they are bus students. Thank you for your continued support with this.

Reminders

All Parents are to complete a [STUDENT HEALTH CHECK](#) daily for your child.

MASKS are MANDATORY for Gr. K-3.

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.

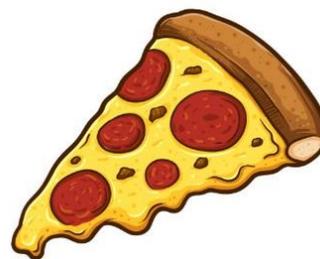
Please always be sure to inform the teacher of your child's absence as well so that they are aware of any sickness or trips planned and to plan for instruction missed.

PAC News

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

The PAC is starting up the Thursday lunch time concession this week. 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 8th, 2022.



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

In the Classroom

February has been a busy month for Heffley Creek Elementary. We started off learning about groundhogs and Groundhog Day. Most of us are hoping for an early spring. We had a fabulous day at McQueen Lake. The children experienced snowshoeing and "pond ice fishing" with Mr. Deptuck. Valentine's day was low key. The children enjoyed handing out their Valentine cards and eating chocolate at the end of the day. Finally, we kept track of the medals that Canada received during the Winter Olympics. We even spent lunch time watching various events. During P.E. we had a chance to have a "skeleton" or "luge" race (using the scooters) and "socks" speed skating race around the gym.

Ms. Claudette Silva



School Visitors and Gatherings

The Ministry of Education has updated the information on school visitors and assemblies, gatherings, and events on their K-12 Covid-19 safe schools’ website

Below is a summary of the changes and the implications of these changes:

School gatherings and events. There are no capacity limits on school gatherings and events where attending staff, students, and necessary volunteers are all from the same school. This includes:

- Large gatherings, like school assemblies
- Staff gatherings, like meetings or professional development activities

At gatherings between schools, or school events involving participants or spectators from outside the school, attendance is limited to 50 people or 50% operating capacity (whichever is greater). This includes:

Proof of vaccination is not required for attendance at school-led gatherings and events.

Visitors are no longer limited to those supporting activities of direct benefit to student learning and wellbeing.

Masks continue to be mandatory for all students, staff, and visitors. Thank-you for sending your children with a mask that fits them. We will continue with the other safety procedures as well found below:



Disclosure about information collection
No personal information is collected by this application. Grade ranges are collected to better understand the application age usage demographics.

[Download the K to 12 Health Check Mobile App](#)



Communicable Disease Prevention

- Parents/caregivers and students should use the [K to 12 Health Check App](#)
- Staff and other adults can refer to the [BCCD's When to get tested for Covid-19](#)
- Staff, students, and visitors can refer to the [Daily Health Check](#)
- Staff, students, parents/caregivers can also use the [BC Covid-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#), or call 811 or their health care provide
- All K-12 students, staff, and visitors to wear face coverings in school and on buses
- For families with children who are unable to wear a mask due to diverse needs, families will contact the Principal to work together to explore solutions and alternate arrangements using the [Covid-19 planning resource: mask exemptions](#)

Rapid Antigen Tests

As per the [Ministry of Education's announcement on February 1, 2022](#), The Ministry of Education is supplying one box of 5 rapid antigen tests for every student enrolled in a school in the province. 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.

