



November 9, 2020

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Principal: Mr. Steve Laird

Vice-Principal: Mrs. Deborah Chenier

Dates to Remember:

Tuesday, November 10th – Remembrance Day ‘reflections’ in classrooms (11:00-12:00)

Wednesday, November 11th – Remembrance Day Holiday

Friday, November 13th – Celebrate ‘Diwali’

Wednesday, November 18th – PAC Meeting @ 6:30 in Big Gym

Friday, November 20th – Theme – Crazy Hair Day

Thursday, November 26th – Term #1 - Report Cards Home

Friday, November 27th – Non-Instructional Day #3 – No school for students

Wednesday & Thursday, December 2&3 – 1 Hour Early Dismissal (Dismiss @ 1:23)

Wednesday, December 16 – Theme – Red & Green Day

Thursday, December 17 – Theme – Christmas Hat Day

Friday, December 18 – Theme – P.J. Day

Monday, December 21 – Friday, January 1 – Christmas Break

Monday, January 4 – Students back to school

Celebrating a Resilient and Positive School Community

This year has been one like no other. When we were told that the world was in a pandemic, back in March, we had no clue what the future would hold, and for how long it would last. For the first while, in stage 5, everything was closed, including school. Throughout April and May, we entered Stage 4, and became accustomed to on-line learning, and, at Godson, day camps for the children of emergency service workers. On June 1st, we entered stage 3, when about 30% of Godson students returned to some face to face learning, and all students continued with some on-line learning. In August, it was announced that we would move to stage 2 of school opening. For Elementary schools, this meant full time face to face learning again, with the added option of transition/blended learning. Currently we have 12 divisions of face to face learning classes (back full time), and 3 divisions of transition classes (with online classes in the morning, and now attending two on site afternoons per week). This has been a whole lot of change in a short amount of time. When I reflect on it, I am amazed that we have all survived the quick pivots and turns.

As I look at this year, I am of two opinions. On the one hand, I am so grateful that staff and students are (mostly) back to school face to face, (with the plan of all students being back full time in the new year). The decision to have students return to face to face learning, was, I believe, critically important. The research shows that most children learn best when interacting directly (face to face) with a teacher. It also appears that most children need socialization with varied adults and peers to develop stability, security, and confidence. Face to face learning is vitally important!

On the other hand, to stay safe, we are required to do some things differently: keep students in cohorts of up to 60 people (2 classes); cohorts use designated washrooms; stagger start times, recesses, lunches and end times; eliminate school assemblies in favor of combined cohort gatherings; no non-staff adults in the school; wear masks in common areas and in non-cohort rooms et cetera! While there has been a lot to adjust to, it has amazed me to watch the resilience and positive attitudes of the students, staff and families as we have gotten used to this 'new norm'. It is proof that we can find ways to live and thrive within such unusual circumstances.

Here's to a good year ahead. Let's celebrate the fact that students and staff are back together. This far outweighs any obstacles or challenges we face.

Remembrance Day Reflections –Tuesday, November 10th @ 11:00 AM

As we are not able to have school assemblies at this time, our Remembrance Day activities will need to happen in classrooms. This Tuesday, November 10th @ 11:00 AM, our activities will be started with me coming on the PA, sharing the indigenous acknowledgement, leading in O Canada, and in the moment of silence, then letting students know that the remainder of the service will happen in their classroom, as they review short videos songs, poems, and reflections of from Godson classes and groups of students. It is the first time it has been done in this way. Although it is very different from the norm, we felt strongly that time due to the regard we as Canadians have for the men and women who have fought to keep peace in our world, Remembrance Day reflections needed to happen again this year. The time and efforts of many Godson students has allowed us to all enjoy Remembrance Day reflections again this year.

AM/PM Parking Issues – Warning - Police and Parking Bi-Laws will be Ticketing

Student and public safety are top priority. As such, police and bylaws officers will be ticketing vehicles illegally parked or blocking residents' driveways, emergency service vehicle routes, or in the middle of the cul de sac. If you are having a difficult time finding a legal place to park, I would like to offer a few suggestions:

1. Connect with another family and carpool (I would suggest alternating weeks, so it is equitable)
2. If you live close to the school, walk your child to/from school each day
3. Arrive early (20-30 minutes before the bell) to get a limited parking spot, and have your child/ren remain in the vehicle with you until staff supervisors are in place
4. Park in the Mill Lake parking lot on the North side of Bevan, across from the school, and walk your child/ren across the pedestrian cross walk and to the school. There is often lots of space in this parking lot, and it is not a restricted use lot. And, the walk is not too far.

COVID-19 symptoms in comparison to the flu and the common cold

Symptoms	Coronavirus Symptoms range from mild to severe	Cold Gradual onset of symptoms	Flu Abrupt onset of symptoms
 Fever	Common	Rare	Common
 Fatigue	Sometimes	Sometimes	Common
 Cough	Common (usually dry)	Mild	Common (usually dry)
 Sneezing	No	Common	No
 Aches and pains	Sometimes	Common	Common
 Runny or stuffy nose	Rare	Common	Sometime
 Sore throat	Sometimes	Common	Sometime
 Diarrhea	Rare	No	Sometimes for Children
 Headaches	Sometimes	Rare	Common
 Shortness of breath	Sometimes	No	No

Sources: World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Animals on School Grounds

A reminder that animals are not allowed on school district property. Please do not bring your dogs to school when picking up or dropping off your child.

Weather

It looks like the rains might be here for a while, and it is important that students are ready for the cooler, wetter weather. At school, this means raincoats, boots, hats and gloves, as needed, even umbrellas. All too often children show up at school unprepared to be outside. As parents, please make sure your child(ren) are prepared for the weather. Thanks in advance!



Lunches

We ask that students to bring their nutritious lunch each day. We also ask that the students' lunches and snacks are nutritious – what we call “Brain” food (no pop, no chips). Please note that hot lunches cannot be dropped off at the school at this time.

Leaving Early

Does your child need to leave early for an appointment? If yes, please make sure you message the teacher and/or office beforehand. This way, the teacher will have him/her ready for the time required.

Parent Advisory Council

Next PAC Meeting: Wednesday, November 18 @ 6:30 pm - Big Gym - Join us!