



Evans Elementary School

Parent Week at a Glance
January 10th – 14th, 2022



Chilliwack
School District

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Mrs. Annette Morelli, Office Administrative Assistant

Hello Evans Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome your family back to Evans elementary in 2022. I hope your family had an excellent break (albeit somewhat extended) and your child is excited to connect with friends and be in school once again. Over the last week we have made some changes over how our school operates. ***Please carefully have a look over this Week at a Glance as these changes will impact all families and their children.***

Enhanced Health and Safety Measures – Our goal is to, as much as possible, maintain a healthy school with in-person instruction throughout this pandemic. Before any learning can take place at the school, it is important that we ensure that all students and staff are safe and healthy. This can only be done with the help of staff, students, and parents following procedures that reduced the likelihood of COVID and other illness. What follows below are some of the Enhanced Health and Safety measures we have put in place.

Daily Health Checks – All families **MUST** complete a daily health check with their child BEFORE sending them to school each day. **Children who show any symptoms of illness MUST** remain home until they are symptom free. The BC Ministry of Education has a site that you can [access here](#) to complete the health check:

Website: <https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/healthcheck?execution=e1s1>

If children come to school with symptoms of illness or develop symptoms while they are at school, the child will need to be separated from other children and parents will be contacted to pick their child up and take them home returning once they are symptom free.

Students Entering the Building – The current process that we have in place for students entering the building meets the enhance safety measures as students are separated by class and spaced along outside walls. ***Thank-you parents for helping us by remaining off the walkways directly beside the school where students line up.*** This allows us to maintain the spacing required.

Recess and Lunch - We have developed a plan to dismiss classes separately at recess, lunch and at the end of the day in order to better maintain spacing of students exiting the building. In addition, at lunch time we will be moving to an eat first - play second system in the primary pod (South side) while our intermediate pod (North side) will continue to use a play first - eat second approach. ***We have not made any changes to the start and end to the day bell schedule.***

School Gatherings – All school gatherings involving students, staff and parents have been moved to online where possible. This includes school assemblies, staff meetings, PAC meetings etc. School Based Teams where face to face meetings are deemed necessary will still be held at the school with reduced numbers of staff, in larger rooms and following the mask mandate.

Visitor Access and Volunteers – We will be re-locking the front doors of the school and requiring anyone who enters to ***sign-in, wear a mask, wash hands***, and follow other health measures. Visitors and volunteers MUST be in the school for a purpose that directly serves students or vulnerable students (eg: Bowls of Hope Lunch Staff) and have the approval of the Principal (Mr. Gemmell) prior to entering the building.

Masks – All students in K – 5 are to (continue) to wear non-medical masks indoors unless they have been given an exemption under the Provincial Health Order dated December 3rd, 2021. Where a child does not have a mask one will be provided.

Changes to contact tracing for COVID-19 in K-12 settings (from Fraser Health) - The Omicron variant spreads rapidly and, as such, contact tracing is a less effective measure in the timely management of COVID-19. What this means is that Public Health is no longer able to contact everyone who tests positive. Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 should follow advice from the BC Centre for Disease Control.

As Public Health is not contacting every person who tests positive, school exposures letters will not be issued by Public Health for individual cases. In the event of a declared outbreak, Public Health will issue a public notification.

Students returning from International Travel (from CDC) - On December 15, 2021, Canadians were advised to avoid non-essential travel outside of Canada, regardless of vaccination status: <https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/health-safety/travel-health-notices/226>. As of January 7, 2022, this advisory has remained in effect. For those returning to Canada, parents and guardians are reminded that, as of January 7th, 2022:

- Unvaccinated and partially vaccinated children and youth up to and including 17 years of age are subject to the 14-day quarantine requirement.
- During quarantine, these children are not to attend school in-person.
- Families planning to travel or have returned from international travel should check this website for the most up-to-date quarantine and testing requirements: <https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid/travel-restrictions/covid-vaccinated-travellers-entering-canada>

School Closures due to COVID – Please see the attached letter from Rohan-Arul Pragasam, Superintendent of the Chilliwack School District dated January 8th (attached)

Thank you parents and families for your help with this. Please feel free to get in touch with Mr. Gemmell at the school should you have any questions.

This Week at Evans...

- Jan 10th – School Re-Opens for All students (with Enhanced Safety Measures)
- Jan 10th – New Virtue of the Month – Integrity
- Jan 10th – Start Fall Kindergarten Intake
- Jan 11th – Grade 4 students start the MDI
- Jan 12th – 6:30 pm PAC Meeting (Virtual via Zoom)
- Jan 17th – School Assembly (Virtual)
- Jan 17th – Earthquake Drill (PM)
- Jan 20th – Salish Seasons Program @ Evans (School District)
- Jan 20th – After School Adventures Program at Evans (School District)

Inclement Weather School Closure Guidelines – With the weather starting to be more “winter like” we wanted to share with parents the guidelines for closure of schools in inclement weather.

Inclement weather conditions such as freezing rain, significant snowfall or high wind can occur during the fall and winter months. In such conditions, decisions on the opening or closure of school district facilities are made by the Superintendent of Schools in consultation with management and supervisory staff who have checked first-hand on the driving conditions, walking/sidewalk conditions, and general condition of buildings and accessibility to sites. *For more details on how this is done, [click here](#).*

While service to students and parents is a priority and schools will be kept open as much as is reasonably possible, student and staff safety is the primary consideration.

In the event of extreme weather conditions, parents are urged to check the **School District website** www.sd33.bc.ca or tune into radio stations **STAR FM (98.3 FM)** or **THE DRIVE (89.5 FM)**, to receive up-to-date information on school closures and information on the buses. Reports will start after 6:00 a.m. and will be repeated often. The information broadcast is directly from the School District. The reports are confirmed and there is no need to call your school, the School District Office or the radio station.

In the event that there is inclement weather but the school remains open, it is the parent’s decision, based on their assessment of the relative safety of travel conditions, as to whether or not their children attend school. Students will be marked absent for the day, but such an absence will not affect a perfect attendance record.

A **Transportation Snow Plan** is in place for students who rely on travel by school bus and live in higher elevations such as Chilliwack Mountain, Little Mountain, Majuba Hill, Ryder Lake and some areas of Columbia Valley and the Eastern Hillsides. An announcement will be made should travel in these areas become challenging due to slippery road conditions. *(Please note: the greater Promontory area does not have a snow plan).*

All inclement weather announcements will be posted on the District website www.sd33.bc.ca