



Silver Creek Elementary School

School District #78 (Fraser-Cascade)

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September News 2020

Welcome back!

I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer. We have a fantastic staff that has been hard at work planning the school year. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher or me, as it is important to have open lines of communication. A special welcome to all of our new families who are now part of our school community! We have an active parent group so I encourage your participation.

A special thanks to the maintenance and janitorial staff for all of their hard work over the summer. The school looks great! I would urge you to take every opportunity this year to get involved in your child's education. We all want our children to be successful. Research has shown that when parents get involved, their children are more motivated, have better behaviour in the classroom and achievement levels increase. Please consider your child's education to be a shared responsibility.

We are excited to be finally back! As you are aware, all schools in BC will open on Thursday, September 10th. Our first day will be a full day from 8:30 to 2:30. The bells will be turned off for the first portion of the year. All students will enter from their exterior classroom doors. This will help with overcrowding at the front entrance. At this time, we are limiting adult entrance to SCE to lessen the potential exposure to COVID-19. Parents/guardians are welcome to wait with their child at the entrance, please practice social distancing. Upon entrance to the school, students will enter their classroom and immediately wash their hands. Teachers will be in the classroom to assist students.

Please read Appendix A COVID-19 Protocols and Appendix B a summary of the Health and Safety Guidelines. If you would like more information on our school start up, please follow the links below.

Below is the links to additional information;

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/kindergarten-to-grade-12/covid/covid19-backtoschool-factsheet.pdf>

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/covid-19-return-to-school>

<http://sd78.bc.ca/parents-students/novel-coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-parents/>

It's imperative for SCE to have the most up to date and current information on students and their families. Please thoroughly review the **Verification Form** distributed on the first day of school and return to the school as soon as possible.

Dates:

Sept. 10 - First Day (8:30 – 2:30)
Sept. 16 – PAC Meeting @ 5pm
Sept. 17 – Fire Drill @10:30
Sept. 18 – Mt Frosty Hike for grade 7's
Sept. 29 – Earthquake Drills
Sept. 30 – Orange Shirt Day
Oct. 2 – Terry Fox Run

Classes:

K- Ms. Gormely
1/2- Mrs. Bogart
2/3- Ms. Carlson
4/5- Ms. Hughes
5/6- Ms. Haslbeck
5/6- Mr. Parsons
7- Mrs. Carpenter
Sped – Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Haworth, Mrs. Maslin
Prep- Ms. Parsons

Nut and Peanut Aware School-

Silver Creek is a peanut and nut aware school so plan snacks and lunches accordingly. Thank you!

Threat Assessment:

Please read the information on the website-
www.silvercreekelementaryschool.com

Reminders:

- Please pick up and drop off your child from the parking lot. The bus lane is intended for buses only.
- Make sure your contact information is up to date.
- Criminal Record Checks should be updated if you would like to help out at the school.
- We always need more noon hour supervisors!

Fruit and Vegetable Program:

Once again Silver Creek is part of the B.C. School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program. Students will receive a fruit or vegetable snack in the classroom and can choose to eat it or not. The reason why the program was developed is to improve health. Statistics shows that only 20

to 25% of children eat the recommended daily minimum of five servings of fruits and vegetables.

****If you do not want your child to be part of the program please contact the school.

Additional information is available at the office.

Forms:

There are many letters and forms being sent home at the beginning of the school year. Please try to read them all. In particular, please fill out the media consent form (allows students photos to be published) and the Student Computer Account form (allows the student to use the school's computers).

Technology:

Various forms of technology, cell phones and Ipads for example, are becoming more common with students and younger children. We ask that these items stay home unless completely necessary, as the school cannot be responsible for them. If they do come to school the items need to be put away for the day and not be used unless supervised by an adult in the class.

Outdoors:

The staff members at Silver Creek are very excited to have an outdoor focus to support the new curriculum this year. Silver Creek's new growth plan has outdoor education as the focus and can be read at Silvercreekelementaryschool.com. We are planning to add an environmental award as we review our award program. Please ensure that students have appropriate clothing (rain jacket, boots, gloves) when necessary and extra shoes.

Appendix A

COVID-19 Protocols

Stay Home When Sick

The BCCDC guidelines for schools are firm. If a student, staff member or any other adult has any symptoms of a cold, influenza, COVID-19, or any other infectious respiratory disease, **they must not enter the school.**

Students, staff members and any other adult must stay home and self-isolate if they have:

- Symptoms of COVID-19
- Travelled outside Canada in the last 14 days
- Identified as a close contact of a confirmed case or outbreak

This includes the children of essential service workers.

Daily Health Checks

Parent & caregiver responsibilities

- Daily health checks start at home. Ask these questions:
- Does your child have the symptoms of a common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease?
- Has your child been outside Canada in the last 14 days?
- Has your child been identified as a close contact of a confirmed case or outbreak?

If the answer is yes to any of these questions, you must keep your child at home, self-isolate, and seek care from a health-care provider.

Testing Students Before a Return to School

At this time, it is recommended that only people with symptoms or people otherwise identified by a health professional should be tested for COVID-19. This includes children.

Testing can also result in false positive and false negatives for the following groups:

- Asymptomatic people
- Those who are very early on in the illness
- Those who may be incubating the disease

What if someone in my household or bubble is sick?

- Students or staff may still attend school if a member of their household has symptoms of illness, provided the student/staff is not sick
- It is expected the symptomatic household member is seeking assessment by a health-care provider

What if my child has allergies?

- Students and staff who experience seasonal allergies, or other COVID-19-like symptom that are related to an existing condition, can continue to attend school when they are experiencing these symptoms as normal
- If you notice a sudden change in the severity or type of symptoms your child normally experiences, keep your child at home and seek assessment from a health care provider

Students and Staff Who Become Sick at School

- If a student or staff member develops symptoms at school, [protocols](#) are in place.
- If a student or staff member develops symptoms at school, they will be given a non-medical mask and will be separated from their classmates or colleagues. Children will be supervised and cared for, if separated
- The student's parent or guardian will be contacted to discuss next steps, with a request to have their child picked up as soon as possible. Staff will be asked to go home as soon as possible
- Custodial staff will clean and disinfect the areas the person used

- The student or staff will be assessed by a health care provider
- The student or staff cannot return to school until COVID-19 has been excluded and symptoms have improved

For more information: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/covid-19-return-to-school>

Appendix B

VISITOR ACCESS/ADMINISTRATION AREAS

- Limit the public coming into the office. Encourage parents and others to call instead of visiting the school.

HYGIENE

- Students are expected to handwash
 - When they arrive at school and before they go home
 - Before eating and drinking
 - After using the toilet
 - After sneezing or coughing into hands or tissue
 - Whenever hands are visibly dirty
 - When moving between different learning environments (e.g., outdoor-indoor transitions, from the gym to the classroom).

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

- Parents & caregivers should remain outside of the school to drop off and pick up their children.
- Remind students to keep their hands to themselves & practice social distancing when possible.

COHORTS/LEARNING GROUPS

- A cohort is a group of students and staff who remain together throughout a school term.
 - A cohort is composed of up to 60 people including students and staff.
 - Cohort 1– Kindergarten to Grade 3
 - Cohort 2 – Grade 4/5 class and Grade 7 class
 - Cohort 3 – Both Grade 5/6 classes

USE OF MASKS

- Schools will have non-medical masks available for staff and students.
- Non-medical masks are not recommended for elementary school students due to the increased likelihood they will touch their face and eyes, as well as require assistance to properly put on and take off their mask.
- Staff are required to wear a non-medical mask in high traffic areas (buses, common areas, or anytime outside of their learning group whenever physical distancing cannot be maintained).

BUSES AND SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

- Encouraging private vehicle use and active transportation (e.g. biking, walking, etc.).
- Students sit in their assigned seat and students from the same house can share seats.
- Students should clean their hands before and after they take the bus.

- Parents and caregivers must assess their child daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to school. If a child has any symptoms, **they must not take the bus or go to school.**
- Where possible, bus line ups should practice social distancing.
- Seating arrangements can be altered whenever necessary to support student health and safety

FOOD & BEVERAGES

- Students and staff should be encouraged to use personal water bottles
- SCE will not allow homemade food items to be made available to other students at this time (e.g., birthday treats, bake sale items).
- We continue to emphasize that food and beverages should not be shared.

PERSONAL ITEMS

- Staff and students can continue to bring personal items to school, but please bring only items that are necessary (e.g. backpacks, clothing, school supplies, water bottles).
- Students can continue to use their lockers or cubbies.
- Staff and students should not share personal items (electronic devices, writing instruments, etc.)
- Personal items should be labelled with student's name to discourage accidental sharing.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

- Remove or limit the use of:
 - items that are not easily cleaned (e.g., fabric or soft items, plush toys), shared equipment, Items & surfaces that children have placed in their mouths or that have been in contact with bodily.
- General cleaning and disinfecting of the premises at least once in a 24-hour period.
- Cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces at least twice in 24 hours, including at least once during regular school hours.
 - Doorknobs, light switches, hand railings, faucet handles, toilet handles, tables, desks and chairs, water fountains, shared learning items and manipulatives, equipment (e.g. computer keyboards and tablets, glassware and testing equipment for science labs, kitchen equipment for culinary programs, sewing machines and sewing equipment for home economic programs, etc.), appliances, and service counters (e.g., office service window, library circulation desk)