

COMMUNITY UPDATE

ANMORE, BELCARRA

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Provincial Health Officer Dr. Henry

"We know how important it is for children to be back in school to both support their emotional and mental health and their ability to socialize and to learn, said Dr. Bonnie Henry, B.C.'s provincial health officer. Being back in school is also crucial to support many parents in being able to work, but we must do it safely. We ask for families and workplaces to continue to be flexible as we come into the fall. We've put a lot of thoughtful work and consideration into reopening schools this fall and in making sure we're supporting children in ways that keep them, the people who teach them and our communities safe. "

September Return to School

Hello Village Families:

I wanted to reach out and touch base with "The Villages" about the announcement of our return to full time in class instruction in September. I know that many families are talking about the September return to school at the dinner table right now, mine included.

This June students returned voluntary to school. This earlier return to school allowed school districts to learn about and prepare for the full time return to school in September. It also provided school districts with the opportunity to connect with vulnerable learners and their families. The following is a quote from our Superintendent, Patricia Gartland's letter home families last week and a link to the provincial web site. "You will have likely heard about the announcement on Wednesday, July 29 by Minister of Education Rob Fleming and Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry regarding the provincial guidelines for students to return to school in September. Children returning to school and in-class instruction is defined by stage 2 of the BC Government's 5 stage plan: <http://www.gov.bc.ca/covid19returntoschool> " (Click link)

School districts will be providing more information to families about what the return to school "will look like" for their student around August 26th. All districts are tasked with submitting their plans to the Ministry of Education for August 21.



Thank you

I would like to take this opportunity to thank local organizations and community members that have donated and made contributions to schools and the school district. The outpouring of community support for both our food support program and our technology support programs shows great empathy for others in this challenging time and I can't thank all of you enough.

School districts provide many "behind the scenes" support to students and families. The SD43 food distribution program during Covid was just one example. Many families rely on contacts within our school district for mental health supports as well. Below is a link to our SD43 site mental wellness page, please have a look and share, there are many great resources.

[https://www.sd43.bc.ca/District/Departments/LearningServices/Pages/PositiveMentalHealth.aspx#/
≡ \(click for link\)](https://www.sd43.bc.ca/District/Departments/LearningServices/Pages/PositiveMentalHealth.aspx#/)

I also want to thank all of the teachers, administrators, leadership team and support staff. As teams you have adapted quickly and creatively and continue to support our students and families, **Thank You!**

We are busy organizing and planning for the return of students in learning groups or "cohorts" all the while following the guidelines provided to us by public health. Cohorts of 60 students for primary 120 for secondary school. Students will only interact with students in their cohort at school for: lunch, break times, and activities. More information about the student grouping and cohorts will be made available before the start of school. Staggered start / pick up times, staggered lunch and break times, semester systems are all ideas being considered by school districts throughout the province to keep student interactions within their cohort. There may be some continuation of on line learning for secondary students at larger schools.

Some families are excited about full time return to school. Some families have concerns about health and safety, some students are anxious and worried. I want to let families and students know that everyone in SD43 is working hard to implement the public health guidelines. We will follow all of the directions being given to school districts and these directions come from the Public Health Officer. Please feel free to contact me or your school for additional information. I am happy to share with you what information we have to date and once we have a more detailed plan in place later in August.



Food Program

I am so proud of our SD43 food program, I wanted to share this with you again : Food Security for our SD43 students and families is essential. The SD43 Culinary Programs have partnered with the Share Society to prepare and deliver 360 food hampers to several SD43 families in need each week. Staff have also added inspirational messages to bags to help brighten up the day for these families.

Health and Safety Information

This List was from our June Re- Opening

The protocols below were from our June re-open but I wanted to share them again because they speak to the thought and organization that was already underway to prepare students and classrooms.

All boards of education and independent school authorities will be required to implement strict provincial health officer and WorkSafeBC health and safety measures to reduce the risk COVID- 19 transmission, including:

- desks spaced apart and avoiding groups or gatherings of students in hallways or other common areas;
- regular cleaning of high-contact surfaces like door knobs, toilet seats, keyboards and desks at least twice a day, and cleaning the school building at least once a day;
- students, educators and staff will be required to clean their hands before entering school property, and there will be more hand-sanitizing and cleaning stations available, with well-stocked supplies;
- staggered drop-offs, lunch and recess breaks, with increased outside time;
- staff and students (or their parents/guardians) must assess themselves daily for symptoms of COVID-19. If any student or staff member has even mild symptoms, arrangements will be made for that person to be returned home;
- one student per seat on school buses, unless children are from the same house, with plexiglass separating the bus driver from students; and
- students or employees should not share food or personal items like phones, pens or pencils. Clear protocols also need to be in place for the safe and healthy handling of all food items.

Please remember that your school principal and your classroom teacher are the best place to start with questions and concerns. The www.sd43.bc.ca website is updated regularly with announcements from the Ministry of Education and the Provincial Health Authority. Please feel free to contact me at anytime with questions and concerns.

Enjoy the rest of your Summer ! Kerri Palmer Isaak School Trustee Anmore Belcarra
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