



# Beattie Elementary School

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## March 2022

### Dear Parents/Guardians,

Spring is in the air! We are getting more daylight hours and the sun has been shining a little brighter. A reminder that this year Spring Break will be two weeks from March 21<sup>st</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup>. Classes will resume on April 4<sup>th</sup>. We hope you all have a fun and restful spring break and enjoyed some family time.

### Changes to Safety Measures for K-12 Schools

On Thursday, March 10, 2022, Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry announced changes to safety measures for K-12 schools, which are detailed in the [Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#).

These changes start on the first day of Spring Break, which is **March 21, 2022** in our district. As there is one more week before Spring Break in SD73, students and staff are still required to wear masks indoors at school and on the bus next week. Employees who work over Spring Break will have a head start on students, who will experience these changes upon return to school after Spring Break on **April 4, 2022**.

Everyone is encouraged to do a daily health check, stay home when sick, and to practice hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette. The key changes starting March 21, 2022 are:

**Space Arrangement.** Schools can return to classroom and learning environment configurations and activities that best meet learner needs and preferred educational approaches, though should still consider strategies to create space between people.

**School Gatherings and Events.** For events with visitors (e.g., parent/caregiver spectators):

- Should not exceed 50% capacity and proof of vaccination should not be implemented while
- the PHO Gatherings and Events Order is in place.
- When the PHO Gatherings and Events Order is lifted (expected end of day April 7, 2022), we can return to 100% capacity.

**Visitor Access/Community Use.** Schools can return to routine sign in/sign out practices. Schools do not need to keep a list of the date, names and contact information of visitors for communicable disease prevention purposes.

**Personal Protective Equipment.** The decision to wear a mask or face covering is a personal choice. A person's choice is to be supported and respected.

**Field Trips.** Schools should make every effort to avoid venues/locations that place additional requirements that could prevent a person from being able to participate. If the trip cannot occur otherwise, schools can require participants to confirm they are able to meet additional requirements (e.g., are able to provide proof of vaccination).

**Student attendance.** We have continued to monitor and report on student attendance to assess whether student absenteeism is higher, lower, or the same as historical averages for this time of year. From mid-February to March 9, district wide student attendance was better than the historical average. There have been no absenteeism threshold letters sent out to school communities during this period. We have also not closed any schools due to staff absenteeism.

This shift in the provincial COVID-19 response is what the Ministry referred to as "a sustainable, long-term COVID-19 management strategy focused on immunization, self-management, and specific actions to protect those most at risk of severe infection." Some people will be comfortable and others will be uncomfortable with the shift in guidance.

We have this next week to discuss these changes and to prepare for it. Since the start of the pandemic, our strength has been, and continues to be how we work from a place of care and compassion for each person's wellbeing.

Take good care of yourselves and we look forward to our last week together before Spring Break.

Rhonda Nixon, PhD  
Superintendent

### **Purdy's Easter Chocolates**

Don't forget to order your Purdy's Easter Chocolates! Orders will be excepted until **midnight on Monday, March 28th**. Please type in your **child's first and last name** and **teacher name** in the additional info box at the top right-hand side of the order sheet. Orders will be sent home **with students** on April 12th or 13th.



The account number is **61548**. Please order online by entering the account number or by entering the following link: <https://fundraising.purdys.com/1497366-92373>

### **Young Artist Conference**

The Young Artist Conference is an annual event for elementary students in grades 4-7. The conference is an opportunity for aspiring artists to showcase their artwork and take part in a series of workshops.

Representing Beattie Elementary this year are:

- Phoenix Miller
- Julia Long
- Seva Parmar
- Louise Placente

### **Day of Suwentwecw**

The First People's Principles of Learning are incorporated into the content of the BC Curriculum, as are the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action which call us to "integrate Indigenous knowledge and teaching methods into classrooms."

The Day of Suwentwécw (Acknowledging One Another) is an annual initiative held on April 7 each year, to recognize and celebrate the Secwépemc People (Secwepemcúl'ecw) and other Aboriginal people residing within the Secwépemc Territory.

This year's theme, "Well Becoming Through Emotional, Physical, Intellectual and Spiritual Indigenous Values," is based on the First Peoples Principles of Learning and Aboriginal Worldviews and Perspectives. This is an opportunity for all schools to continue to embed the First People's Principles of Learning, and to address the Calls to Action as outlined in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

The day will be marked with a focus on the concept of gathering and presentations of learning in all district schools.

### **Kindergarten Registration**

Do you have a child that still needs to be registered for Kindergarten? If you do, please stop by the office for a registration package at your earliest convenience. Early registration helps us with classroom placement and planning and ensures your child will have the opportunity to be included in the upcoming SPARK program.

Parents will be required to provide a copy of their child's care card, proof of address (driver's license, lease/Rental Agreement/purchase agreement, Gas or Hydro Bill), child's birth certificate, and custody agreement if applicable.

Registration packages for students with an older sibling may be sent home with that sibling.

### **Student Transfers for 2022/2023**

Requests for student transfers that will commence in September will be accepted starting on March 1, 2022 and ending at 12:00 noon on September 1, 2022. All submissions must be made in writing and forwarded to the receiving school's principal. All decisions regarding student transfers will be in accordance with Board Policy 300.1 School Boundaries and Student Transfer Requests

### **Safe Arrival**

Please remember that all student absences and late arrivals must to be reported by calling **1-844-350-2647**, by visiting [go.schoolmessenger.ca](http://go.schoolmessenger.ca), or download the school messenger app. Please do not call the school directly. All absences or late arrivals that have not been reported before 8:45 am will initiate the School District's safe arrival system to call home and cell phone numbers up to 5 times until a parent is reached and a response is given.

### **Before and After School Pick Up and Student Safety**

A reminder to parents that the school parking lot is limited to STAFF PARKING ONLY. To help ensure the safety of our students, parents should not be driving through the parking lot at any time to drop off or pick up their children. Please park on the designated spots on McGill or in the Freshco parking lot. We appreciate your understanding.

### **Entrances & Exits**

At this point, all students should know which door is for their designated use. If your child is late please use the main door and someone will let them in. Upon entering the building, students should then notify the office that they have arrived.

### **Weather Reminders**

Please work with your child to help them be prepared for spending their break times outdoors. At this time of year

weather can quickly change from warm and dry to cold and wet. Students are outside in the mornings before school, during recess, and during lunch. Thanks for helping!

### **Indoor Shoes**

As the weather is still changing, it is important to note that students are required to wear indoor footwear for health and safety purposes. Please have your son or daughter bring and leave a pair of inside shoes at school as the weather is certainly wetter and outside shoes are tracking in a lot of mud and water. On our linoleum stairs this can be a serious

slipping hazard for our students and staff and we would be sorry to see anyone injured in a fall.

### **Lost and Found Items**

Are you missing any clothing items? Please have your child(ren) have a look through the lost and found bin and rack. It is located in the main hallway near the front entrances. Please help your child(ren) keep track of their belongings. If you put names or initials in hoodies and jackets we will attempt to return them rather than leaving them in the lost and found.

## **Important Dates!**

March 21st-April 1st	Spring Break
Friday, April 15 <sup>th</sup>	Good Friday
Monday, April 18 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Monday
Monday, April 25 <sup>th</sup>	District – Non-Instructional Day
Friday, May 20 <sup>th</sup>	District – Non-Instructional Day
Monday, May 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Victoria Day
Thursday, June 30 <sup>th</sup>	Administrative Day