January 7, 2022

Dear: Families of Alexander Elementary

Last week, our Superintendent shared all students will return to school on January 10, 2022 after an extended winter break, allowing schools to adapt to the impacts of the Omicron variant that is affecting our province.

Over the last few days, our school has been busy preparing continuity of learning plans and enhanced safety measures in advance of students returning to school on Monday. It is with this letter that we wanted to remind families of our ongoing measures and share the enhanced protocols we are implementing to keep students and staff safe.

**New or Returning Practices for January 10th**

* Maximize space between children (and adults) through different space configurations. Limit and, whenever possible, avoid face-to-face seating arrangements.
* Implement strategies that prevent crowding during class time, recess, and lunch break.
* Ms. Brock’s class will now enter/exit outside room 107 in the back of the school to limit congestion at the front doors
* Conduct gatherings and events virtually. If gatherings and events must be in person, minimize attendance as much as possible, do not exceed 50% operating capacity, and do not allow spectators.
* All visitors to the building will be limited to those working with students directly on student learning.  As a result, we have to 'press pause' on the following important parts of our school:

  a) Parent volunteers, other than our fantastic noon supervisors

  b) Engaging PAC 'in-school' activities and hot lunches

c) Field trips that involve student interactions with those outside their daily school bubble

**Some Practices to Continue Our Commitment to:**

* Daily health checks to ensure our children are well when they come to school
* Hand Hygiene
* Mask wearing in all indoor spaces – please make sure your child has a clean one daily or a disposable one.
* Limiting physical contact
* Use of physical barriers for small group teaching
* Essential visitors are welcome by appointment

The health and safety of students, staff and our entire Alexander community remains a priority and it is imperative that we all make every effort to keep each other safe. As we continue to support one another to remain healthy this winter, we remind you to conduct a daily health check for your child and **keep them home if they are experiencing any symptoms**. If students have a runny nose and this is a new symptom for them, please keep them home to see if symptoms progress.

Please don’t hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your ongoing understanding and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Tara Plantinga

Principal