



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 48

◆ Squamish ◆ Whistler ◆ Pemberton

March 13th, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we head into spring break, and with the rapidly evolving situation of COVID-19, we acknowledge the growing public concerns and questions regarding the health and safety of your family and children. We want to reassure you that the health and safety of Sea to Sky School District's (No.48) students, staff, and school community is of paramount importance to us and we are taking all preventative measures to minimize the transmission of the virus. With new daily developments and information flooding in, we continue to take guidance from our Provincial Health Officer, the Ministries of Health and Education, and the Government of Canada.

To date, we have increased the number of custodial staff, the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting of high touch surface areas, and increased the tap run times to 20 seconds to encourage a vigilant hand washing routine. For students who ride our school buses to and from school, our bus drivers have been sanitizing our school buses twice daily. We have also issued an advisory that all school district related student and staff travel out of the country is cancelled until further notice.

Throughout spring break, Vancouver Coastal Health will be conducting walk through inspections in all of our schools to ensure that our school cleaning protocols continue to be at the highest level of sanitization and safety. We are requesting that you practice and encourage good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette with your children by stressing the importance of sneezing or coughing into their arms and washing hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds each time. We also encourage you to talk with your children about COVID-19 as fears and anxieties may be overwhelming. The CDC has many helpful facts and tips on how we can support children:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/coping.html>

Currently, the Provincial Health Officer is advising against all non-essential travel outside of Canada. If your family chooses to travel outside of Canada, you are asked to voluntarily self-isolate (stay away from work or school) for 14 days upon your return. To keep up-to-date, there are daily joint statements at 3:30pm from the PHO and the Minister of Health found here: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/ministries/health>

We encourage you to monitor your family's health. Should you or your child have any symptoms of the flu, please stay at home to get well and prevent spreading the virus. Please be assured that any student absent after the spring break will be supported each day with any missed learning activities. Please contact your child's school to let them know about your child's absence.

We are committed to keeping you well informed as the situation evolves. We will continue to update our school district website regularly with information and useful links: <https://sd48seatosky.org/parents-3/information-novel-coronavirus-covid-19/>

We do hope you take the opportunity to have an enjoyable and relaxing spring break with your family. Remember to eat well, be active, and to get plenty of rest!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Lisa McCullough", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Lisa McCullough
Superintendent of Sea to Sky School District (No.48)