



Sk'aadgaa Naay Elementary School

Gud ad hlgang.gulxa - Working Together - Travailler Ensemble

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September 1, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you may already know, the Province has announced that schools will open for full-time, in-school instruction in September based on Stage 2 the government's Five-Stage Plan. The plan for School District No. 50 and Sk'aadgaa Naay Elementary has been guided by the Ministry of Education, the Provincial Health Officer and the BC Centre for Disease Control. The Ministry's requirements state that students who are registered in a school are expected to attend school in-person unless they have health concerns.

We are excited to share the details of our plan for Sk'aadgaa Naay Elementary with you. It is our goal to ensure Sk'aadgaa Naay continues to be the safe and welcoming place it has always been.

There is A LOT of information to share so here is a list of Frequently Asked Questions for you. Please feel free to connect with me if there is something more that you may need to know. Please continue to check our school Facebook page and the School District No. 50 webpage for further updates as we know things can change quickly as we all live this unique experience together.

When will my child return to school?

Tuesday, September 8 -Friday, September 11

ONLY staff will attend school. We will be learning and working together to prepare to welcome our students including our health and safety measures and the specifics of our Sk'aadgaa Naay Stage 2 plan.

Monday, September 14

Students with last names from A-M will attend from 9:00am-11:30am.

Tuesday, September 15

Students with last names from N-Z will attend from 9:00am-11:30am.

Wednesday, September 16

All students will attend for the full day from this date forward.

If children from the same family have different last names, please send all children with the child whose name comes first in the alphabet. Ie. Susan Anderson and Michael Wilkins will both attend on Monday, September 14.

What time do students come and go from school?

At this time, for morning arrival:

Students who take the bus to school will be dropped off by the bus. The bus schedule is posted on the SD No. 50 webpage. Students should be at their bus stop five minutes in advance.

Students who walk or get a ride to school are asked to **arrive at school as close to 9:00 as possible.**

At this time, for after school departure:

Students will be dismissed at 3:00. Students who take the bus will depart just after 3:00. Students who walk or ride their bikes will leave the school at 3:00. Students who are getting picked up, should be picked up as close to 3:00 as possible.

If you are dropping off or picking up your child, please use the parking lot across from the crosswalk, below the driveway to the school.

What are Learning Groups (cohorts) and what will they look like at Sk'aadga Naay?

Learning Groups (cohorts) are a group of students and staff of up to maximum of 60. The purpose of the Learning Group is to reduce the number of in-person, close interactions an individual has in a day with different people to help to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

While our Sk'aadga Naay Learning Groups (cohorts) may consist of 2 similar -grade classes, the main learning group for each student will be their individual class.

Can students and staff from different Learning Groups (cohorts) interact?

During break times (i.e. recess, lunch) or unique learning situations (i.e. academic support), students can socialize with peers in different cohorts if they are outdoors and can minimize physical contact or if they are indoors and can maintain physical distance.

Staff who work with a variety of students such as our Learning Resource Teacher, Indigenous Resource Worker, Haida Language Teacher, Special Education Resource Teacher, etc. will strictly follow all Health and Safety Guidelines including wearing a mask and keeping physically distanced.

ALL staff will wear a mask and physically distance when they are outside of their Learning Group (cohort) in common and high traffic areas such as our hallways.

What will students be doing at school?

Students will learn the BC Curriculum as they would normally.

Will the day be different?

A little. We will be staggering recess and lunch breaks to allow for physical distancing.

How will bussing work?

Students will have assigned seats on the bus. Our Transportation Department will be following safety protocols including cleaning and disinfecting the bus.

Are parent/caregivers/guests allowed in the school?

As much as we always want Sk'aadga Naay to be a welcoming building for everyone, currently we also need to minimize and track contacts within our school. For this reason, access to schools will be limited to staff and students. We ask parents/caregivers to not enter the school and drop off and pick up outside the building. Parents and caregivers and visitors can request an appointment through the school office.

What if my child or an adult at school is sick?

It is vitally important that students and staff who are sick do not come to school. We will

follow this guideline strictly. The BCCDC guidelines state:

- Staff and student **MUST** stay home or go home and follow the direction of their health care provider when sick with common cold, influenza or COVID-19 symptoms.
- All students who have travelled outside Canada in the last 14 days **OR** were identified as a close contact of a confirmed case or outbreak must stay home and self-isolate.
- **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. Please use the attached Daily Health Check as your at-home guide**
- Students and staff who become sick while at school will need to go home as soon as possible.

What should we bring to school?

- Please send your child to Sk'aadgaa with a healthy, peanut-free snack and lunch. Please send items that do not need to be heated.
- Ensure that your child is dressed in layers appropriate for the weather conditions as the students will be going outside multiple times throughout the day.
- Please avoid bringing toys, stuffed animals, etc. to school as these items cannot be easily sanitized.
- School supplies will be available for purchase.
 - Kindergarten-Grade 3 packages will be \$55.00
 - Grade 4-7 packages will be \$60.00

Will breakfast, snack and hot lunch still be available?

Yes. We know food is an important part of our school day. We will continue with our daily breakfast and weekly lunch program with very enhanced safety protocols. We will send home lunch order forms as soon as the program is up and running.

Do students and staff need to wear masks?

Staff will wear masks while in high traffic areas, like hallways, and any time they are outside of the classroom or learning group and they cannot physically distance from others. Staff may also choose to wear a mask within the Learning Group (cohort).

Wearing masks for students is a family decision and will be honoured as such.

What are the other Health and Safety protocols at Sk'aadgaa Naay?

Health and Safety will be our priority for the 2020-2021 school year at Sk'aadgaa Naay. We are using the *Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings* document to guide our planning to keep us all safe. I encourage you to refer to this document as it has lots of great information.

<https://www.google.com/search?q=provincial+covid-19+health+and+safety+guidelines+for+k-12+setting&oq=provin&aqs=chrome.69i59j69i57j0l4j46j0.4971j0j1&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8&safe=active&ssui=on>

Our other Safety Measures include:

Cleaning and disinfecting

Sk'aadgaa Naay will be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the BCCDC's Cleaning and Disinfectants guidelines. This includes a daytime custodian.

Our windows will be open when possible. Our HVAC systems will be set to increase the intake of outside air and to maximize air exchange in classrooms and other spaces.

Physical Distancing and Minimizing Physical Contact

Physical distancing is something that has become part of our lives. It is also something that is challenging in a school setting, particularly with younger students. As such, it is reasonable to establish different expectations for varying age levels and activities.

Our students will be supported to have minimized physical contact with one another within their cohort and outdoors. They will be supported to maintain physical distance if they are indoors or not within their Learning Group (cohort).

We will not be gathering in large groups such as assemblies. All students will be reminded not to share their personal belongings, food or beverages.

In our hallways we will move in directions that minimize physical contact. We have visual reminders on the floor to help us remember.

Hand Hygiene

Rigorous hand washing with plain soap and water is the most effective way to reduce the spread of illness. We will incorporate hand hygiene opportunities into our daily schedule and teach and regularly remind staff and students about the importance of diligent hand hygiene.

Each classroom has a sink for hand washing and there will be multiple access points to hand sanitizer around the school. There are also sinks outside of the school at the front entrance.

Our daily schedule will involve hand washing at the following times:

- When students arrive at school and before they go home.
- Before and after any breaks (e.g., recess, lunch).
- Between different learning environments (e.g., outdoor-indoor transitions, from the gym to the classroom).
- Before and after eating and drinking.
- After using the toilet.
- After handling common resources/equipment/supplies or pets.
- After sneezing or coughing into hands.
- Whenever hands are visibly dirty.

Respiratory Etiquette

We will teach and reinforce these healthy practices including:

- coughing or sneezing into our elbow sleeve or a tissue. Throwing away used tissues and immediately performing hand hygiene.
- refraining from touching our eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.

Thank you for taking the time to review this document as a family. Please feel free to contact me at the school at 250-559-8889 or by e-mail lrodger@sd50.bc.ca if you have questions, concerns or thoughts. If changes happen, we will communicate again as soon as possible.

We are looking forward to welcoming everyone in September!

Leighann Rodger
Principal

Daily Health Check

Daily Health Check			
1. Symptoms of Illness*	Does your child have any of the following symptoms?	CIRCLE ONE	
	Fever	YES	NO
	Chills	YES	NO
	Cough or worsening of chronic cough	YES	NO
	Shortness of breath	YES	NO
	Sore throat	YES	NO
	Runny nose / stuffy nose	YES	NO
	Loss of sense of smell or taste	YES	NO
	Headache	YES	NO
	Fatigue	YES	NO
	Diarrhea	YES	NO
	Loss of appetite	YES	NO
	Nausea or vomiting	YES	NO
	Muscle aches	YES	NO
	Conjunctivitis (pink eye)	YES	NO
	Dizziness, confusion	YES	NO
Abdominal pain	YES	NO	
Skin rashes or discolouration of fingers or toes	YES	NO	
2. International Travel	Have you or anyone in your household returned from travel outside Canada in the last 14 days?	YES	NO
3. Confirmed Contact	Are you or is anyone in your household a confirmed contact of a person confirmed to have COVID-19?	YES	NO