



Dear Families

Firstly, I hope that this email finds you and your families healthy and well. I acknowledge that this is a stressful time with a great deal of uncertainty for all of us as we adapt to a new and unfamiliar reality. Fortunately, at Simon Fraser Elementary, we have a strong, positive and innovative staff who have already been working as a team to support each other as we begin to navigate planning and working in a very different teaching and learning environment.

You have received communications from the Ministry of Education and from the Vancouver School District. I would like to remind you of the key principles that Superintendent Hoffman shared in the letter to families on Friday:

The District will implement a phased approach to provide continued learning opportunities for all students. In advance of implementing these opportunities, the District will focus on three initial priorities:

- Ensure the health and safety of students, staff and communities
- Communicate thoughtfully, transparently and in a timely manner
- Provide connections to ensure students feel valued and have a sense of belonging and community

With these priorities addressed, we will be able to move forward to implement our fourth priority:

- Continued learning opportunities so that all students can successfully transition to their next phase of learning

This first week at Simon Fraser has been planned taking the three initial priorities listed above, into consideration. On Monday, my priority will be to connect with each staff member and the PAC Co- Chairs. In order to ensure safe distancing, staff have been scheduled to come in to school on Tuesday and Wednesday, in small groups to collect resources. **The school building will be closed to anyone not scheduled to be there.**

Teachers and support staff will need time to prepare and plan for what learning will look like and how to carry out the plans to support students. This week, school staff will begin to communicate with families and students to check in on how you are doing, to establish connections, and to determine what would be most helpful in supporting your children. Later in the week, families can expect to hear when they can come into school for the safe collection of personal items belonging to students.

For your information, under an arrangement unique to Vancouver, all child care spots in Vancouver are being allocated by Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre (WCCRC). Eligibility (essential services worker) and access to all spots (whether located at VSB or at City Of Vancouver sites) are all through Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre. No spots are allocated by VSB Principals or staff. Parents are referred to WCCRC for all questions and for registration. There is an intake form on WCCRC's website: <https://www.wstcoast.org/>.



Please continue to check the Vancouver School District website www.vsb.bc.ca for updates and ongoing messaging from the Superintendent. I will email updates when I have information specific to Simon Fraser.

Thank you very much for your patience and understanding as we plan for what is going to be a unique final three months of the school year. Time and again, the Simon Fraser community has proven to be compassionate, positive and supportive- please continue to practice this as we all move forward together. As our school Code of Conduct states- Be Safe, Be Kind, Be Fair- to yourselves and to each other.

Finally, please say hello to your children from me and let them know that the staff here at school are thinking of them.

Take care and stay safe,

Cathy Thomas
Principal
Simon Fraser Elementary