



## Around Laronde – January 7 2022

### Happy New Year to all of our families!

We hope that you had an enjoyable break with your children.

We wanted to say a big welcome back to all of our students and staff! We also want to welcome Mme Nour Salame, a new teacher to Laronde, who will be teaching division 19, one of our kindergarten classes until the end of June. We also want to remind families that we are happy to have Mme Burden as our acting VP until the end of June.



### Measures we are continuing or taking:

We once again find ourselves in new and uncharted circumstances due to COVID. We know that some of our families may be very concerned about sending their child(ren) to school on Monday. We understand this. We want to reassure you that our staff is working closely with the district to follow health & safety guidelines and that we are implementing measures to keep your children safe while at school.

Please read this entire newsletter carefully as there is a lot of important information and a few reminders.

What are some of the measures we are continuing or taking:

- We will continue to ask all students to wear a mask while in the school building, at all times, except to eat or drink. The district and our PHO are recommending that people wear medical grade masks or cloth masks that have at least three layers. Please make sure to send your child with two masks each day as they sometimes get wet.
- We will continue to have all students handwash or sanitize their hands upon entry and exit of the school; before and after eating; before and after entering/exiting other spaces in our school such as the library, music room and gym.
- We will encourage students to maintain a distance between themselves and others.
- We will have all student desks separated - our classrooms are small - but we have done this before and we have been able to create some spacing between desks.
- We will have students line up perpendicular to their outside classroom door rather than along the wall. This will help space out entry and exit to our school.
- We will continue to have distinct play zones during recess and lunch with K/1, 2/3, 4/5 and 6/7 paired together in our 4 play zones. Some students are in combined classes where their grade does not match up with their zone - we have worked this out with our staff and students know where to play.
- We will be limiting contact between classes, especially during the first week back. We will re-evaluate this after the first week, as this is not required at this time. We are doing this as a precautionary measure.

## **Asking for your assistance with the following measures**

All families must do a daily health check, including all family members who are involved in dropping off or picking up students from the school.

<https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/healthcheck>



If your child presents with any one of the symptoms listed in the daily health check please keep your child at home. As we have done before, if your child becomes ill while at school, we will contact you to pick up your child.

We will limit the number of visitors coming into our school. We will ask all visitors to not enter the building unless previously arranged with Mme Niro or Mme Burden. Please stop by our office window where our office staff can assist you and/or your children.

We kindly ask that parents and caregivers also not crowd around our students in the line-up areas. Please maintain a distance from others.

## **Attendance**

We know that some of our families may be very concerned about sending their child(ren) to school on Monday. Please note that if you decide to keep your child at home, teachers will not be teaching online. We will only move to online teaching if we need to go into a functional closure due to a very high number of staff illness. Please let our office staff know if you plan to keep your child at home. At this time, please note that teachers will not be giving out resources, lesson plans or materials to families that choose to have their child(ren) stay home.

## **Functional Closure**

A functional closure would only occur if a certain percentage of staff were ill. This decision would be made in consultation with the district and the Fraser Health Authority. If the decision was made to close our school all families would be notified as soon as possible and students would remain at home for the next 7 days. On the second day that students are at home, during the closure, teachers would start teaching online. Our staff has already been preparing by making their class TEAM online, sending invitations and login info to parents and getting materials ready that can be used to teach online. This is just in case we would move to online learning for 7 days. We will share information about any closure with you as soon as we receive it. We are hoping we will not have to close, at any time, and that students will be able to continue to attend in-person, full time.

If your family will require a device during a functional closure please email us [Laronde@surreyschools.ca](mailto:Laronde@surreyschools.ca) to advise and help us prepare.

## **Lunch Monitors**

We will continue to have grade 6 & 7 lunch time monitors. Grade 6 & 7 students will eat their lunches in their classrooms before going to monitor in their assigned classes. The grade 6 & 7 students will distance and wear their masks during the entire time they lunch monitor.

## **SEL (Social & Emotional Learning) - Second Step Program**

Laronde will be beginning the Second Step SEL Program next week for all classes. This is a district supported and funded program that we feel is very valuable and useful. We decided to use this program because it supports many of the positive messages and learning we do related to social and emotional learning. During the pandemic we have seen many of our students needing more social and emotional coaching and supports. This program will also help ensure that all students receive consistent instruction and terminology related to growth mindset and goal setting, emotion management, problem solving, empathy and kindness. Our staff will share an introductory letter with parents and you will receive information along the way as we work through this program.



## SoundKreations Dance classes

We have booked dance sessions for the week of January 31- Feb. 4. For the time being these sessions will continue to be offered by SoundKreations with an in-person dance facilitator. We have had this facilitator before and the students love working and learning with him. We are excited to have him join us again at Laronde! He will be physically distance by at least 3 metres from our students. If guidelines change before these sessions we will adjust accordingly - most likely using a virtual platform.



**Parking** - A friendly reminder that we have many no parking and no stopping areas around our school. Please follow all posted traffic signs and please respect our neighbours' driveways. This helps to ensure that we keep our students, parents and community members safe.



### **Pick Up/Drop Off Zone**

A friendly reminder that we need all caregivers to use to drop off/pick up zone (or kiss and ride) properly in the mornings and after school. This area is for caregivers to drive up, drop off or pick up their child(ren) and then drive off. We cannot have anyone parking in this area as it disrupts the flow of traffic in and out of our parking lot. Please come a little earlier, park on the side streets, where permitted, and walk your child to school if you cannot do a quick drop off. We thank you in advance for your cooperation in using the kiss and ride area properly.

## **Travel reminders**

**Government of Canada International Travel Quarantine and Other Specific Requirements for 5-11-year-olds.** Unvaccinated and partially vaccinated children under 12 years of age can travel with fully vaccinated parent/guardians. However, they must follow specific requirements when they return to Canada, which includes that they **must not attend school for 14 days upon return to Canada.**

\* This includes if the trip is under 72 hours.



## **Important Dates & Holidays**

- \* **Mon Jan 10, 2022** School reopens
- \* **Fri Jan 21, 2022** - Hot Lunch "Breakfast" PJ Day !
- \* **Jan 31 - Feb 4** - Soundkreations Dance Classes
- \* **Mon Feb 21** - Family Day Stat - **School Closed**
- \* **Wed Feb 21** - Pink Shirt Day & Early Dismissal @ 1:40pm
- \* **Friday Feb 25** - Non-Instructional Day - **No School**

This is important information. Please have this translated.

هذه الرسالة مهمة جداً . يرجى الطلب من شخص ما بترجمتها لك .  
ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਸੂਚਨਾ ਦਾ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਕਰਵਾਓ ।

請找人替閣下翻譯這重要通告。이것은 중요한 통지입니다. 꼭 번역하여 읽으십시오.

यह बहुत ज़रूरी नोटिस है इसका हिन्दी में अनुवाद कराईये ।

Ito ay importanteng impormasyon. Mangyaring isalin ito sa Tagalog.

January 7, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are looking forward to welcoming our students safely back to school on Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup>.

We are committed to ensuring our students can continue to learn as safely as possible in-person by closely following all the measures put forth in the [updated provincial guidance for schools](#) that were issued in late December and our district's [communicable disease plan](#). These measures include continued mask wearing, [daily health checks](#), staying home when sick, a continued focus on hand washing, daily cleaning and disinfecting protocols, limiting visitors to schools, and not having spectators at our events.

Over the past year and a half, we have safely kept our school open for face-to-face instruction, and we are grateful for your continued support and vigilance in following our health and safety protocols.

Our district will also continue to engage with our local and provincial partners at Fraser Health and the Ministry of Education to monitor what is happening in schools. We will continue to follow their guidance.

Over the past week we have been reviewing our health and safety measures. We have also been planning for the possibility of a functional closure. A functional closure is when we cannot adequately supervise or instruct children. We often direct children home during snow days, power outages, water main breaks, and other unique circumstances. In this case, the situation could arise that due to staff illness, we have insufficient staff to provide safe supervision of children, or to provide instruction for an extended duration.

If this happens, students will need to move to a period of learning from home. This period is intended to be 7 days and materials and support for this time will be provided by the classroom teacher.

We recognize that any closure is stressful for our school community, and we appreciate the fact that any change in routines will cause disruption and inconvenience for many. We will aim to communicate the potential for a move to home learning as quickly as we can so families can plan accordingly.

Our hope is that we do not need to move to a place where students need to be learning from home, but we want to be prepared. Please ensure that we have your updated contact information, including your phone and email to ensure you receive all communications.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Mme Niro | Principal | École Laronde Elementary