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January 2021

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# Woodland Park Elementary

9025 158 St, Surrey, V4N 2Y6

T: 604-589-5957

[www.surreyschools.ca/woodlandpark](http://www.surreyschools.ca/woodlandpark)

**Principal:** Mrs. L. Chambers

**Vice Principal:** Ms. R. Johal

**Head Clerk:** Mrs. M. Hamelin

**Clerk:** Mrs. S. Imran

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is with great enthusiasm that I welcome back our Woodland Park families and send a warm greeting to the numerous families who have recently registered at our school. Along with a number of new students, we are welcoming many new staff members who have joined our team since winter break. I joined Woodland Park on January 4<sup>th</sup> and it is my honour to serve this amazing community of students, parents and staff in the coming years. I have met a number of families already, and I look forward to connecting with many more in the coming weeks and months. Our staff looks forward to supporting our students and families in 2021. These are unprecedented times, but we know our community will work together to provide our students the safest and best experience possible.

I would like to thank you for your patience as we were faced with the challenge of restructuring our face-to-face instruction and our blended learning program in January. The class organization process was extremely complex and we worked incredibly hard to make the best possible educational decision for each child while maintaining our health and safety protocols from the Ministry of Education and the Provincial Health Officer. We appreciate your patience and understanding. Stay healthy and safe and I look forward to meeting you soon!

Warm regards,

Mrs. Lisa Chambers

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**\*Please read the important Health & Safety reminders on page 2 of this newsletter\***



## Upcoming Events

### February 3

PAC Meeting 6:30pm

### February 11

School Spirit Day  
(Twins / Multiples)

### February 15

Family Day Holiday  
(No School)

### February 18

Early Dismissal 1:35pm

### February 19

Non-Instructional Day  
(No School)

### February 24

Pink Shirt Day (Anti-Bullying)

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## MDI and FSA's

This month our grades 4 & 7 students will be participating in the MDI (Middle Years Developmental Index) Assessment and the FSA's (Federal Standardized Assessment).

# Importance of Mask Wearing

*Message from our Superintendent, Dr. Jordan Tinney:*

Currently, our Provincial Health Officer and the Ministry of Education do not recommend masks for elementary school students. In a recent interview, Dr. Henry stated that it is challenging for young children to wear a mask all day particularly when they are sitting at a desk or table all day. Wearing a mask can also increase touching of the face and can increase the need for close adult contact when young children need help putting a mask on or off.

There are requirements to wear masks in schools when in common areas and our staff has made a commitment to make mask wearing part of their daily work both in and out of the classroom. We are asking you to speak with your child about wearing a mask outside of the classroom as part of our attempt to develop a culture of mask wearing across our school.

## Important Health & Safety Reminders

The staff at Woodland Park is committed to keeping our community safe. We are reminding parents of the following tips from our district health and safety department:

*\*please ensure you are maintaining social distance (2 meters apart) from all students, parents and staff at all times while on school grounds*

*\*parents and students are encouraged to not congregate on school grounds both before and after school (this includes the school playground)*

*\*please try to drop off and pick up your child(ren) in a timely manner.*

*\*we are asking parents to not enter the back of the school at the end of the day during instructional time (not prior to 2:30pm). Classes are still in session at this time and we often have classes participating in daily physical activity outside.*

## Student Pick up / Drop off / Parent Parking

A reminder to families that we have two designated areas for drop off and pick up of students. Please do not leave your vehicle unattended in these designated areas as this impacts the flow of traffic in the morning and after school. Parent parking is available both on 158 Street and 90 Ave. Just a reminder that the parking lot is for staff only. We have a limited number of parking stalls for our staff and when parents park in these spots, staff need to find alternate street parking. Your cooperation is appreciated!

# Weather-related closures, class cancellations and delayed school openings

In the event of inclement weather, we want to remind families, students and staff about where to find information and how we make decisions to cancel classes, delay school openings or alter bus service due to weather.

All schools in the Surrey School District will remain OPEN if at all possible, except under extreme circumstances.

## HOW ARE DECISIONS MADE?

The Surrey School District covers a large geographic area, so conditions at individual school sites may vary. A variety of factors are considered before a decision is made, including:

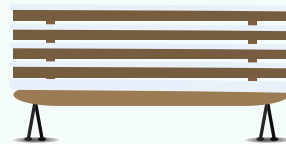
- Road, sidewalk, school and parking lot conditions;
- Issues such as power outages and other emergent matters.



Designated staff members travel predetermined routes to assess conditions, and a recommendation to close schools or cancel buses is discussed with key district personnel, as well as neighbouring school districts. Student and staff safety are always our top priority.

## WHEN WILL I KNOW?

A decision to close or delay opening schools districtwide will **be made by 7 a.m. at the latest**, based on the best information available at that time.



## HOW WILL I BE INFORMED?

Except under extreme circumstances, no announcement will be made that schools are open. Only cancellations, closures or delayed school openings will be announced. We will communicate this information as soon as it's available through:



@Surrey\_Schools



surreyschools.ca



SurreySchools



Metro Vancouver media



## FAMILIES ALWAYS HAVE A CHOICE

Student safety is our first priority and a shared responsibility. Parents may choose to make other arrangements if they don't feel it's safe to travel to school. Student absences under these circumstances will be excused. Parents should contact the school if a student will not be attending.