



École Élémentaire
Peace Arch
Elementary School

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January 8th, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians

Once again, Happy New Year to all and welcome back to school! I am pleased to say the staff and students have once again settled in and have resumed the important work of learning from and with each other. It has been wonderful to visit the classrooms and see the incredible energy and joy as the students have reconnected with their peers and teachers, and to see the teachers and support staff deeply engaged with the children. What a wonderful place of learning our school is!

With the Welcoming of the New Year comes the opportunity to reflect on the important Health & Safety expectations and protocols we work hard to enforce daily at our school and the few asks we have of you to help us keep our school safe for our staff and students. We are deeply committed to the safety of all in our school community and appreciate your assistance and cooperation in the following areas:

- Please refrain from entering the buildings. If you need to arrange a meeting with a staff member please make an appointment by phoning the school office at 604-536-8711 or contacting the teacher directly via email. ***For safety reasons we do require you to enter the school at the office entrance, however, to sign out a student who is leaving school before the end of the school day. Please use the hand sanitizer provided and wear a mask.***
- Please be prompt in leaving the grounds at the end of the day. The mingling of adults and students creates unnecessary risk for our school community and students should not be continuing to play after the bell has rang, supervised or unsupervised. The public is welcome to use our playground outside of the hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday, as well as during the weekends. At all other times, the grounds/play structures are closed to the general public, including our families. ***Please do not linger on the grounds at the end of the school day!***
- Parents/Guardians who are dropping off and picking up, please respect physical distancing and wait outside of the school in the designated areas for your child's grade. ***With the heightened safety measures as of mid-December, we ask that you consider wearing a mask at all times when you are on the grounds.***

In response to the significant increase in COVID-19 exposures in our Surrey Schools, our District is prompting the assessment and review of our Surrey Schools' current Health & Safety measures and recommending some enhanced protocols. The admin team is working closely with our school-based Health and Safety committee in this process. With this in mind the following messaging is rolling out across our District and we are asking you to consider the matter for your family and particular circumstances:

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. 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(s).

A reminder that masks are but one of several measures and they are no replacement for more significant preventative steps such as physical distancing, and staying home when sick or with symptoms. **It is extremely important that we all continue to practice and reinforce the following measures with the students at home and at school:**

- Frequent hand washing
 - When entering and leaving the home (including to and from school)
 - Before and after eating
 - After using the toilet
 - After sneezing and coughing into their hands
 - Whenever hands are visibly dirty
- Respiratory Etiquette
 - Cough or sneeze into their elbow, sleeve or tissue
 - Throw away used tissues and immediately wash hands
 - Refrain from touching their eyes, nose & mouth
 - No sharing of food, drinks or personal items
- Social Distancing
 - Maintaining a safe distance from others when out in public
 - Minimizing physical contact within your social bubble
 - Hands to self
 - No hugs, high fives, or other skin to skin contact



In addition to increased frequency in hand hygiene, practicing safe respiratory etiquette and distancing measures, we expect our students to stay home if they are feeling sick.

Daily Health Checks are the responsibility of individual staff and parents and must be done prior to entering the school.

Daily Health Check

Key Symptoms of Illness*	Does your child have any of the following key symptoms?	Circle one	
		YES	NO
	Fever	YES	NO
	Chills	YES	NO
	Cough or worsening of chronic cough	YES	NO
	Shortness of breath	YES	NO
	Loss of sense of smell or taste	YES	NO
	Diarrhea	YES	NO
	Nausea and vomiting	YES	NO
International Travel	Have you returned from travel outside Canada in the last 14 days?	YES	NO
Confirmed Contact	Are you a confirmed contact of a person confirmed to have COVID-19?	YES	NO

*Check BCCDC's [symptoms of Covid-19](#) regularly to ensure the list is up to date.

If you answered "YES" to any of the questions and the symptoms are not related to a pre-existing condition (e.g. allergies) your child should **NOT** come to school.

If they are experiencing any symptoms of illness, contact a health-care provider for further assessment. This includes 8- 1-1, or a primary care provider like a physician or nurse practitioner.

If you answered "YES" to questions 2 or 3, use the [COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) to determine if you should be tested for COVID-19.

Information Session for Parents and Caregivers

Date: Friday, January 15th

Time: 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

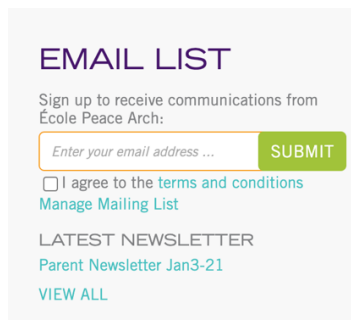
In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Children and Family Development adapted some of the EASE classroom activities for use at home by parents and caregivers to support their children's mental health and continuous learning. These fun and practical strategies help guide parents and caregivers in managing their children's anxiety and worries in the comfort of their home during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. Jen Poole, Casey Chaulk and Taunya Shaw are district EASE trainers and will teach you how to access the EASE 'At Home' resource, help understand the theory behind it and also gain some understanding of anxiety. You can join the live event [here](#).

Finally, in order to improve our communication efforts we are inviting parents and guardians to subscribe to our Surrey Schools notification app called SchoolLink, and sign up for newsletters on our website, if you have not already done so.

Communication Sign-up Information (Two Steps)

Step 1: www.surreyschools.ca/schools/peacearch to sign up for our newsletter and latest school announcements.

Below is a sample of where to sign up on the Peace Arch homepage, it is located near the bottom in the centre. *Once you sign up, you will be e-mailed a confirmation; you must confirm before you will receive future e-mails.*



The screenshot shows a sign-up form titled "EMAIL LIST" for "École Peace Arch". It includes a text input field with the placeholder "Enter your email address ..." and a green "SUBMIT" button. Below the input field is a checkbox labeled "I agree to the terms and conditions" with a link to "Manage Mailing List". Underneath, it says "LATEST NEWSLETTER" and "Parent Newsletter Jan3-21", with a "VIEW ALL" link.

Step 2: Download the School Link App from the App Store for your smart phones. *Be sure to turn on notifications.* Info/alerts/news will be sent directly to your smart phone.



SchoolLink

In closing, please remember we are here for all of you as well as your precious children! If you have any questions or concerns at any time please don't hesitate to contact any one of us at the office.

Warm regards,

Ms. L. Boulet (Principal)
Mrs. J. Donovan (Acting Principal)
Mrs. K. Crnkovich (Vice Principal)