



Lavington Elementary School

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Principal: Nigel Maccagno

October Newsletter

Principal's Message:

We are already one month into the school year and so much has happened! Despite the busy startup, the school is feeling calm and a positive learning environment exists. The staff and students are showing once again that they are adaptable, flexible, and resilient when it comes to changes and challenges presented by the pandemic. I am very proud of our collective ability to support one another with the focus of student success.

Here is a quick snapshot of September:

Class Building & Gradual Entry
Student Leadership Groups
Bus Safety
Volleyball Practices & Team Building
Election Day
Fire Drill
Terry Fox Run
Professional Development Day: Truth & Reconciliation focus
Stone Soup
Orange Shirt Day
National Day for Truth & Reconciliation

Mask Mandate: (K-7)



NEWS RELEASE

Expanded health, safety measures for K-12 students

VICTORIA: Government is updating its K-12 education health and safety guidelines to require masks for kindergarten to Grade 3 students.

In-person learning is crucial for the social and educational well-being of students. The health and safety guidelines in our schools were developed under the guidance and direction of the Public Health Office (PHO) and BC Centre for Disease Control to allow children to safely attend school on a full-time, in-person basis, said Jennifer Whiteside, Minister of Education. We know there is a high level of concern among some parents, students, teachers and boards of education, especially in regions of B.C. where transmission rates are higher. We are listening to the concerns of people and, on the advice of the provincial health officer, taking further action so that families, students and staff feel secure.

Beginning Monday, Oct. 4, 2021, all students in B.C. schools will be required to wear a mask when inside a school building, including while at their desks and on buses. This builds on the existing guidelines that currently apply to all students in grades 4 to 12.

This pandemic continues to evolve and so do we, said Dr. Bonnie Henry, provincial health officer. We need to make changes to fit the situation as it's arising. We know the COVID-19 virus is being transmitted more rapidly, particularly to those who don't have the protection that vaccination offers. This extra measure adds another layer of protection as we navigate this phase of the pandemic.

Beginning this month, the PHO will release a new monthly report that will inform British Columbians about the virus and how it effects school-aged children.

As announced in August, regional medical health officers (MHOs) may recommend additional health and safety measures in response to local and regional conditions. MHOs will continue to work with school districts to recommend any additional regional measures as required.

These measures build on the existing K-12 health and safety guidelines, which were developed in consultation with all education partners. The guidelines include daily health checks, hand washing, staying home when sick and improved ventilation systems. The guidelines also contain strategies for schools to help create space between people, including staggered recess, lunch breaks and class transition times, managing the flow of people in common areas, and using available space to spread people out.

Government will continue to be responsive to changes in the pandemic and will continue working with parents, teachers, school districts, First Nations rights-holders and all education partners to make sure schools are safe for students, teachers, and staff.

Ministry of Education

Ministry of Health

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Ministry of Education

Government Communications and Public

Engagement

250 356-5963

Ministry of Health

Government Communications and Public

Engagement

250 361-5381

Halloween: Message from the District



Halloween Costume guidelines - What Not to Wear

School District 22 – (Vernon) reminds students to keep it fun, not offensive

Halloween is just around the corner and many schools throughout **School District 22 – (Vernon)** will be hosting activities, costume parades and extra-curricular events.

It is also an opportune time to remind parents and students about inappropriate costume wear and that sometimes, even with good intent, or without even fully realizing it, people wear costumes that can make others feel upset, insulted or humiliated.

While the District does not have an official policy regarding Halloween costumes, they ask that everyone be respectful and that costumes should not cross the line that might promote sexism, racism, or appropriating culture.

Here are some guidelines to consider when selecting costumes that will be worn at school:

- Students need to be identifiable and visible to ensure safety.
- Costumes that are provocative, revealing, sexual in nature or employ questionable props will not be permitted on school grounds.
- Costumes that depict violence, alcohol or drugs are not appropriate. Fake weapons should not be brought to school.
- Costumes that could be offensive or perpetuate a stereotype of someone's culture, gender, heritage, or religion are not permitted. A resource to help better clarify this concern is the #IAmNotACostume Campaign which can be found at: <http://www.lspirg.org/costumes>

Another important reminder for older students that attend schools with younger grades, it is everyone's responsibility to create a safe environment for all students and to set a good example and think about how costume choice may impact others in the building.

With so many creative minds at work, there are a limitless number of costumes that don't offend, so why not pick one of those this year!

Happy Halloween and safe trick-or-treating.

Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences:

Please see attachment for more information:

October 28th: Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences (Buses run 3 hours early)

October 29th: Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences (Buses run 3 hours early)

Lavington Calendar: Upcoming Events

October 4th: Class Pictures

October 7th: P.A.C Meeting @ 6:30 (see lavingtonelementary.ca for more details)

October 11th: Thanksgiving Holiday

October 22nd: Professional Development Day (Provincial) No School

October 28th: Picture Re-takes

October 28th: Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences (Buses run 3 hours early)

October 29th: Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences (Buses run 3 hours early)

Respectfully,

Nigel Maccagno