



## Lavington Elementary School

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Principal: Nigel Maccagno

# January Newsletter

## Principal's Message:

Welcome back Lavington families! As you know, things are constantly changing these days and we are asking for your continued support. Here are a few essential guidelines that have been emphasized for our return to school on Monday, January 10th. Please read carefully and help prepare your family for the new expectations.

## Limited Visitor Access: Appointment ONLY

**All school access must be made by an appointment through the front office. We have once again become a closed campus.**

Once an appointment is made, visitors must continue to do the following at the front entrance:

1. Wear a mask
2. Sign in/out
3. Hand sanitize

\*\*If you need support with transitioning your child to the classroom, please contact me and we will plan for an alternative drop off\*\*

## Daily Health Checks:

Please continue to do health checks every morning before entering the school. If your child is sick, please keep them home and follow the public health recommendations.

Adult checklist: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/kindergarten-to-grade-12/covid/daily-health-check-english.pdf>

Student checklist: <https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/healthcheck?execution=e1s1>

## Mask Wearing:

Students will need to become much more diligent with mask wearing while in school. This means **students are to come to school with a mask on and be prepared to wear it while indoors for the entirety of the day.** Masks may be removed while eating/drinking, intense physical activity, and when outdoors. For those students who lost or forgot their mask, the office will supply one. The office will also track the number of times a student is needing a mask from the office through the use of the student agenda. We hope this will help some students become more responsible for what is being expected of them. (mask information on pg.9 of link below)

<https://sd22.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/January-3-2022-Communicable-Disease-Plan.pdf>

**Please help your child with mask care in terms of cleaning, comfort, and having them packed in their bags for the school day.** Multiple masks will be needed as students struggle to keep track when they transition throughout the day.

## Maximizing Personal Space:

We have been directed to maximize personal space at the school. Desks and tables have been rearranged to minimize face to face seating and/or physical contact. We will continue to have our lineups in the same locations around the school as it already avoids gatherings and crowding. If your children walk to and from school, please support the message of having them leave the school grounds at the end of the day. This will help alleviate the crowding at the end of the day for those families picking up and those students who take the bus. Thank you!

## Updated District #22 CDP:

<https://sd22.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/January-3-2022-Communicable-Disease-Plan.pdf>

## Self-Isolation / Return to Work/School:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/if-you-have-covid-19#self-isolation>

## Functional Closure:

As you know, the Omicron Variant is highly contagious and transmissible, and it has a much lower incubation period. We will depend on the commitment and support of our entire school community to minimize the transmission in our school to ensure that our students and staff remain healthy, and our school can remain staffed for in-school learning. Keeping our students and staff healthy will be a team effort and we ask that all of our families review

the district's Communicable Disease Plan and review the district video as well as the information below. [www.sd22.bc.ca](http://www.sd22.bc.ca) (under the COVID tab)

## What is a Functional School Closure?

The reason for a functional school closure would be dependent on a few factors, such as high rates of staff illness or due to a public health closure of the school. If there is high rate of staff absence, the school can no longer provide instruction or adequate student supervision.

At this time, we are hopeful that we will not experience a functional school closure, but given the high transmission rates of the variant, we need to proactively plan for a situation in which the school could no longer fully operate for a short period of time (up to 7 days).

As a school, we have looked at ways in which teachers could quickly pivot to provide short-term remote learning communication and activities for students.

We ask that families also consider some proactive planning for a functional school closure. This pre-planning and preparation will hopefully alleviate angst for families in the event of receiving a call from the school to pick-up their child immediately. Some pre-planning with friends, family or emergency contacts will help to support students while learning at home.

Proactive Family Planning:

- Please ensure that the school office has updated parent/guardian contact information.
- Ensure that you have updated your emergency contact information and provided any changes to the office of who can pick-up your child from school.
- If you work full-time, consider making a school closure plan with friends and family so that you have childcare plans in place, should the school be required to close
- Does your child have ready access to a personal device so that they could access assignments, learning tasks or connect with their classroom teacher? If not, please communicate this to your child's classroom teacher.

## Lavington Calendar: Upcoming Events

January 10<sup>th</sup>: First Day Back!

January 28<sup>th</sup>: Professional Development Day (No School for students)

Respectfully,  
Nigel Maccagno