



Ranchero Elementary School



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Newsletter # 8

Respect, Responsibility, Compassion, Honesty & Fun

Principal's Message

Happy New Year to all families. We hope all have found time over the last three weeks to rest and rejuvenate. Ranchero staff has taken the last week to prepare for school to reopen for all students starting on Monday, January 10. We have also been preparing for a potential return to online learning in case of a functional school closure (not enough staff to operate safely).

One of the main focuses of our return to school is to ensure all staff and students are wearing masks inside the building. This is a level of protection to keep all safe. Please take the time to talk with your child about the importance of mask wearing during this time and if possible, please purchase one month's supply of procedural masks for your child so that we can reduce the transmissibility of the virus through January. We are currently not recommending cloth/ fabric masks or gaiters. The support from all homes with this is greatly appreciated.

We hope all have taken some time to watch the Virtual Ranchero 2021 Winter concert. I would like to acknowledge that the students did an amazing job performing in front of the camera. Thank you again to Ms. Wilson and Ms. Allen and the Ranchero staff for all your time and effort preparing the students to present. Thank you as well to Ranchero families for all your support from home with this.

Once again, this year Ranchero will be celebrating Pink Shirt Day on February 23, 2022. To learn more about Pink Shirt day please visit the website at <https://www.pinkshirtday.ca/> There are many great resources on the website. One of the strategies we use to educate Ranchero students if they feel they are in conflict is to use their WITS. WITS stands for: Walk Away, Ignore, Talk it out, Seek Help. At Ranchero we have supervisors outside at break times and we encourage students to seek help from our supervisors or Mr. Cumming if they feel they are being bullied or in conflict with another student. Ranchero students consistently report conflict, and most can be resolved in the moment with adult help. All students are encouraged to wear pink to school on this day to support an anti-bullying school culture and to promote kindness!

Thank you for your continued support from home with Daily Health Checks and Mask Wearing. These are very important parts of our current practices. If you are keeping your child home for illness or any other reason, please remember to call the school office and let Kathy know. Please read on for further information on practices in place here at Ranchero.

Sincerely,

Doug Cumming
Principal

Important Dates

A few things to keep in mind as we move through the month of January, February and March:

- January 12 PAC meeting at 6:30 pm in Library – Virtual on TEAMS
- January 22 – 29 Unplug and Play Week
- January 27 Mr. MacKay's class to Larch Hills
- February 2 Mrs. Seed's class to Larch Hills
- February 17 Second formal Report Card home – May be postponed to March
- February 18 Pro D Day – Students do not attend
- February 21 BC Family Day – Students do not attend
- February 23 **Pink Shirt Day – Students encouraged to wear Pink to school**
- March 11 Pro D Day – Students do not attend

- March 18 Last Day prior to Spring Break
- April 4 School reopens from Spring Break
- April 15 Good Friday – Students do not attend
- April 18 Easter Monday – Students do not attend

The school calendar can be found at: <https://ran.sd83.bc.ca/school-calendar/>

School Procedures:

Here is a reminder of some of the current procedures we have in place at Rancho:

- Parents/caregivers are to conduct at home daily health checks each day, prior to sending their child to school and following public health recommendations. It is mandatory for students and staff to stay home when sick.
- Regular handwashing will continue throughout the day. Hand sanitizer is available for students and students may also bring their own. Please review this expectation with students at home.
- As a staff we will demonstrate and model how to practice personal prevention measures at school (eg. wearing a mask, hand hygiene, etc.).
- All K-12 staff are required to wear a mask indoors in schools.
- Students (without exemptions) in grade K - 8 are required to wear a mask indoors in schools.
- Students are not allowed to share items that come in contact with the mouth (food, drinks, unwashed utensils, instruments).
- Students need a water bottle; fountains are closed but we have 2 filtered bottle filling stations. Please label water bottles with student's name to avoid usage by the wrong student. Please check daily to make sure your child has their water bottle.

Thanks in advance for your continued support and cooperation.

Family Sledding Party

Our annual family sledding party will not take place this year. As with many other activities we are looking forward to having this event take place in 2023.

PAC News

All parents, with children in the public school system automatically become members of the school's Parent Advisory Council. Please feel free to join our next **PAC meeting on Wednesday, January 12 at 6:30 pm VIA TEAMS**



Ministry of Education Student Learning Survey

During the months of January and February, School District No. 83 is participating in the 2022 Ministry of Education Electronic Anonymous Student Learning Survey in cooperation with all other School Districts throughout the Province.

Parents/Guardians can complete the Internet Electronic Anonymous Surveys **any time before March 18, 2022**, providing immediate satisfaction level results to the school and the district.

Please take time to complete the short school survey. The link is available from the Ranchemo Elementary School Website under INO FOR PARENTS, GRADE 4 and 7 SURVEY.

Or you can cut and paste this link:

<https://www.awinfosys.com/surveyfull1/central/main/ParentSurvey.asp>.

When selecting the School District on the website, we are No. 83 North Okanagan Shuswap.

We want everyone's input. The survey is short, it takes less than 5 minutes to complete. We value your opinions – thank you.

