

January 6, 2022

Dear Parents and Students,

We have had a very productive few days here at school this week. Though we are very optimistic that we will continue with in-school learning in the coming weeks and months, our faculty and staff have been hard at work preparing for any eventuality we may encounter. Our goals for the week were as they have always been since the advent of COVID; ensuring the continuity of our school programming and maintaining a safe environment for our students and staff.

Tomorrow, we will be releasing an addendum to our Communicable Disease Prevention (CDP) plan which will outline changes to our safety procedures and guidelines. Our key safety strategies continue to be:

- Mandatory masks at all times in the building
- Completing a daily health check
- Staying home when sick
- Frequent hand hygiene
- Keeping and respecting the personal space of others
- Daily cleaning and sanitizing throughout the building
- Recommending vaccinations (including boosters) for staff and students

Additionally, we will:

- Return to a two-lunch schedule to allow more space for students to spread out during lunch time
- Alter our daily start time on Professional mornings to 9:50am
- Limit visitors to only those who are essential to our educational programs or building maintenance

Our commitment to the wellness and safety of our students and staff is unwavering and in keeping with the guidelines set out by the Ministry of Education (MOE), Ministry of Health (MOH) and BCCDC. From past experience we know that having students attend school each day is best for their learning, wellness and there is tremendous benefit to maintaining their regular routine.

Starting Monday, all aspects of school will continue as usual. This includes our sports teams, lunch clubs and all classes. We are expecting an increase in student absences given the more contagious nature of the Omicron variant. Our teachers are committed and prepared to support students who miss classes due to illness using a variety of supports.

Our school's ability to successfully navigate the ever-changing landscape of COVID these past two years is, in large part, due to the support of our families and how we have all worked together as a school community. We know the onset of Omicron can feel unsettling for some and disappointing for others. If we continue to use kindness, compassion and understanding to guide us, we will come through this latest adversity positively.

We're looking forward to welcoming all our students back on Monday!

Best Regards,
Alex