

December, 2020

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'We inspire competence, character and compassion'

December Dates to Remember



Tues. Dec. 1	Salvation Army Food Drive begins
Tues. Dec. 1	Deck the Halls / Red and Green Day
Fri. Dec. 11	Hot Lunch - McDonalds
Fri. Dec. 11	Term 1 Report Cards go home
Tues. Dec. 15	PAC Meeting @ 7:00
Fri. Dec. 18	Spirit Day: Holiday Sweater
Dec. 19 -Jan. 3	Christmas Break
Mon. Jan. 4	School Re-Opens

Principal's Message

December has now arrived and we have come to the end of a very unique, yet successful first term at Strathcona. I am extremely proud of how our school community has exemplified our virtues of kindness, patience and compassion, together with all of the superb learning that has taken place in each classroom. As we look ahead, our virtue focus turns to joyfulness for December and we are excited about events such as decking the halls where we will be decorating classrooms to the sound of many seasonal classics, and for our Christmas Video which should prove to add joyfulness to this season. As I come to the end of my tenure at Strathcona, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to our wonderful students, staff and parents. I have very much enjoyed serving here and wish the Strathcona Community all the very best in the future. As we approach the holidays, I would like to extend to everyone a safe and joyful Christmas.

True happiness comes from the joy of deeds well done, the zest of creating things new. - Antione de Saint-Exupery

Jonathan Ferris

Report Cards

Report Cards will be sent home on Friday, December 11th. Please take some time to celebrate successes with your child and also encourage your son/daughter in the areas that he/she can continue to work on. We really appreciate your support and encouragement with your child's learning!

Christmas at Strathcona



Deck the Halls

On Tuesday, December 1st staff and students will spend the afternoon decorating the halls at Strathcona and getting into the holiday festive mood. Christmas trees will go up, doors will be decorated and Strathcona will be jingling.



Canned Food

Our students will be collecting food for the Salvation Army beginning on Tuesday, December 1st. We are aiming to collect as many items as possible to help those in need during the holidays.



Christmas Concert

Our 'virtual' Christmas Concert will be based on the book, 'Twas the Night Before Christmas'. We will be sending home an unlisted Youtube link in mid December.



Cinnamon Buns

As a special Christmas treat, our amazing PAC will be providing cinnamon buns in single serve packages to students and staff on Wednesday December 16th. We are all looking forward to these delicious snacks. Thanks Parents!

PAC Facebook Page

Our PAC has a Facebook Group where you can access important updates and information. The address is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/strathonapac/>. Please refer to the standards of etiquette once accepted.

Lost and Found

Monthly photos will be posted for Lost and Found items. Please review the photos and have your child claim any item that may be theirs in the Lost and Found.

Sad News

One of our long time volunteers Bev Young, passed away in November. She contributed tirelessly to our library and she will be deeply missed by us all.

Inclement Weather Guidelines

Chilliwack School District

2020/2021

INCLEMENT WEATHER SCHOOL CLOSURE GUIDELINES
Information for Parents and Students

Inclement weather conditions such as freezing rain, significant snowfall or high wind can occur during the fall and winter months. In such conditions, decisions on the opening or closure of school district facilities are made by the Superintendent of Schools in consultation with management and supervisory staff who have checked first-hand on the driving conditions, walking/sidewalk conditions, and general condition of buildings and accessibility to sites. *For more details on how this is done, [click here](#).*

While service to students and parents is a priority and schools will be kept open as much as is reasonably possible, student and staff safety is the primary consideration.

In the event of extreme weather conditions, parents are urged to check the **School District website www.sd33.bc.ca** or tune into radio stations **STAR FM (98.3 FM)** or **THE DRIVE (89.5 FM)**, to receive up-to-date information on school closures and information on the buses. Reports will start after 6:00 a.m. and will be repeated often. The information broadcast is directly from the School District. The reports are confirmed and there is no need to call your school, the School District Office or the radio station.

In the event that there is inclement weather but the school remains open, it is the parent's decision, based on their assessment of the relative safety of travel conditions, as to whether or not their children attend school. Students will be marked absent for the day, but such an absence will not affect a perfect attendance record.

A **Transportation Snow Plan** is in place for students who rely on travel by school bus and live in **higher elevations** such as Chilliwack Mountain, Little Mountain, Majuba Hill, Ryder Lake and some areas of Columbia Valley and the Eastern Hillisides. An announcement will be made should travel in these areas become challenging due to slippery road conditions. *(Please note: the greater Promontory area does not have a snow plan).*

All inclement weather announcements will be posted on the District website www.sd33.bc.ca



How are District Sites and Road Conditions Assessed during Inclement Weather?

Beginning at approximately 2:00 a.m., a team of maintenance and transportation staff begin investigating road conditions and conditions at district sites. Unpredictable conditions can be a result of the varying elevations within Chilliwack. For this reason, road assessments take place in the following areas:

Rosedale, Popkum, Little Mountain and Chilliwack Mountain, Columbia Valley (to the U.S. Border), Chilliwack Lake Road (to Allison Pools), Promontory, Ryder Lake (to Look-Out Point), Prest Road, Marble Hill, Yarrow (including Majuba Hill), and Greendale.

District crews provide an estimated time that snow and ice will be cleared from parking lots, sidewalks and buses. The Manager of Transportation also consults with City of Chilliwack Maintenance Staff and the Fraser Valley Regional District (EMIL Anderson). Weather reports and storm warnings are taken into consideration for the day. Other concerns include fallen or low-lying trees, power failures, accidents and traffic flow. Sidewalks that have excessive snow due to snow removal off the streets are also a safety concern, especially along corridors where students would normally walk to school.

Decisions are also made based on weather conditions forecasted for the "whole day". If weather changes mid-day there is no way for us to bring students home early because in many cases both parents are working, or may not be home.

Once area assessments are complete, the Facilities/Transportation Team meet to compare their observations. A recommendation is then made to the Superintendent of Schools prior to 5:00 a.m.

How do we make a decision to announce a Snow Day?

Once a recommendation is received, the Superintendent of Schools makes a decision based on the information provided; taking into account the safety of students and staff as a primary concern.

A district announcement is immediately placed on the local radio stations, School District website and social media sites. Notification is also sent to staff, District partners, Community/NLC Coordinators, Daycares and Preschools.

Snow Days are announced on a day-by-day basis only. If inclement weather should continue for more than one day, a routine assessment will occur each day with recommendations brought forward prior to an announcement.

Should inclement weather occur over a weekend, Community School/NLC Coordinators and Principals at these sites are updated and notified of any closures so they may plan accordingly should they need to cancel rentals and re-schedule planned events. For this reason, Community School and NLC sites (or sites hosting significant events) are given priority for snow removal on weekends.

Principals should notify Facilities Staff of significant planned events (including weekend events) booked at their site so that snow removal crews can be scheduled accordingly.

Parking Lot

Parents please refrain from parking in all no parking zones including bike lanes and please do not let your car idle when parked. Thanks for your cooperation. When dropping off your child, please do so in front of the school.

Library News

Here is a link to our library news for December: <https://bit.ly/318J5h>

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration for the 2020-21 school year is now underway. If your child will be five (5) years of age by December 31, 2021 and you live in our catchment, please register online at: <https://sd33.vivosforms.com/Home>.

Winter

Please send your child with a jacket and other appropriate warm clothing as the weather turns colder. We expect our students to be outside at recess and lunch on most days.



"Maybe Christmas he thought, doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas perhaps, means a little bit more." Dr. Seuss

