

Welcome Back Families and Children,

We are excited to be welcoming all students back Monday January 10, 2022. This phased restart has given our staff an opportunity to make numerous changes to their classroom environments and do initial planning in the event of a school closure. These changes and closure plans were all outlined in the email that was sent on Friday, January 7, 2022. We understand that many people are feeling a mixture of emotions in regard to the current pandemic situation, but we will continue to send out timely communication in order to give families consistent and clear information from Adam Robertson Elementary. Please monitor your emails closely over the next month as we send updates and information.

COVID Health & Safety Reminders:

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 1. All visitors (including all parents) must make an appointment with the Principal and sign in/out with Mrs. Scott at the office. They must wear a mask and complete the health & safety check. Appointments are not necessary for those who are volunteering for food programs, such as breakfast and lunch programs.
 2. Handwashing or hand sanitizing will continue to be a daily part of expectations: upon entry to school, before and after eating, before and after using the washroom, before and after going outside.
 3. Masks/PPE are recommended mandatory for all adults and children while inside the building.
 4. **Anyone feeling ill must stay home.** This includes all staff and students
 5. Should a child become sick while at school, that person will be escorted to our sick room across from the office, and Parents/guardians will be called to pick up their child.
 6. Students are expected to follow the school code of conduct. This will be posted online and in all classrooms.

Masks: are required for all adults and students while indoors. We will continue to provide mask breaks to students outdoors throughout the day.

Daily Health Checks: Daily Health Checks need to be performed before school. **Please stay home if you are sick.**

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

Staff Changes:

With Joanne Beddoes retiring, Darryl Adams will assume the role of Principal and Tanya Christenson (formerly Poznikoff) as Vice Principal. Having shared a grade seven class for many years, we look forward to working together again in this larger capacity – supporting the ARES staff, students and families to make our school a safe and happy place. Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns. We are looking forward to this next challenge.

Kat Takeda will be returning to our school on January 4th as a Social-Emotional Support Teacher. We are thrilled to have Kat back at ARES after she spent the last eight years at Kootenay River Secondary School (formerly PCSS).

On January 17th, Caroline Vandenberghe will assume the Grade 6/7 teaching role when Emelia Johnson begins her maternity leave. Caroline is joining us from the Edmonton area, where she taught upper intermediate classes for the last five years. Prior to her Alberta move, she resided in Chilliwack, teaching at Rosedale Community School for thirteen years. We look forward to working with Caroline and wish Emelia and her family all the best as they venture into parenthood.

Tanya Christenson's Counselling Role: Tanya will continue to support students when they reach out. Although she will no longer be in her formal counselling role, she is happy to provide social-emotional guidance and navigate issues with students and families as situations emerge.

Office Mailbox: The mailbox that used to be on Tanya's Counselling Room door was used frequently by students, to report concerns, to ask for help, or to anonymously let us know about something important. This private box is now attached to the Principal/Vice-Principal office door. Students can continue to reach out in this way when needed.

Winter Weather: It is of high importance that students are prepared for the winter weather and the snowy conditions. We intend to have students outside as much as possible during this time and it is important for them to have the proper attire in order to enjoy their time. We have also been in contact with many families in regards to the constantly growing icicles on the building. We have placed some barriers in areas to keep students away from the sides of the building, and will talk to students at our virtual assembly tomorrow. We have also been in contact with District Operations staff and expect the icicles to be removed from the roof as soon as possible. Please talk to your child(ren) about appropriate winter clothing, and staying away from the icicles on the sides of the building.

Important Dates:

- Tuesday, January 10th – School Starts
- PAC Meeting – TBA (Email and Zoom Link to be sent when scheduled)
- Friday, January 28th – Report Cards go home

Thanks and we look forward to seeing everyone tomorrow,

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