



William Konkin Elementary School

School District #91 (Nechako Lakes)

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August 30, 2020

Bonjour, Hadeeh and Hello WKE family,

I hope you are all enjoying your summer. We are truly missing you! And, we can't wait to see you soon!

As you may already know, the Province has announced that schools will open for full-time, in-school instruction in September based on Stage 2 of the government's Five-Stage Plan. The plan for School District No. 91 and William Konkin Elementary School has been developed and guided by the Ministry of Education, the Provincial Health Officer and the BC Centre for Disease Control. The Ministry's requirements state that students who are registered in a school are expected to attend school in-person unless they have health concerns.

We are excited to share the details of our plan for William Konkin Elementary with you. It is our goal to ensure WKE continues to be the safe and welcoming place it has always been.

There is A LOT of information to share so here is a list of Frequently Asked Questions for you. Please don't hesitate to connect with me if there is something more that you may need to know. And, please continue to check our school website, our PAC Facebook page and the School District No. 91 Facebook page for further updates as we know things can change quickly as we all live this unique experience together.

When will my child return to school?

Tuesday, September 8 and Wednesday September 9

ONLY staff will attend school. We will be learning and working together to prepare to welcome our students including our health and safety measures and the specifics of our WKE Stage 2 plan.

Thursday, September 10

Students with a last name beginning with A to J will attend a full day of school. Students will learn their class and Cohort at this time. *Except for Kindergarten students. WKE practices a gradual entry to Kindergarten. Mrs. West (K teacher) will be sending out a letter to all Kindergarten parents with a schedule for when their child will attend school.*

Friday, September 11

Students with a last name beginning with K to Z will attend a full day of school. Students will learn their class and Cohort at this time. *Except for Kindergarten students. WKE practices a gradual entry to Kindergarten. Mrs. West (K teacher) will be sending out a letter to all Kindergarten parents with a schedule for when their child will attend school.*

Monday, September 14

ALL students will return to school full time.

What time do students come and go from school?

At this time, for morning drop-off:

Students who take the bus to school will be contacted by the School District Transportation Department regarding bus schedules.

Students who walk or get a ride to school are asked to **arrive at school as close to 8:50 as possible.**

At this time, for student pick-up, we are still waiting for specifics regarding times as we must coordinate with all other Burns Lake schools and busses. We do know:

Students who take the bus to school will be contacted by the School District Transportation Department regarding bus schedules. Bus students will need to report to their bus line-ups and stay in-line, minimizing physical contact, while they wait for their bus.

Students who are picked up from school will wait at the front of WKE and will be directed to calmly walk to their parents (please park in designated visitor parking area). Students who are walking will be asked to head home immediately.

What are Cohorts and what will they look like at WKE?

Cohorts are a group of students and staff of up to maximum of 60. The purpose of Cohorts is to reduce the number of in-person, close interactions an individual has in a day with different people helps to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

While our WKE Cohorts will consist of 2 or 3 similar -grade classes, the main learning group for each student will be their individual class. WKE has 4 cohorts in total.

Can students and staff from different Cohorts interact?

During break times (i.e. recess, lunch) or unique learning situations (i.e. academic support), students can socialize with peers in different cohorts if they are outdoors and can minimize physical contact or if they are indoors and can maintain physical distance.

Staff who work with a variety of students such as our Aboriginal Education Staff, supervisors or Mr. Ware or me 😊 will strictly follow all Health and Safety Guidelines including wearing a mask when directed by the guidelines and keeping physically distanced.

ALL staff will wear a mask and physically distance when they are outside of their Cohort in common and high traffic areas such as our hallways.

What will students be doing at school?

Students will learn the BC Curriculum as they would normally. LOTS of learning, kindness and caring!

Will the day be different?

A little. Our school is big, so in order to maximize our ability to minimize physical contact we are going to approach our school as four cohorts. One cohort will be mostly our primary classes, the other cohort will be mostly our intermediate classes, the third cohort will be made up of our French learning, and the fourth cohort will be made up of our 6 -7 students. These cohorts will allow us to organize recess and lunch and reduce the number of people in our hallways.

Mornings – students will play outside. Decker Lake students, waiting for the bus, will need to line up against the bus line numbers.

Recess and lunch – we will stagger these times as needed and as guided by the Ministry of Health.

We will also be enjoying the great outdoors throughout the day as much as possible.

How will bussing work?

As mentioned, our Transportation Department will contact parents regarding details for the bus schedule and Health and Safety protocols for bus riders. Our Transportation Department will be following safety protocols including cleaning and disinfecting and physically distancing seating.

Are parent/caregivers/guests allowed in the school?

As much as we always want WKE to be a welcoming building for everyone, currently we also need to minimize and track contacts within our school. For this reason, access to schools will be limited to staff and students. We ask parents/caregivers to not enter the school and drop off and pick up outside the building. Parents and caregivers and visitors can request an appointment through the school office.

What if my child or an adult at school is sick?

It is vitally important that students and staff who are sick do not come to school. We will follow this guideline strictly. The BCCDC guidelines state:

- Staff and student **MUST** stay home or go home and follow the direction of their health care provider when sick with common cold, influenza or COVID-19 symptoms.
- All students who have travelled outside Canada in the last 14 days **OR** were identified as a close contact of a confirmed case or outbreak must stay home and self-isolate.
- **Parents and caregivers must assess their child daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to school. Please use the attached Daily Health Check as your at-home guide (or link to it at https://www.sd91.bc.ca/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=1095501&type=d&pREC_ID=1370090).**
- Students and staff who become sick while at school will need to go home as soon as possible.

What should we bring to school?

Please send your child to WKE with a healthy, peanut-free snack and lunch. Please try to send food items that require minimal heating in a microwave or access to hot water.

Ensure that your child is dressed in layers appropriate for the weather conditions as the students will be going outside multiple times throughout the day.

Please avoid bringing toys, stuffed animals, etc. to school as these items cannot be easily sanitized.

Students will not be sharing any items. Please send minimal school supplies on the first day of school. Teachers will send further details regarding when to send supplies after the first day of school.

Will breakfast and snack still be available?

Yes. We know food is an important part of our school day. We will continue with our breakfast and snack program with very enhanced safety protocols.

Do students and staff need to wear masks?

Staff will wear masks while in high traffic areas, like hallways, and any time they are outside of the classroom or cohort and they cannot physically distance from others. Staff may also choose to wear a mask within their Cohort).

Wearing masks for students is a family decision and will be honoured as such.

What are the other Health and Safety protocols at WKE?

Health and Safety will be our priority for the 2020-2021 school year at WKE. We are using the *Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K -12 Settings* document to guide our planning to keep us all safe. I encourage you to refer to this document as it has lots of great information. I have posted the link to this document at the end of this letter.

Our other Safety Measures include:

Cleaning and disinfecting

WKE will be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the BCCDC's Cleaning and Disinfectants guidelines. This includes a daytime custodian and additional custodial staff to clean after each school day.

Physical Distancing and Minimizing Physical Contact

Physical distancing is something that has become part of our lives. It is also something that is challenging in a school setting, particularly with younger students. As such, it is reasonable to establish different expectations for varying age levels and activities.

Our students will be supported to have minimized physical contact with one another within their cohort and outdoors. They will be supported to maintain physical distance if they are indoors or not within their Cohorts.

We will not be gathering in large groups such as assemblies. All students will be reminded not to share their personal belongings, food or beverages.

In our hallways we will move in directions that minimize physical contact. We teach our students to "move like traffic" which includes "stop, look and listen" at intersections, walking on the right and knowing who has the right of way.

Hand Hygiene

Rigorous hand washing with plain soap and water is the most effective way to reduce the spread of illness. We will incorporate hand hygiene opportunities into our daily schedule and teach and regularly remind staff and students about the importance of diligent hand hygiene.

There are sanitizing stations and/or handwashing sinks in each of our classrooms and spaces and at each of our entrances.

Our daily schedule will involve hand washing at the following times:

- When students arrive at school and before they go home.
- Before and after any breaks (e.g., recess, lunch).
- Between different learning environments (e.g., outdoor-indoor transitions, from the gym to the classroom).
- Before and after eating and drinking.

- After using the toilet.
- After handling common resources/equipment/supplies or pets.
- After sneezing or coughing into hands.
- Whenever hands are visibly dirty.

Respiratory Etiquette

We will teach and reinforce these healthy practices including:

- coughing or sneezing into our elbow sleeve or a tissue. Throwing away used tissues and immediately performing hand hygiene.
- refraining from touching their eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.

We have installed plexiglass barriers at our front office and at our breakfast /lunch serving windows.

Our windows will be open when possible. Our HVAC systems will be set to increase the intake of outside air and to maximize air exchange in classrooms and other spaces.

Thank you for taking the time to review this document as a family. Please don't hesitate to contact me at the school (692-3146), on my cell (251-2173) or by e-mail ntoth@sd91.bc.ca if you have questions, concerns or thoughts. If changes happen, we will communicate again the week of August 31st.-

We can't wait to see everyone!

Natasha Toth
Principal

Provincial COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings.

<https://www.google.com/search?q=provincial+covid-19+health+and+safety+guidelines+for+k-12+setting&oq=provin&aqs=chrome.0.69i59j69i57j0l4j46j0.4971j0j1&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8&safe=active&ssui=on>

Daily Health Check			
1. Symptoms of Illness*	Does your child have any of the following symptoms?	CIRCLE ONE	
	Fever	YES	NO
	Chills	YES	NO
	Cough or worsening of chronic cough	YES	NO
	Shortness of breath	YES	NO
	Sore throat	YES	NO
	Runny nose / stuffy nose	YES	NO
	Loss of sense of smell or taste	YES	NO
	Headache	YES	NO

	Fatigue	YES	NO
	Diarrhea	YES	NO
	Loss of appetite	YES	NO
	Nausea or vomiting	YES	NO
	Muscle aches	YES	NO
	Conjunctivitis (pink eye)	YES	NO
	Dizziness, confusion	YES	NO
	Abdominal pain	YES	NO
	Skin rashes or discolouration of fingers or toes	YES	NO
2. International Travel	Have you or anyone in your household returned from travel outside Canada in the last 14 days?	YES	NO
3. Confirmed Contact	Are you or is anyone in your household a confirmed contact of a person confirmed to have COVID-19?	YES	NO