



December 31, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I am writing as a follow up to my letter of December 30<sup>th</sup> and to provide greater clarity around what is happening in Pacific Rim Schools during the next ten days.

As you are already aware, on Wednesday, December 29<sup>th</sup> Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry and Education Minister Jennifer Whiteside announced a Winter Break Extension Order, delaying the resumption of classes until Monday, January 10, 2022. Practically, this means the following:

- schools will be closed until January 10<sup>th</sup>, at which time regular instruction will resume for all students.
- because schools are closed, school buses will not be running until classes resume on January 10<sup>th</sup>
- breakfast and lunch programs will resume on January 10<sup>th</sup>
- extracurricular activities are cancelled the week of January 4-7
- StrongStart programs are cancelled the week of January 4-7
- all staff will return to work as planned on Tuesday, January 4<sup>th</sup> for the purpose of reviewing and implementing revised K-12 health and safety plans prior to students returning on January 10<sup>th</sup>.
- *school-based daycare services may resume January 4<sup>th</sup>. Please connect with your childcare operator for specific details regarding operations next week.*

Within the Winter Break Extension Order, however, is the expectation that during the week of January 4-7 and during regular school hours, schools will provide supervision and support to elementary-aged children of Essential Service Workers (ESW) and to students with unique and complex special needs. This is similar to the support and supervision previously provided to ESW's children and to students with unique learning needs. **If you are an Essential Service Worker, please click [here](#) for more information on eligibility, school-based services, and processes to confirm your child's attendance next week. If you are a parent of a student with unique or complex special needs and whose learning needs require in-person attendance next week, please contact your school administrator to discuss further.**

Finally, given the increase in COVID-19 cases in the province due to the Omicron variant, the PHO, BCCDC and Ministry of Education is reminding families to perform daily health checks, to wear a proper fitting face mask, clean hands regularly, get the COVID-19 vaccine if eligible, stay at home when sick and follow public health recommendations.

Thanks for your patience, support and understanding. We will continue to provide further details as they become available and I encourage families to monitor the district website for additional updates. You can also download the Pacific Rim Schools app from the App Store for updates and notifications. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact your school administration.

With respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Smyth". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Greg Smyth  
Superintendent of Schools