



Glenview News



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Newsletter #1

"On Track to Success"

September 2020

September 2, 2020

Dear Glenview Families,

I can't wait to see you all again! Hopefully you enjoyed lots of family and outdoor time this summer, in spite of the rain and cool temperatures. My trailer leaked for the first time ever (it's a hybrid tent trailer/hard top, and the canvas can only withstand so many days of rain!).

I am sure all of you are wondering what school will look like this fall and what Glenview will be doing to keep staff and students safe and healthy. I continue to receive new guidelines almost daily, and the one thing I can count on is continuous adjustment and change. Flexibility and patience seem to be the key right now. The schools are working carefully with Northern Health, WorkSafe BC, and the Ministry of Education to follow all protocols and safety precautions.

This week, we are busy creating Learning Groups: cohorts of students and staff that will be outside at lunch together, and that may carry out some learning activities together, without having to physical distance. This will be your child's "bubble" while at school. We will have three lunch hours to keep our learning groups separate from each other. Our limit from the Public Health Officer is 60 elementary students per learning group. We are grouping divisions together that are similar grades—Divisions 1, 2, and 3 for instance and Divisions 10 and 11. Your child's teacher is going to call you on September 8 or 9 to let you know which division and which learning group your child is in, and where to line up, etc. Students will still be in regular divisions and classrooms, with a classroom teacher. We are just being very cautious about what other students your child mixes with this Fall. Unfortunately, at this time, parents, guests, and volunteers are not permitted in the schools (except by appointment). Also, there cannot be any outside food brought into the school except in each person's lunch bag, for their use only.

Students are going to return to school for September Orientation on either September 10 or 11. The district has asked that we divide the students by last name; for instance, students whose last names begin with A to I would come from 9 to 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 10. Students with names beginning with J to Q would come for orientation from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 10, and those whose names begin with R to Z would come on Friday from 9 to 10:30 a.m. We are still finalizing our lists since we realize that siblings don't necessarily have the same last names, and that some children are in the same daycare, etc. The Kindergartens will attend orientation sessions in small groups as well, with around 10 students per group. They will attend from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. Thursday and Friday morning, and 12:45 to 1:45 p.m. Thursday afternoon. We will keep siblings and K's together, and we will divide them into groups, but not necessarily by those same alphabetical groups. Staff will finalize groups on Tuesday morning. We are getting new students this week, so we are making sure they are placed in a learning group and a division, before we announce the groups.

During our orientation we will be showing students the expectations around hand washing, hand sanitizer, using their own items, coughing into their elbow or a tissue, cleaning personal areas if they are able to, getting adult help when they need it, physical distancing in hallways, and when outside their learning group. More importantly, not touching others is going to be the big change for all of us. As a staff, we love our daily hugs, and we love to give them to those who need them, but now is not the time. Elbow bumps and foot taps will be the new way of connecting without touching. For those children who

love rough and tumble play, it will be hard to remember the expectations; we understand that children are just learning this new way of interacting, and that everyone learns at their own pace. We are going to be patient and compassionate.

Staff will be wearing masks at various times in hallways and common areas where they can't physically distance, and other staff will wear them full-time due to health concerns, etc. This is our new normal, and we will be explaining it to our students to let them know we care about them, and we are just trying to keep everyone safe. Students are not required to wear masks in elementary schools in BC, but are welcome to at any time. Because I have allergies and can cough or sneeze unexpectedly, you will certainly see me with a mask on as often as possible.

Our custodian, Mrs. Videgain will continue to work days so that frequently touched areas can be disinfected often, and so that washrooms and other common areas can be cleaned throughout the day. We will have a second custodian who will work in the evenings doing extra cleaning after everyone leaves.

I am happy to say that some countries are already finding that the flu and respiratory illness that we normally begin to experience at this time of the year, is way down, probably due to the hand washing and physical distancing, and perhaps to masks as well. That being said, we are asking staff and students to carry out a daily health check before coming to school each day. If anyone has a fever, sore stomach, cough, shortness of breath, flu symptoms, etc. they should stay home and check with their health care provider, or call 811 for more guidance. They can return when they've been symptom free for 24 hours.

You are going to receive a survey this week asking about your plans for returning your child to school. You will notice there is a new "Transition" option. It will be explained in the survey. I was just informed of it this morning, so I cannot say much about how it will work, other than to say that if you are planning on returning your child to Glenview, but are not feeling this is the time to do it, this will be an option for you to consider. It will not be the remote continuity of learning that was provided last spring, but it will keep your child attached to a division and to a teacher in our school, will provide some schoolwork, all with the understanding that they will return later in the Fall.

Please, if you have any questions, feel free to call or e-mail me. The District is planning a Town Hall meeting to answer any questions parents may have; watch for the announcement on the district and school websites. It may be Thursday evening (tomorrow) or it may be next Tuesday evening. The PAC is also planning a PAC Question and Answer session and are inviting you to send your questions to glenviewpac@gmail.com. They are compiling a list of questions, that I will attempt to answer during an upcoming Zoom meeting. More details will follow.

Finally, enjoy the sunny days that are coming. Labour weekend promises to be a real improvement!

Yours sincerely,

Anjula M. Corbin

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Please do not send any nut-based food products to school.