Dec. 16, 2020

Hello Spencer Families,

Hope everyone is doing well.  So far, our school community has stayed healthy and we hope to continue this into the new year.  It has certainly been a very different year and it took some time for staff and students to settle into this new routine, but I think we are there now.  We are very thankful and appreciative of the support you have shown for our students and staff over the last 4 months – Thank you!  With the break just around the corner, it will be a good time for our staff and students to recharge and prepare for a successful Term 2.  We wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday and look forward to starting fresh on Monday Jan. 4, 2021.

**Masks at school**

**Important update to all parents and students:**

Island Health (VIHA) has directed us that all hallways and the mall area (main hallway in the middle of our school) be considered high traffic areas and common areas, effective immediately. To date, our hallways have not been high traffic areas or common areas as we have limited the use of this area.  We have not allowed students to travel through the mall and have only allowed one student at a time to be leaving the classroom to go to the washroom.  So starting immediately (tomorrow), all staff and students must wear a mask in the mall area and all hallways, unless they are not able to tolerate one due to medical reasons.  All staff and students were notified of this change this afternoon.

Parents, please inform your child of this updated policy and inform them that they must have a mask at school every day.  They will not be able to leave the classroom without it.

Thank you

**Recognition at Spencer**

We had our first online recognition assembly on Friday and it was a huge success.  Thank you for the positive emails and sharing your stories regarding this recognition.  Our Recognition Committee did an outstanding job and the message to all students was inspiring and powerful.  Congratulations to all those students recognized by their classroom teacher.  Our next Recognition Assembly will be scheduled for early April.  Please see below for our Spirit of Spencer ‘Rising Stars’ recognition criteria:

* a student who succeeds because of a strong will to do so. This student may have overcome some adversity and demonstrates dedication and perseverance.
* a student who best reflects school spirit and enthusiasm. This student goes above and beyond to positively contributes to the culture at Spencer School. This student brings energy and liveliness and encourages others.
* a student who participates in showing a positive attitude towards classmates, the school, teachers, and the school community.  This student understands, appreciates, and is involved in respectful behavior.  They demonstrate a good character, take responsibility in doing what is right, are honest, have integrity, and demonstrate kindness to others.  They may give back to the school in volunteering their time or helping others in these ways.

**Term 1 Reports**

By now, all parents should have received a report card or a points of progress report from their teacher through our parent portal.  As you know, most of our teachers are doing points of progress to communicate student learning.  This will continue throughout the year and now you will continue to receive points of progress from the teacher.  If you have not received any report to date, please connect with your child’s teacher as soon as possible.

**PAC Meeting Dates**

* January 27, 2021 @ 6:30 (location TBA)
* February 24, 2021 @ 6:30 (location TBA)
* March -Spring Break (we can discuss further if we need to schedule one)
* April 28, 2021 @ 6:30 (location TBA)
* May 26, 2021 @ 6:30 (location TBA)
* June 23, 2021 @ 6:30(location TBA) AGM

Best wishes,

Darren Russell, Principal

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