Tuesday January 12th, 2021

Hello Spencer Families,

Good morning to our Spencer Community, we hope everyone is staying healthy and safe. Please find below a few informational items for this week.

**Spencer Hockey Academy Registration for 2021-2022**

**Middle School** Academy registration will open at 6:00 am on March 8th

**Secondary** Academy registration will open at 6:00 am on February 8th

<https://registration.sd62.bc.ca/apps/academy>

**Black Shirt Day is on Friday, Jan. 15, 2021**

We have Pink Shirt Day to speak out against bullying and Orange Shirt Day to promote solidarity with the Indigenous victims of Canada’s residential school system.  Now we have an opportunity to have Black Shirt Day and the hope is simple:  to get more conversations started about racism and civil rights, all leading to February, which is well-establish as Black History Month.  So, we are announcing to all staff and students to participate in Black Shirt Day this Friday to show our support.

**Cell Phone Policy**

We will be reminding all students that cell phones must be kept in their back packs from 9:00am to 3:10pm (this includes lunch and nutrition break).  Last week we have noticed a few students using their phones during the lunch break, so we have had to send a few reminders.  Thank you for your help and support with this policy.

**Parent Pick-Up and Drop-Off**

Thank you to all of you who continue to drop off and pick up your child off the school property.  Our school is just too big to allow parents to be driving through the parking lot before school and after school.  We realize this is not idea, especially on our dark, rainy mornings, but it necessary to keep our students safe.  We will continue to ask the few parents driving through the parking lot to please find another drop off and pick up location.  Thank you.

**Contact Person at School**

Please continue to connect with your child’s classroom teacher.  Communication between the classroom and the home is key to having a successful year.  If you are looking to contact a counsellor, Ms. Chan works with students with the last name starting with A-G and Mr. Robertson is H-Z.  Our Vice-Principals also work with a particular group of students.  Mr. Smyth works with students with the last name starting with A-L and Ms. Lancaster is M-Z.

**Spencer Yearbook**

Our Spencer Yearbook is designed and created by Spencer students each year.  It is a hard cover book all in color.  A wonderful keepsafe of memories from your middle school years!  Don’t miss out on a chance to purchase one. There will only be limited copies available.  Yearbooks are on sale for $40, please purchase through our school cash online link.

**A Few Health and Safety Reminders**

* All students must be wearing a mask on the school bus.  Please be sure your child has a mask before they board the bus.
* All staff and students must be wearing a mask while outside their classroom.  We will no longer be issuing disposable masks within the school, so if a child forgets their mask at home, we may be asking the parents to bring a mask to the school.
* The rain as certainly arrived, so we must all be prepared for the wet weather.  Please have your child dressed for the wet weather as we will be outside in the morning until our bell rings at 9:04am and during the 3 staggered lunch breaks.  We do have a Plan B in place if we are experiencing extreme weather conditions, but for the most part, we will be outside.
* All students must remain in their learning groups once they arrive at school, during the lunch break and after school until they board the bus or walk off the property.  We were having a few issues with this direction earlier in the year, but most students have now settled in and they understand why we have had to make this rule.  We appreciate your support and cooperation as we continue to follow the guidelines of our PHO, Dr. Bonnie Henry.

**Important dates for your calendar**

 Friday February 12th – Non Instructional Day

Monday February 14th – Family Day

March 15-26th – Spring Break

**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

Darren Russell, Principal

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