

January 14, 2022

Dear Roberts Annex Families,

****Reminder Professional Day on Monday, Jan 17, 2022 (no school for students)**

It has been wonderful to have a full house again at school this week! We have had some significant temperature fluctuation this week which saw a closed playground due to ice and snow, then massive puddles and now near t-shirt weather today and yesterday. As in past, we do our best to have students outside in the fresh air for breaks even when it is raining. They are so active they are creating paths with their games (see photo). They have lots of covered play spaces to use but many continue to enjoy engaging with water, puddles, and mud. Thank you for helping us to help your child manage these changes by providing good waterproof clothes, extra clothes and layers that are clearly labelled with their name. There was a bit of a run-on spare socks this week at the office so any donations (as always) are gratefully accepted.



Regular tag games around the Earthquake Bin have created a cleared path in the dirt

Black Excellence Day

Today is Black Excellence Day. It is the second year for this event when many members of our school community put on a black shirt to mark the school day prior to Martin Luther King's birthday. It is a day to stand in solidarity with Black Canadians, acknowledging the contributions of Black Canadians and the ongoing civil rights struggle which often goes unacknowledged in our history books and school curriculum. For more information check out <https://blackexcellenceday.ca/>

Kindergarten Assessments

Roberts Annex is an Early Intervention School. As part of this model, students in Kindergarten and Grade 1 are assessed and given some extra preventative support as needed. During January, our resource teachers spend time with each Kindergarten student assessing literacy progress to better understand and then design for learning needs. Resource teachers started this process this week and will continue this work until each student has had an opportunity to share their knowledge and skills.

Keeping Schools Open

Students attending schools and schools remaining open for them is a priority for us all as the pandemic wears on. As students play and engage with each other during the academic and social opportunities at school – we see joy and growth. Public health officials continue to suggest that schools are not a place of increased transmission for a variety of reasons which include our consistent implementation of safety protocols. Please continue to help us by doing your part at home which includes:

- completing the Daily Health Check with your child each day before attending the school site
- ensuring they have access to clean, well-fitted masks to wear while indoors
- giving regular reminders to give others space, wash their hands regularly and use respiratory etiquette
- if your child or a family member becomes sick and test positive, please ensure you have completed [the on-line self-reporting form](#) – and please follow the latest advice at the following:

- <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-and-children>
- <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/if-you-have-covid-19>

In the last few weeks, things have changed quickly with regards to managing illness and COVID-19 and there are many different and even conflicting messages out there. With the significant growth in positive cases of COVID-19 and the shortened incubation period of the Omicron variant, public health has responded by making changes to their definition of a “close contact”, recommendations for when/how long to self-isolate, when contact tracing will occur as well as [how school notifications will be used](#). **At this time, Vancouver schools are following the latest guidance as stated on the BCCDC website. Please continue to monitor this website for changes.**

Communicating Student Learning (CSL)

Teachers are working hard in creating students’ Mid-Year Progress reports. Please expect these to come home with your child January 27, 2022. For more information about CSL reports please refer to the [Roberts Annex CSL Page](#) or the [VSB Page on Assessing and Reporting](#).



Physical and Health Education Update

This month in PHE, we are exploring playground games. We are emphasizing fair play and independence – the goal is to help students build the skills to start and manage playground games with minimal equipment and adult support. This week we learned some games that are popular in India: Kokla Chappaki (a game similar to Duck Duck Goose) and Goli Marbles (a marble game). Take some time to check in with your child about the games they enjoy playing, what the rules are and how they keep it fair! Maybe even share the games you enjoyed.

Have a safe weekend and enjoy each other!

Elyssa

Upcoming dates of note:

Monday, January 17	Professional Day (no school for students)
January 19	PAC meeting @6:30 on Zoom (watch for the link)
January 27	CSL Mid-Year Progress reports go home
February 18	Professional Day (no school for students)
February 21	Family Day – Province Wide holiday (no school)