

# Secord News

Report Absences: 604-713-5159, ext 74

Volume VIII, April 2022

## SAFETY CORNER

Traveling to and from school...how to do it safely.

See Page 4...



## Dates to Remember in April

April 4 <sup>th</sup>	Fruits and Veg Day
April 6 <sup>th</sup>	PAC meeting
April 14 <sup>th</sup>	Pizza Hot Lunch
April 15 <sup>th</sup>	School closed (Good Friday)
April 18 <sup>th</sup>	School Closed (Easter Monday)
April 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Earth Day
April 25 <sup>th</sup>	Pro D Day School not in Session



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### Reminder....

### NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS ON:

**Friday, April 15th  
(Good Friday)**

**Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup> (Easter Monday)**

and

**Monday April 25<sup>th</sup>  
(Pro-D Day)**



## Goodbye and Hello

Au revoir to Francesca Carbonneau French resource, who has been covering Chelsea Fidget's Maternity leave.  
Welcome back to Christiana Tehennepe, our grade 4/5 English teacher and Chelsea Fidget from their maternity leave.



## Safe Arrival Program

To Report if your child is absent or late –

Please call **(604) 713-5159 ext 74**

The safe Arrival Program has been designed to streamline the process for parents calling in absences or lates. It is a centralized number that transfers through to our email system. As the office is exceptionally busy in the morning, this procedure ensures an accurate and timely record keeping that supports student safety.

It is very important that if you child is going to be absent or late that you call this number rather than the school reception. Thank you.



**THE STUDENT COUNCIL SPONSORED TWIN DAY ON MARCH 30.**

**THE STUDENTS GOT CREATIVE:**



**“NO PARKING 8am – 5pm SCHOOL DAYS”**

These signs designate the zones for active picking up and dropping off of students. Do not park and leave the vehicle in these zones.

**“3 min Parking 8am – 5pm SCHOOL DAYS”**

These signs designate the zones for picking up and dropping off of students where parking is permitted for 3 minutes.

**School Area Signs**

This sign is used in advance of school to warn drivers that children may be walking along or crossing the road. On local streets 30 km/hr signs are posted and the speed limit is 30 km/hr from 8 am - 5 pm on school days.

**School Crosswalk Signs**

A school crosswalk sign indicates where children will be crossing the road. Vehicles must yield to pedestrians at all intersections and crosswalks. **Vehicles must remain stopped until children are safely across and on the curb.** Please remember children are playful and impulsive and may enter the roadway suddenly.

**“NO STOPPING 8am – 5pm SCHOOL DAYS”**

These signs designate the zones where vehicles are not permitted to stop under any circumstances. These zones are kept clear to provide good sight lines for drivers to see students and students to see drivers.

**For the safety of all we thank you in advance for your attendance to, and understanding of, these signs.**

**Anonymous Student Learning Surveys for**

For 2021: Students in Grades 4, 7, 10 and 12 complete the survey;

Parents/Guardians/Caregivers of Grade 4, 7, 10 and 12 Students complete the survey; and all Staff associated with a School complete the survey. Schools may survey other grade levels after finishing the grades above. **To complete the survey:**

1. Go to any computer that has an up-to-date internet browser access at home, work, or school.
2. Go to [www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat\\_survey/access.htm](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey/access.htm)
3. Under the section *Direct Access – no logon number required* select:
  - District: the name of your child’s district
  - School: the name of your child’s school
  - Language: the language of your choice
4. Complete the survey by clicking on the appropriate circle to answer each question. Move to the next set of questions by clicking on the right arrow in the bottom right corner of the screen. Click on the left arrow to navigate backwards.
5. When you are finished the survey, you will get a message “Thank you for sharing your views”.
6. Once complete, your school will have the results immediately.

**Please complete before 11:59 pm April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022**



Litter less lunch container Day April 22

To celebrate Earth Day which happens on April 22, the school will be encouraging students to bring litter less lunches.

You can earn a point for your house if you bring a litter less lunch.



Without a doubt students and parents know our staff at Laura Secord. But do you know us as well as you think you do?

Each month we'll tell you a new tidbit about a staff member. You may be surprised ☺

Taanshi,

My name is Kim Kondra and I am Nehiyaw (Cree) /Métis (French/Ukrainian), and a descendant of the Papatshash Band. I am the Indigenous Education Worker for Secord, Dickens, Crosstown and Moberly schools. My family has resided on the beautiful traditional homelands of the Coast Salish People for over 80 years when my mooshoom (Grandfather) and noohkoom (Grandmother) settled on the coast to work in the logging industry. I was born on the traditional homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh people and am very grateful for that privilege. My assigned days at Secord are Thurs/ Friday as I divided my time between the four locations. I hope my support provides opportunities for the staff and students to engage in learning more about the Indigenous people of this land. Kahkiyaw niwâkômâhkanitik, all my relations, Kim

**The theme of Earth Day 2021 is Invest in our Planet**

**Click on the Picture to see more about the Earth Day Organization:**

Traditional Bead work, display by Kim Kondra





## Safety Awareness Corner

*Awareness without action is worthless.*

### Traveling To and From School

Map out with your children a safe way for them to walk to school or to the bus stop. Avoid busy roads and intersections. Do a trial run with them to point out places they should avoid along the way, such as vacant lots, construction areas, and parks where there aren't many people.

Teach children to follow traffic signals and rules when walking or biking. Stress that they should cross the street at crosswalks or intersections with crossing guards when they can.

Encourage children to walk to school or the bus stop with a sibling or friend, and to wait at bus stops with other children.

Teach children not to talk to strangers, go anywhere with them, or accept gifts from them without your permission. Tell them that if they see a suspicious stranger hanging around or in their school they should tell an adult.

Help children memorize their phone number and full address, including area code and postal code. Write down other important phone numbers such as your work and cell phone on a card for your children to carry with them.

2 of our students standing with Laura Secord. Thanks Joshua and Elizabeth.



### VSB Covid Protocol Update:



**Wearing a mask** is a personal choice. Parents/caregivers will share their preference on mask wearing with their children. Everyone's choice is supported and will continue to be respected.

Updated signage is posted, and messaging provided to staff, students, and parents in support the following:

The decision to wear a mask or face covering is a personal choice for staff, students, and visitors. A person's choice should be supported and respected.

Parents and caregivers of children who are considered at higher risk of severe illness due to COVID-19 are encouraged to consult with their health care provider to determine their child's level of risk. Students are not required to wear a mask or face covering when receiving services, though may continue based on their, or their parent/caregiver's, personal choice. Non-medical masks are available for those who have forgotten theirs but would like to wear one or for anyone who becomes ill while at school.

**All visitors on school business will soon be welcome.** Appointments are greatly appreciated. Starting ~April 4th, drop-in visitors on school business are welcome. Signing in at the school office is required as always, but there's no need for visitors/spectators to leave their contact information.

Spectators invited to events are welcome at the school/site to.

Parents/caregivers are asked to continue to remain outside of school grounds (as per past practice) at drop-off and while waiting to pick-up their children.

Students will continue to **eat in their classrooms**. Of course, anyone's choice to maintain distance will be supported and respected.

**In classrooms**, the layout of desks will be determined by the teacher.

Continuing to create space makes sense.

**In gyms, auditoriums, and other areas**, multiple classes and people attending events can come together – for now, at 50% of the space occupancy. This limit will be removed in the coming weeks.

**Field trips within BC can be planned and enjoyed.** This includes daytrips and overnight trips, according to staff, students, and parents' level of comfort. Proof of vaccination will be lifted in the coming weeks, but some places may still have their own rules that we'll all need to respect. As always, trips will be planned to be inclusive. Currently, Secord staff are more comfortable with daytrips. We'll keep the community updated.

**Indoor school extracurricular and social gatherings and events that bring together members of the school community** beyond staff, students, and necessary volunteers (e.g., an arts club performance, community fair, etc.), or that occur between schools (e.g., a music festival, a sports game, or tournament, etc.) does not exceed 50 people or 50% operating capacity (whichever is greater) and proof of vaccination requirements is not implemented.

Note: On April 8th, 2022, this increases to 100% of the operating capacity of the space. Proof of vaccination requirements will not apply in BC.

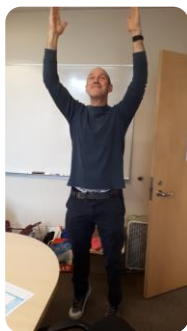
**New Drill for the School on April Fools Day**

**M. Brisebois, our Principal, came over the PA system and announced that we would now practice a drill for flooding.**

**He told us that when we heard the sound of moving waves we were to stand up as tall as we could so that we could stay out of the water, and when it stopped, we could swim to the nearest exit.**

**From what I here from the teachers it was a very successful practice and everybody had a lot of fun ;).**

**Here are Admin Team showing us how.**



**Daily Health Check:**

Parents and caregivers should assess their children daily for illness before sending them to school.

Parents/caregivers and students can utilize the [Daily Health Check & What to Do When Sick](#) resource for daily assessment of symptoms. Parents are reminded of their responsibilities to keep children home if they are not well enough to participate fully in their regular activities.

Staff and other adults should not come to school or work if sick and should complete a [Daily Health Check & What to Do When Sick](#) prior to entering the school or workplace.

These instructions are detailed for staff, parents, students, visitors in the [VSB Communicable Disease Prevention Plan](#).

**Symptoms developing during school:**

Practices are in place to appropriately respond when a staff member, student, or other person develops symptoms of illness while at school/work.

**Personal Prevention Practices and Choice**

Strategies are in place to support choice, kindness, and respect in schools (e.g., signage, morning announcements, etc.). Messaging includes: support for mask choice, a person’s choice to avoid crowded situations, hand hygiene, etc.). Trauma informed practices are used in this regard and supportive practices and resources are available to student, staff, and parents.

**Personal Space**

Strategies are in place to encourage staff and students to consider and respect the personal space of others. Personal space is the distance from which a person feels comfortable being next to another person.

For those who travelled outside of Canada during the spring break, please keep in mind the Canadian federal government requires: “You and any children who travelled with you must **properly wear a well-constructed and well-fitting mask when in public spaces** for the first 14 days after your entry. This includes schools and daycares.” Please visit the Canadian government website for more information: [Travel to Canada: Requirements for COVID-19 vaccinated travellers](#)

**The Origins of April Fool’s Day**

The origins of the customs of the day are shrouded in mystery. Some scholars believe it is likely to be a relic of festivities held to mark the vernal equinox. These celebrations of the first days of spring began on 25 March and ended on 2 April. Certainly, there is some evidence to suggest that 1 April was observed as a general festival in pagan Britain.

More commonly, the customs are associated with the switch to the Gregorian calendar in France during the sixteenth century.

Historically, many parts of the world celebrated 1 April as New Year’s Day - due to its relationship with the start of Spring.

Here are some links:

- [Top 5 April Fools' Day Pranks You Can Build in the Office](#)
- [BBC's spaghetti story](#) (one of the most famous pranks)
- [Top 100 April Fool's Day Hoaxes Of All Time](#)



## Emergency Preparedness

In recent months we have successfully held fire evacuation drills, a lockdown drill and an earthquake drill. In our EQ drills, students and staff practice “drop and cover” procedures (taking cover under tables, etc. and holding for 1 full minute), safely evacuating the building and gathering on the grass field. The goal during an earthquake evacuation is to evacuate the building safely and quietly, not necessarily quickly. In an emergency, various specially-trained staff emergency response teams, including district radio communication, execute their own procedures. We have adequate materials and supplies to properly care for students until they can be safely released to their families.

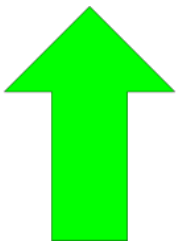
In case of a real emergency, we can anticipate that children and parents both will be worried about their family members’ health and safety. The school has specific student release procedures in place to ensure that families are re-united as quickly and safely as possible, and to ensure accountability and tracking of each student’s safe release.

**To this end, we must ask for parents’ cooperation during a real emergency:**

- Students and parents will likely be quite excited and anxious to be together. Parents **MUST** follow the directions of school staff.
- Parents arriving to pick up their child(ren) should go onto the field to their child’s class(es) where the children’s teacher will release the child to you. Please **DO NOT** simply take your child with you without reporting to the teacher first. Please explain to your child that, even if they see you, they are not to run to you—you’ll be reunited soon enough.
- Please ensure you keep your “emergency contact” information current. This includes people who have your permission to take your child in the case of an emergency as we cannot release children to adults for whom we do not have prior consent.



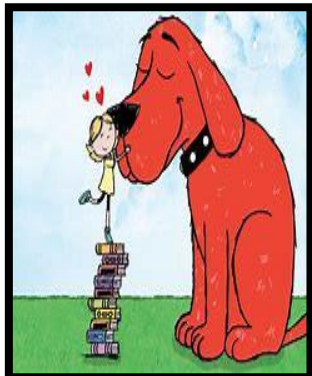
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– Please call (604) 713-5159 ext 74



### MORE OF OUR TWINS



## PAC Page: What's New with Your PAC



### Book Fair Wrap!

Secord's virtual Book Fair closed on March 1 and raised \$550.00 in rewards from Scholastic! Thanks to you, we can stock our school library with new books and hopefully foster our children's love of reading! Purchased books should have been delivered to your child's classroom yesterday or today. If there are any issues with your order, please get in touch with the PAC ([secordpac@gmail.com](mailto:secordpac@gmail.com)) and we can help you sort it out with Scholastic.

**Laura Secord Elementary**  
2500 Lakewood Dr  
Vancouver, BC  
V5N 4V1

**Phone** 604-713-4996

**Director of Instruction:**  
Alison Ogden

**Liaison School Trustee:**  
Estrellita Gonzalez

**PAC Chairs:** Shaira Sakiyama & Nusha Balram

### SPIRIT BEAR COFFEE FUNDRAISER

Spirit Bear Coffee Company has been roasting organic fair-trade beans since 2006. Help Laura Secord raise funds while also supporting an Indigenous owned and operated local operation.

Learn more about Spirit Bear Coffee Company here: <https://spiritbearcoffee.com/pages/our-story>

**COST:** \$16 for a 400g bag of beans or 20 compostable pods (compatible with all Keurig style brewers). Choose from 6 different blends.

**HOW TO ORDER:** Login to <https://secord.hotlunches.net/> and add your order, just like pizza day, signing up using your child's name to connect the order. To pay by e-transfer instead of credit card, use [secordhotlunch@gmail.com](mailto:secordhotlunch@gmail.com) with the password "coffee".

**DEADLINE FOR ORDERS:** Monday, April 25

**PICK UP:** Between 8:30 AM and 9:15 AM or 2:45 PM to 3:15 PM on Thursday, May 5 in front of the school (or contact [nicolespencer1@gmail.com](mailto:nicolespencer1@gmail.com) to arrange another time. All unclaimed coffee will be left in the office, you can either call to make an appointment to pick up or arrange for your child to pick up from the office.)



## PAC Meeting

You are invited to April's PAC meeting!

- **When:** Apr 6, 2022 07:30 PM Vancouver
- **Where:** Zoomland!
  - Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZU5demorz8jE9e1touVhiHj-eJfOLHAGm2T>

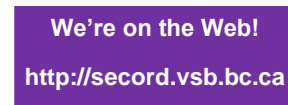
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

- **What:** first meeting since Spring Break to reflect on the school year to date and what to expect in the next/last three months
- **Who:** YOU and yours :)
- **Why:** Find out what's happening at the school, ask a question, start a conversation, meet our great admin, meet our great exec...so many reasons why...

Please review February's minutes: (attachment below)



PAC Meeting  
Minutes February 23



Editor: Karen Scott