



JANUARY 2022
SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

A letter from Mr. Fader:



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER SCHOOL

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January 4, 2022

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students of St. Francis Xavier School.

I am writing you today to inform you that due to ongoing symptoms of Parkinson's Disease and the resulting effects of stress on my performance as the Principal of St. Francis Xavier School I have decided with the advice of my doctor to take some time off on medical leave effective immediately. I wish to thank Mr. Michael Lo, PEC Chair, and the rest of the PEC for their concern and support through this difficult time.

It was a harrowing decision, one that I did not take lightly. I love being part of this school and parish community and will do everything in my power to return to this school as soon as I am able.

I feel assured and comfortable in the knowledge that Mr. Krol will be Acting Principal during my absence. He is a sincere, faith-filled, and hard-working person who will make certain the school is well looked after and guided during this difficult time of the Omicron variant. I know you will support him in everyway possible to keep our students and staff safe.

Thank you for your support. I will miss being here and being part of this wonderful school community. I ask for your prayers and hope I can be back fully healthy and ready to continue to serve this community.

May God bless you all!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Fader".

Mr. Brian Fader, Principal

MR. FADER

Please keep Mr. Fader in your prayers as he takes time to rest and recuperate. We look forward to welcoming him back later this year.

THANK YOU

On behalf of the entire staff, I would like to thank all the parents for their generosity before, during, and after the Christmas Holidays. We sincerely thank you for your considerate gifts, kindness, and thoughtfulness.

WEATHER

Parents, please ensure that your children are sent to school wearing appropriate clothing for the weather. Please ensure students are equipped with a proper hooded jacket and footwear. Children should be prepared to be outside during recess and lunch, even when lightly raining.

SNOW DAY PROCEDURES

1. In the case of heavy snow, the Principal decides whether to close the school before 6:00 am and informs the PEC chairperson.
2. The Principal informs the staff of the school closure. Classroom teachers are asked to contact their PTA parent representative to notify the families on their phone list.
3. The Principal contacts the local radio stations CKNW 980 AM and CKWX NEWS 1130 AM. The office manager will contact the Chinese radio stations WBFC 1470 AM and WJGR 1320 AM. These media outlets will be contacted before 6:30 am with the announcement.
4. If parents do not receive a call and/or hear that St. Francis Xavier School is closed announced on the radio, then school is open. Please do not call the school asking if the school is open. Teachers will be expected to be at school, and students will be expected to come to school.

PARKING AND TRAFFIC

I wish to express my admiration and appreciation for the work done by the PTA in organizing the parents and ensuring that all duties are completed. I would also like to thank all parents for their consideration in following all drop-off and pick-up procedures.

PARENT EDUCATION

Dr. Mark Casafrancisco, a pediatric dentist from Monarch Pediatric Dental Group, will be speaking on "Children's Dental Health" on Friday, January 7th, from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm. The link will be provided in the PTA Newsletter.

SPORTS

Thank you to all our parent volunteers who have been helping coach and oversee practices. Basketball practices are underway as well as fitness and skills development. Please watch for updated COVID protocols.

Our annual Whistler Ski Trips are coming up on January 20th and February 10th. More information will be provided soon.

OPEN HOUSE

Our Open House will be virtual again this year to help us advertise our school for the 2022-2023 school year. We will use our video series that was so popular last year. The date for the SFX Virtual Open house will be Wednesday, January 12, 2022. At this time, applications for new students from Kindergarten to Grade Seven will be made available, both in the Office and online.

RE-REGISTRATION

This year we will accept re-registrations for returning students, currently in Grades K-6, as we did last year. All current families will receive a re-registration package on Wednesday, January 12th. These packages can only be returned to the Office from January 31st to February 4th. This way, parents have the time to get their form processed and signed by Father Ly at the parish. Office staff will be available to check over the forms and ensure that everything is accurate and complete. More information is contained in the re-registration package.

All returning students need to get their re-registration forms back to the School Office. Any forms submitted past the February 4th deadline risk not having their seat secured for the 2022-23 school year. It is expected that the returning families can return their forms on those dates, rather than bit by bit to the Office.

CHINESE NEW YEAR

Our Chinese New Year celebration for the Year of the Tiger will be held on two days this year. We will celebrate on Friday, January 28th, a half-day. Students will be dismissed using our staggered dismissal starting at 12:00 NOON. Please come dressed in traditional or red clothing; if not, students must come dressed in their uniforms. This is not a "Casual Day." On Tuesday, February 1st, we will celebrate the official Chinese New year, starting our day with Mass with Father Ly. Festivities and activities will be conducted in the afternoon in the school. Students are allowed to wear their traditional Chinese New Year clothing for Mass this day. If they do not have any traditional clothing or red clothing, they must wear their uniform. This is not a "Casual Day."

MANNER OF THE MONTH

January's manner of the month is to be respectful SFX students at all times. It is hoped that all students will exhibit proper respect to each other first and foremost, being careful to think of others and doing their best to live the message of Jesus every day.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ESSAY CONTEST

The Knights of Columbus Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest deadline has been extended to January 15th, 2022. There will be generous prizes for each category (Grades 4-5; 6-7; 8-12):

\$100 Amazon gift card for the first-place winner, with a custom printed pillow trophy.

Second place winners will receive a \$50 Amazon gift card.

The essays are to be written on the following: "In an essay of 500-750 words, describe everyday obstacles that you may have experienced or witnessed others experiencing while living a life of authentic faith. Explain how you have overcome these obstacles and how, by doing so, it has helped your faith to continue to grow."

Please see the attached Poster.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Upcoming Professional Days:

- A reminder that the Catholic Educators' Conference is coming in February. Students will be off Thursday and Friday, February 17th and 18th. This precedes Family Day, a provincial holiday on Monday, February 21st.

Spring Break 2022

- The last day before Spring Break will be on Friday, March 11th. The school will reopen on Monday, March 28th.

Important Information COVID Protocol Information for Parents:

Please review the following information from the [Provincial Health Officer](#) (PHO) and the [Ministry of Education](#) (MOE) regarding returning to school next week.

Following the [revised order](#) from the PHO, schools will be open tomorrow, Tuesday, January 4th, 2022, for all staff members, children of teachers and other school staff, and children of health and health services workers. Schools will also be open to students with exceptional needs.

Masks

K-12 STAFF must wear a mask indoors in schools and on school buses. Staff may wear a face shield in addition but must wear a mask under the face shield. Please make sure you are wearing a mask before you enter the school.

Supporting students with complex behaviours, medical complexities or receiving delegated care may require staff providing health services or other health care providers to be in close physical proximity or physical contact with a medically complex or immune-suppressed student.

People providing these services in schools must wear a mask (medical or non-medical) when providing services, and the service cannot be provided from behind a physical barrier. Additional PPE over and above that which is needed for routine practices and the use of a medical or non-medical mask is not necessary.

Those providing health services in schools may receive additional PPE guidance from their regulatory college or employer. Health service providers are encouraged to work with their employer to confirm what PPE is recommended for the services they provide in school settings.

For information on PPE when working with students where seeing facial expressions and/or lip movement is important, see the Guidelines for Staff Working with Students with Disabilities/Diverse Abilities where Physical Contact may be Required.

Daily health checks

All students and staff must complete a daily health check. If you feel unwell, stay at home. Parents and caregivers are responsible for assessing their children daily before sending them to school.

School administrators will ensure staff and other adults know they are responsible for assessing themselves daily for symptoms before entering the school.

Use the daily health check app

The [K to 12 Health Check website](#) and app is an easy way to decide if your child should attend school based on their symptoms. It includes current health guidelines and offers an age-appropriate user experience for K to 12 students.

Download the app:

- [iOS devices \(iPhone/iPad\)](#)
- [Android devices](#)

Keeping your distance

Schools must continue to create space between people:

- Use all available space to spread people out
 - For example, use different common space, classroom and learning environment configurations
 - Avoid face-to-face seating arrangements where possible
- Implement strategies to prevent crowding during class transition times, for example:

- Manage the flow of people in common areas, including hallways and around lockers, to minimize crowding and allow people to pass through easily
- Stagger start/stop times for recess, lunch or class transition
- Prevent crowding at pick-up and drop-off times
- Remind students and staff about respecting others' personal space, using visual supports, signage, prompts and video modelling as necessary
- Take students outside as much as possible

Music and physical education programs

Students can participate in music and physical education programs with additional safety measures in place.

- Masks aren't required when doing activities that cannot be performed while wearing a mask, like playing a wind instrument or participating in high-intensity physical activity
- Students must continue to wear masks while singing
- Shared equipment will be cleaned and disinfected, and students are encouraged to wash their hands before and after use
- Students will be asked not to share equipment that touches the mouth, like an instrument mouthpiece or mouthguard, unless cleaned and disinfected in between uses

Sports, clubs and extracurricular activities

Sports tournaments are not allowed. Activities like sports team practices and games can continue.

- Sport and extracurricular activities should be held outside whenever possible
- Students will be encouraged to wash their hands before and after using equipment and cover their mouths when coughing or sneezing
- Students will be asked not to share equipment that touches the mouth unless cleaned and disinfected in between uses

School libraries/Learning Commons

At this time, there is no evidence that the COVID-19 virus is transmitted via textbooks, paper or other paper-based products. There is no need to limit the distribution or sharing/return of books or paper-based educational resources to students because of COVID-19.

Laminated or glossy paper-based products (e.g. books, magazines, worksheets, etc.) and items with plastic covers (e.g. DVDs) are low-risk items. Regular book browsing and circulation processes can occur as normal. There is no need to clean, disinfect or quarantine these items for any period.

Playgrounds

Playgrounds are a safe environment. There is no evidence of COVID-19 transmission in playgrounds. The following measures should be taken when using playgrounds:

- Ensure students wash their hands before and after outdoor play
- Minimize direct contact between students

Assemblies, gatherings and meetings

Host gatherings virtually, wherever possible. This includes:

- Large gatherings, like school assemblies
- Staff gatherings, like meetings or professional development activities

If a gathering must be in-person, limit the number of people to no more than 50% operating capacity.

Ventilation

School districts must ensure heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems are designed, operated and maintained to Occupational Health and Safety and WorkSafeBC standards.

Cleaning and disinfecting schools

General cleaning of schools and cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces will be conducted at least once every 24-hour period and when visibly dirty.

Students and staff who become sick at school

If a student or staff member develops symptoms at school:

- They will be given a mask and separated from their classmates or colleagues
- Separated children will be supervised and cared for
- The student's parent or guardian will be contacted and asked to have their child picked up as soon as possible
- Staff will be asked to go home as soon as possible
- Custodial staff will clean and disinfect the areas the person used

COVID-19 exposure at school

If a student or staff member is confirmed to have COVID-19 and were potentially infectious while they were at school:

- Public health will investigate to determine if there were any potential close contacts within the school

If it is determined that there are close contacts within the school, public health will:

- Notify the school administrators and request information to assist with contact tracing
- Provide guidance on what steps should be taken

Public health may then:

- Recommend self-isolation, if necessary
- Recommend self-monitoring for symptoms, if necessary
- Provide follow-up recommendations, if necessary

Schools will ensure students who are required to self-isolate can continue their educational program. Together, schools and public health officials will determine if other actions are necessary.

Parents, caregivers and families will be notified by public health if your child was determined to be a close contact of a COVID-19 positive person.

Local public health orders

Local public health orders may be implemented for entire regions or communities, including schools or specific settings or activities within a health authority region.

A local Medical Health Officer may issue a recommendation for an individual school, a group of schools, a school district or all schools within the health authority region to implement specific additional health and safety measures during times of increased risk.

Important Questions

The following questions have been taken from the Deputy Minister's Bulletin –

Phased Restart January 2022 – Questions & Answers (Full Bulletin previously attached)

What enhanced safety measures are schools expected to have in place for January?

Among the enhanced safety measures, K-12 public and independent schools must:

- Implement strategies that prevent crowding during class transition times.

For example, staggered start/stop times and recess/lunch breaks. **We will continue to follow our current schedule.**

- No whole school gatherings and events (e.g., assemblies, etc.). They will be held virtually.
- No in-person staff meetings; they will be virtual.
- Visitors will be limited to supporting activities that directly benefit student learning and wellbeing (e.g., teacher candidates, immunizers, meal program volunteers, etc.)
- Pause extracurricular sports tournaments (consistent with the December PHO Order). K-12 schools must also reinforce existing safety measures, including:
 - Using all available space to maximize space between people.
For example, different common space, classroom, and learning environment configurations (e.g., different desk and table formations).
 - Everyone who can wears a mask.
 - Doing daily health checks and staying home when sick. The guidelines build on existing protocols that have succeeded in minimizing the spread of the virus in schools, such as:
- Everyone eligible getting fully vaccinated, doing a daily health check, and staying home when sick.
- Using available space to spread out and to respect others' personal space.
- Wearing masks in accordance with the Provincial Health Officer Order on Face Coverings.
- Cleaning hands regularly.
- Cleaning and disinfecting at least once a day.

At what point does learning need to transition to online because of COVID cases or absenteeism?

- The phased restart of school will give schools the time to develop contingency plans, including continuity of learning, in the event of functional closures in schools.

Will the ministry provide N95 masks for teachers/staff/students?

- Mask wearing will continue to be required for everyone inside schools.
- Schools will continue to provide non-medical masks for those who don't have their own masks, as has been the case throughout the pandemic.
- Any changes in a mask policy will be communicated by the Ministry of Health and the Provincial Health Officer.

Do the new rules prevent parents from entering schools?

Schools will be limiting visitors to those offering services that are of direct benefit to students, like those helping with meal programs or teacher candidates.

Schools will work with their parent community to ensure activities like drop off and pick up continue to occur safely and that virtual options are provided when parents need to connect with their child's school (like for parent-teacher interviews). Parents will wait outside for their children and request assistance from the school office if they need to drop something off.

CATHOLIC CITIZENSHIP ESSAY CONTEST

Faith in Action - Community Programs



Deadline for submission extended to January 15th, 2022

First Place Prizes for each grade category (Grades 4&5; 6&7; 8-12)

\$100 Amazon Gift Card + Customized trophy pillow

Second Place Prizes for each grade category (Grades 4&5; 6&7; 8-12):

\$50 Amazon Gift Card

