



# Auguston Traditional Elementary School



January 5, 2022

Dear Auguston Traditional Families,

Thank you for your patience this past week as we work toward reopening school to all students on Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022. First off, I would like to update you on a few staffing changes/ announcements to start off the year:

-Welcome to Mrs. Lori Van Dyk who will be replacing Mrs. Katie Van Bugnum until further notice.

-Welcome to Miss Rachelle Gidlof who is an Educational Assistant with us until further notice.

-Ms. Marianne Sheldon will also continue to work with Mrs. Melissa Smith until further notice.

-Welcome to Mr. Jose Del Cid who was the successful candidate for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Custodian opening. Mr. Wayne Steinwandt is still here! Thank you to our custodians for all they do to make our school look amazing!

## Safety Procedures

In moving toward reopening I want to draw your attention to the safety procedural changes that may impact you the most. We are required to adhere to some new regulations/make changes to existing practices with the Omicron variant which appears to be highly transmissible. Please note that effective Monday, we would like to re-emphasize and/or would like parents/students/staff to adhere to the following **(all of this will be reviewed at the end of January)**. All other procedures currently in place will also be continued.

## Health Checks/Health in general:

- Parents need to ensure to complete a home health check before sending your child to school each day. Students who say they are sick or present even minor symptoms will be isolated and sent home at parents' earliest convenience. Please use this assessment tool if needed: <https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/healthcheck?execution=e1s1>. Other info. about Covid-19 can be found at: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/about-covid-19/symptoms>. Please adhere to any public health guidance in regard to travel/isolation, etc.
- Hand hygiene continues to be a structured part of our day. Everyone will continue good hand hygiene.
- Masks are mandatory for all students and staff in K-12. If you are aware of a situation that requires your child to have a medical exemption from a mask, please contact me directly ([ryan.colbert@abbyschools.ca](mailto:ryan.colbert@abbyschools.ca)). Please remind students to bring a mask or wear one so teachers can focus on instruction and not have to remind students to put on their mask. Thank you!
- Vaccinations are proven to be effective against COVID and are available to children from ages 5 and up.

### **Pick Up/Drop Off**

- Staggered Start/Ending: Students should not arrive at school before 8:15 am. Students will line up (please don't congregate/play with other classes) and wait for permission to enter the building. Students may wait with teachers 5-10 mins outside until the hallways are clear for them to enter. Dismissal could take more time than usual and, in some cases, classes may dismiss a few minutes earlier.
- Parents: Please don't congregate and/or practice physical distancing if possible. Also, we appreciate those who wear a mask while on campus (not required).

### **PAC Events/Field Trips/Extracurricular Activities/Volunteers/Parent Meetings**

- PAC events/fundraisers - All elementary PAC events such as Hot Lunch and other on-site fundraisers are paused at this time. The Fruit and Veggie program will continue
- Volunteers - aside from noon-hour supervisors and Fruit and Veggie volunteers, Auguston is putting on hold all volunteer participation until further notice.
- All extra-curricular field trips, in person guest speakers, extra-curricular sports and clubs will be put on hold.
- No visitors will be allowed to enter the school building unless approved by the Principal. All parent meetings will be held virtually (including teacher/parent meetings and PAC meetings)
- We will limit the combining of classes/students while inside the building.

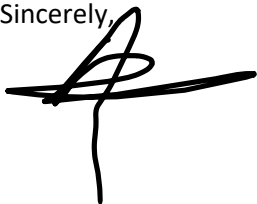
### **Functional Closure**

Although schools remain open, there is always a chance of a functional closure due to student absences and staff shortages. I am not anticipating this, yet there is a possibility that due to the latest variant we may experience intermittent disruptions. If this is the case, we would engage in on-line learning. Please fill out a form for each child(ren). In the event that we engage in on-line learning, and you need a technological device, we will be signing them out per child. If you only need one device for 3 children, just fill out yes for one child.

Thank you for your attention to this letter and the new procedures outlined above.

We look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022. If you have any questions regarding the implementation of these new measures, please contact me at the school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ryan Colbert', written over a horizontal line.

Ryan Colbert, Principal, Auguston Traditional Elementary