

April 30, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians, Students and Staff:

Re: Information Bulletin

Our District continues to work through challenges imposed on us due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We recognize the provincial and regional landscape with respect to cases isn't improving as quickly as we all would like. But we are hopeful the vaccine roll-out will make an impact on our community.

Vaccine Roll-out for Staff

As you know, our K-12 educational staff have been provided the opportunity to get vaccinated in the Fraser Health Authority. We have heard reports from administrators, teachers, and staff who have expressed relief and a sense of optimism. We share these sentiments and are grateful to all staff for their patience and ongoing support with the vaccine roll-out process. It is important to note, staff vaccinations do not change the COVID-19 notification process in our schools or case and contact management by public health. Our schools will continue to follow health and safety procedures. The District continues to take direction from the Fraser Health Authority.

To date, our District has had 236 COVID-19 notifications in 39 of our schools since September. The month of April has been the most challenging thus far. As cases in our schools reflect what's happening in the community, we recognize the effects of the third wave in our province and region and are seeing this impact our school communities.

Graduation Celebrations

Under the current COVID-19 restrictions, large scale in-person graduation ceremonies, banquets and prom celebrations cannot go ahead this year due to the provincial ban on gatherings. These restrictions do not permit the same formats of graduation celebrations as last year. As a result, the District is working together with secondary schools to develop potential options but, will wait until after the May long weekend to make a decision on the formats of our graduation celebrations with the hope restrictions may change. We acknowledge this is disappointing for our graduates and their families. Secondary school administrators and staff will continue to look for creative ways to honour our grads this year. Our schools have learned many lessons from last year's grad festivities and have demonstrated repeatedly they are able to adapt. I'm confident our school communities will help make Grad 2021 meaningful and memorable.

Moving Forward

Transportation Registration for the 2021-2022 school year opens May 3. Our District has worked hard to improve communications and operations regarding bussing. All categories of riders currently in our transportation system will receive information outlining the registration process. To help in our planning, we ask families to register by June 18. The District cannot guarantee approval of ridership after this deadline. For more information visit our webpage <u>here</u>.

Donna Gabriel Robins Elementary

The construction of Donna Gabriel Robins Elementary continues to progress since we last updated the community earlier in the school year. Most of the drywall inside the school and half of the flooring is in place. Windows are up and exterior siding is currently being installed. Work on the surrounding sidewalks and driveway is expected soon. The District is excited to see the school taking shape and looks forward to it opening for the Fall. A current view of the school is <u>here</u>.

Outdoor Classroom Spaces

Many schools in our District are benefitting from new outdoor classrooms thanks to support from the federal government as part of its response to COVID-19. In addition to these open-air learning spaces, every elementary and middle school is receiving outdoor kits to enhance curriculum and increase student engagement. We welcome these new spaces as they align with our commitment to provide more learning opportunities outside during the pandemic and beyond. We are excited to see more students use these spaces as the weather gets warmer. To learn more read <u>here</u>.

We want to thank our students, staff, and parents for your cooperation and support of our new projects and daily activities. The month of April has been tough for everyone. If we continue to work together, our hope is to get to positive trends as we move toward the summer.

Sincerely,

sobre la información de su escuela.

Gord Stewart Superintendent of Schools

batid tungkol sa impormasyon ng paaralan.