



St. Elias Community School

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Sept. 18, 2020

We're half way through September already! Fall colors are out in full force, and students or staff are enjoying the opportunity to be outdoors learning during this beautiful season. As we move into the next few weeks, here are a few important messages for parents / guardians and students:

Staying home when sick or showing symptoms:

There has been an increase in symptoms of colds/flu. Yesterday the Chief Medical Officer released new Symptom criteria guidelines for staying home from schools and daycares. Schools are to receive charts that will be sent home to parents explaining the criteria steps.

Here is a quick excerpt of the information received from the Chief Medical Officer:

"We have developed guidance based on three colour zones to help parents and guardians know when to keep children home from school or daycare.

- ❖ **"Green"** means the child is well, has no symptoms and can attend school. This green zone includes situations where they have symptoms consistent with a previously diagnosed health condition and which are not unusual for that child.
- ❖ **"Yellow"** means the child has symptoms such as a runny nose, a headache or fatigue. The yellow zone means the child should stay at home for 24 hours and see whether the symptoms progress or resolve.
 - If a child has a runny nose or nasal congestion that persists beyond 24 hours but it's mild and doesn't progress and the child is otherwise well, then the child may go back to school or daycare.
 - Yellow symptoms are: Headache; Runny nose or congestion; Sore throat; Fatigue or just unwell, or unable to participate in usual activities; Major or intense fatigue; Generalized muscle pain (not related to physical exertion); Significant loss of appetite; Vomiting or Diarrhea
 - If a child only has vomiting or diarrhea, they can return to school when they have no further symptoms for at least 24 hours.
- ❖ **"Red"** means the child has a new cough, fever or difficulty breathing. In these situations, we recommend that they're tested for COVID-19 and are assessed by a health care provider as needed.
 - We especially recommend testing if a child has more than one of the following "red" symptoms:
 - Cough; Fever; Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing; Loss of taste or smell
 - If a child isn't tested, they must remain in self-isolation until their symptoms resolve and for at least 10 days from when they started having symptoms".

Welcome to our K4 Students!

K4 students began their education journey and first day of school on Monday Sept. 14th. We are very excited to welcome our youngest learners to our school family. The K4 program runs Monday through Thursday from 1:05 – 3:15pm. For safety purposes, we ask that K4 parents and guardians bring their student to school no earlier than 12:55pm and use the designated K4 entrance. We give a big welcome to Bobby, Odysseus, Weston, Isabelle, Braydon, Jacob, Ben, William, Lowell, Kieran and Dillon!

*Have a great weekend!
MS. Mann*

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If you would like to receive our Newsletters by email, please send me a message at shawn.allen@gov.yk.ca

CAFN Food Program:

St. Elias School would like to give a big shout out to CAFN Education Food Program staff for all their hard work with the introduction of the Food Program at the school. A big shout out to Maryellen and Cenjeya for the delicious and nutritious snacks and food served at breakfast and lunch.

The Food Program is available for all St. Elias students to participate in. As in past years, if students normally go home for lunch (not bus students), they can pick up a bag lunch in their homeroom before leaving for home.

Bus students and students who may need to stay on occasion due to extenuating circumstances, will eat lunch at school. Please call ahead if your student needs to stay for lunch on that day, so that adequate supervision can be in place for our students.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

SECS Terry Fox Run: Race One Day Your Way!

The SECS Race One Day Your Way event is set for **Wednesday Sept. 23rd, 2020**. Anytime on Wednesday Sept. 23rd or during that week, parents and community members are invited to walk, ride bikes, or go for a run or trail hike. SECS classrooms will be fund raising for a Terry Fox donation this year, so please send a "Twoonie for Terry" if you can. For the SECS class that raises the most funds, Ms. Mann has agreed to match their total! Community donations can be dropped off at the school office until the end of September. Thanks for your support!

Orange Shirt Day:

Orange Shirt Day is on **Wednesday Sept. 30, 2020**. This day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission residential school commemoration event held in Williams Lake in the spring of 2013. It grew out of Phyllis's account of losing her pretty new orange shirt on her first day of school at the Mission, and it has become an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential schools happening annually.

Orange Shirt Day is also an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools and community agencies to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come.

SECS staff and students will be participating in learning activities over the next few weeks which focus on reconciliation and anti-bullying in recognition of this legacy.

On Sept. 30th we are planning to have all staff and students come to school wearing an orange shirt in recognition of the important date. Thanks to John Fingland, who is organizing community funding to purchase twenty 2020 Orange Shirt Day T-shirts designed by Cole Pauls. These t-shirts will be drawn to give to twenty lucky students on Sept. 29th. There are also last year's version of Orange Shirt Day t-shirts available from Daku for \$15.00 each.

From The Ground Up:

The "From the Ground Up" fundraiser is returning to St. Elias School. Please consider purchasing a 20 lb Veggie Box full of locally grown produce from a St. Elias student to help support school programming. Veggie boxes are now available for purchase for \$35.00. There will also be an option to purchase a Veggie Box for donation. The donated boxes will be distributed to families in need or a local organization. Students are canvassing our community, however, if you would like to order a box and have not yet had an opportunity to do so, please call the school. Thanks in advance for your support!

School Photo Day:

A reminder to parents and students that Photo Day is **Thursday October 8, 2020**. Order packages have not yet arrived from the photographer. They will be sent home as soon as we receive them.

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School Council Elections:

Elections for SECS School Council were to be held in May of this year but were postponed due to Covid. Elections are now set for **Monday October 5th, 2020**. There are 3 elected seats available for the SECS School Council and 3 appointed seats by CAFN.

- Nominations for School Council are open and run until **12:00 noon on Sept 24th**. Nomination packages are available here at the school.
- If there are only 3 nominations (for the elected seats), the candidates will be acclaimed. If there are more than 3 nominations, a polling date is set for October 5th.
- Current elected Council members are: **Cassandra Wheeler; Amy McKinnon and Shannon Maloney**, CAFN appointed Council members are **Millie Joe; Jacquie Chambers** and 1 vacant seat.
- See attachment for further information on the School Council General Election.

Messages from the Deputy Minister of Education:



1. School Sports during the 2020-2021 School Year:

The health and safety of all students and staff continues to be the first priority for Yukon Education and for SECS. Attached is an update from Deputy Minister of Education Nicole Morgan regarding a plan to start up school sports teams. At this time, SECS is able to begin planning for the start up of practices, skills development and competition opportunities for existing sport teams in our school. More information regarding extra-curricular programming will be sent home. Please refer to the attached letter from Deputy Minister Morgan for more information.

2. Review of Inclusive and Special Education:

At the beginning of the 2019 School Year, Yukon Education began a review of Inclusive and Special Education. Yukon Education has extended this review to provide more time to safely connect and gather perspectives with families, educators, school communities, partners and Yukon First Nations. This includes ensuring engagement opportunities originally planned for April and May 2020 are able to go forward this school year.

For more information, please refer to the Deputy Minister's letter to Parents / Guardian attached to this newsletter.

	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Scent Free / Nut Free Zone:</u> A reminder to parents, students and staff that SECS is a scent free and nut free zone. We ask that you do not wear / use strong perfumed products when coming to the school.</p>	
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Student Safety:

Student safety is a priority at our school. We are noticing a higher volume of traffic in front of the school and in our parking lot areas. We are asking all parents who drop their students off at school to note the following information:

- The student drop-off zone created in front of the school on St. Elias Street is in place to increase the safety of our students being dropped off and picked up from school.
- When dropping students off in front of the school, parents are asked to enter onto St. Elias Street from Karmen Street, and pull into the drop-off zone on the school side of the street. Please do not park in the drop off zone. Please use the parking lot at either end of the school if you need to come into the school for a longer period of time.
- Accessing the West End Parking Lot (Bus area): To ensure the safety of students getting on or off the School Bus, please **only use the West end parking lot for drop off and pick up during the lunch hour**. Please enter the west end (Bus area) parking lot from St. Elias Street and exit onto Backe Street. **Please do not enter the lot from Backe Street**. Please drive slowly and watch for children. Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to our students' safety.
- A reminder that the posted speed around the school area and nearby streets is 30km.

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School Emergency Procedures:

At the beginning of each school year, St. Elias Community School prepares a SECS Emergency Response Plan to ensure we can act immediately to protect the health and safety of students should a school emergency arise.

Please make sure the school has your current contact information, so that we can reach you should there be an emergency.

Here are the days on which we will be reviewing and practicing our response to an emergency. Feel free to discuss these first two emergency drills with your children before hand:

- Thursday, September 24 - Fire Drill
- Tuesday September 29 - Earthquake Drill

In the event of an evacuation, we will follow these procedures:

- The school will remain responsible for all students for the hours designated in a normal school day, unless directed to dismiss students by an Emergency Measures authority.
- If we are directed to dismiss students, no student will be dismissed from school unless a parent or designated guardian comes for him/her; no student will be allowed to walk or bike home alone.
- No child will be allowed to leave with another person, even a relative or babysitter, unless we have written or verbal permission to that effect or that particular person is listed as the students' emergency contact. With this in mind, if your child's information is not up-to-date, please call the office as soon as possible.
- All parents or designated guardians who come to pick up students, must sign the student out with the classroom teacher or the designated marshall at the alternate site Student Release station. This is critical so that we can ensure all students are accounted for and remain safe.

In case we need to evacuate St. Elias Community School in an emergency, our alternate gathering place will be the St. Elias Convention Center. If the Convention Center is unsafe or occupied by EMS the next gathering place will be Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Administration building.

We are prepared to care for students in the event of a critical situation, or if parents or guardians are not able to reach the school. We have a number of people with first aid certifications, and we will be in communication with local emergency services, as required. We do ask for your help in the following areas:

- DO turn on your radio to CBC Radio One (103.5) or CKRW (98.7) or CHON (90.5) on the FM dial; information and directions will be given over the radio.
- DO NOT call the school please; we must have the lines open for emergency calls.
- DO NOT immediately drive to the school following an earthquake or other town-wide emergency; streets and access to our school may be cluttered with debris; the school access routes and street entrance areas must remain clear for emergency vehicles.

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Please refer to this updated school calendar for school closed days. A SECS Staff Professional Development Day on Oct. 2nd, 2020 has been added.

*UPDATED WITH NEW DATE: St. Elias Community School Calendar for 2020-2021	
Discovery Day	Monday Aug. 17, 2020
Professional Development Day	Friday Aug. 28, 2020
Professional Development Day	Monday Aug. 31, 2020
First Day of School for students	Tuesday Sept. 01, 2020
Labour Day	Monday Sept. 07, 2020
* Professional Development Day	*Friday Oct. 2, 2020
Thanksgiving Day	Monday Oct. 12, 2020
Remembrance Day	Wednesday Nov. 11, 2020
Christmas Break	Friday Dec. 18, 2020 – Friday Jan. 01, 2021
First Day Back after Christmas Break	Monday Jan. 04, 2021
Professional Development Day	Friday Jan. 22, 2021
Professional Development Day	Thursday Feb. 25, 2021
Heritage Day	Friday Feb. 26, 2021
Spring Break	Thursday Mar. 18, 2021 to Friday Mar. 26, 2021
First Day Back after Spring Break	Monday Mar. 29, 2021
Good Friday	Friday Apr. 2, 2021
Easter Monday	Monday Apr. 5, 2021
Professional Development Day	Friday Apr. 30, 2021
Victoria Day	Monday May 24, 2021
Last Day of School	Wednesday June 9, 2021
<p>SECS School Council has allocated 3 Professional Development Days: Aug.28th, *Oct. 2nd, Jan. 22nd.</p> <p>Yukon Education has allocated 3 Professional Development Days: Aug. 31st, Feb. 25th, Apr. 30th.</p>	

SCHOOL COUNCIL GENERAL ELECTION DATES

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! VOTING DAY IS OCTOBER 5, 2020

What is the Role of School Councils?

School councils play an important role in local school governance, providing a voice for students and families in their school communities.

Councils take on important responsibilities such as reviewing and developing school-based policies, supporting school growth planning, and providing input on the school calendar, school renovations, staffing needs and school programs.

Members are elected to represent the territory's 26 school attendance areas. Council size varies from 3 to 7 members.

What Do I Need To Be A Candidate Or Vote?

To be a candidate or to vote in a Yukon school council election you must:

- be a Canadian citizen; and
- be at least 18 years old; and,
- have lived in the attendance area for at least three months, or be a parent of a child attending the school.

Candidates can get nomination papers online, from the school, or from their returning officer.

For the three schools established on the basis of religion, electors must be a parent of a child in attendance, be a registered member of an approved parish, or have written approval for residency from the Bishop of the Episcopal Corporation of the Diocese of Whitehorse.

Key Dates

- **Monday, September 14: Notice of Nominations**
This is the start of the election period. Candidates can submit their nomination papers to the returning officer.
- **Thursday September 24: Close of Nominations**
Nomination of candidates close at 12:00 noon. If the number of nominations exceed the number of positions, a poll will be held. Mail-in ballots are also available.
- **Monday, October 5: Polling Day (If Required)**
In school attendance areas where voting is required, the poll will be open at the school for voting between 3:00 PM and 8:00 PM.

Election Guidelines During COVID-19

Elections Yukon is working collaboratively with the Department of Health to protect public health by implementing the necessary process, distancing, and control measures to deliver a safe, compliant, and secure school council election. **It is our #1 focus!**

For More Information:

Contact information for your local returning officer will be available by September 14.

www.electionsyukon.ca

info@electionsyukon.ca

(867) 667-8683

Toll Free (866) 668-8683

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Deputy Minister's office (E-1)
PO Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

September 15, 2020

Dear parents/guardians,

RE: School sports during the 2020-21 school year

Now that schools are settling into their new routines and following the health and safety guidelines set by Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health, many are thinking about school sports opportunities.

The Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health has released health and safety guidelines for [sports and recreation](#) and [contact sports](#). More recently, public health officials have provided the Department of Education with further guidance on physical education and school sports through the physical education and school sports guidelines, which are attached for your reference.

In July, we [surveyed students, families and school staff](#) about their experiences learning during their time away from school in April and May last school year. Many of the participating students identified extracurricular activities and school sports as something they missed about being at school.

Physical activity and opportunities to play school sports have always been a valuable part of the school experience for students. We recognize the benefits of these opportunities and are working together with school administration and the Yukon Schools Athletic Association to plan these opportunities for students while following important health and safety guidelines.

School sports

Getting started

At this time, each school is able to move forward with practices, skills development and competition opportunities for their school sports within their school and existing school teams.

Competing against other schools

We recognize that school sports typically involve competition opportunities against other schools. Superintendents are checking in with school administration and the Yukon Schools Athletic Association to determine opportunities for inter-school competitions for sports that normally involve playing against other schools within Whitehorse and rural communities.

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Some elementary schools have expressed interest in opportunities to play together this month and school-based reps have been working with the Yukon Schools Athletic Association on participating in an outdoor soccerfest on Thursday, September 17. This event will take place outdoors and will follow the sport and recreation and contact sports guidelines and will ensure no more than 60 participants.

While this outdoor event is moving forward, we continue to work with the Yukon Schools Athletic Association on additional opportunities for inter-school competitions. As plans for any sporting events and/or league play are determined, further updates will be provided to school staff, students and families.

Physical education classes

While some initial guidance was provided around physical education in the health and safety guidelines for K-12 school settings, the physical education and sports guidelines provide further clarification on types of activities and how they can safely be provided. School staff will be reviewing these guidelines to ensure physical education for students are following this updated guidance. Like school sports, physical education opportunities should also follow the health and safety guidelines for sports and recreation and contact sports.

This is not a normal school year and the health and safety of students and staff continues to be our first priority. Thank you for your patience while planning continues to adapt school programming opportunities for the 2020-21 school year.

If parents have any questions, we encourage them to contact their school directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Morgan". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Nicole Morgan
Deputy Minister of Education



Deputy Minister's office (E-1)
PO Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

September 16, 2020

Dear parents/guardians:

Re: Review of inclusive and special education

I am writing to provide you with an update on the review of inclusive and special education.

Extending the review

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are extending this review into the 2020-21 school year to provide more time and opportunities to safely connect and gather perspectives with families, educators, school communities, partners and Yukon First Nations. This includes ensuring engagement opportunities originally planned for April and May 2020 are able to go forward this school year.

The review consultant, Nikki Yee, has provided an interim update from the information gathered to date about Yukon's current service model for these programs and questions and resources to consider as the review moves forward is now available at yukon.ca/en/review-inclusive-special-education-interim-update. The interim update will be referenced during engagement with education partners and Yukon First Nations.

Engagement on the review

As part of this review and our effort to improve our services, we want to hear from students, families, educators, communities, partners and Yukon First Nations about these areas of education.

This review began in February 2020, starting with the Department of Education's current practices, procedures and legislated responsibilities, and initial meetings with central administration staff and school administrators. Further engagement opportunities with families, educators, school communities, partners and Yukon First Nations that were originally planned for April and May 2020 had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

These opportunities are being adapted and rescheduled for November 2020, including:

- An online tool to gather perspectives and experiences from students, educators, families, partners, school communities, staff and the public;
- Focus groups led by the review consultant, with educators (including learning assistance teachers, school counsellors, educational assistants and school-based teams), the Yukon Teachers' Association, Yukon First Nations, School Councils and

associations, and professionals who work with children and youth with special educational needs;

- Additional interviews as identified by the review consultant.

The online tool is being developed collaboratively with Yukon First Nations and partners in education through the Advisory Committee for Yukon Education to ensure we are asking effective questions about our inclusive and special education services. The online tool will be open to the public. Employees in schools and the Department of Education's central administration building will also be encouraged to share their perspectives and experiences through this tool.

In addition, the online tool, families can also contact their School Council or staff of their First Nation government who can share perspectives on their behalf through focus groups with the review consultant or the Advisory Committee for Yukon Education.

Reporting back to the public, education partners and Yukon First Nations

The purpose of this review is to identify barriers and opportunities in the current service model and questions and resources to consider, starting with hearing from families, educators, and communities about their experiences with current programming, as well as learning about what other jurisdictions are doing.

Ms. Yee will share her final report from this review and a summary of what we heard from families, educators, school communities, partners and Yukon First Nations in March 2021. Her report will include identifying recommended areas for further inquiry and considerations for the department about inclusive and special education as it continues to work with partners to modernize these programs and address the recommendations from the 2019 audit report.

This report and recommendations from the 2019 audit report will then be used to frame collaboration with partners in education through the Advisory Committee on Yukon Education and Yukon First Nations on next steps to improve and modernize these programs to more effectively support student learning needs and outcomes, including some initial actions for the 2021-22 school year.

I look forward to providing you with further updates when opportunities to share your experiences and perspectives with inclusive and special education in Yukon open in November.

Sincerely,



Nicole Morgan
Deputy Minister of Education