



September 4, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are looking forward to welcoming the students back to Little Mountain Elementary for the 2020/2021 school year!

Please watch for an email from your child's teacher on Wednesday, September 9th with further details regarding your child's drop-off location for the first day of school on Thursday, Sept. 10th. Please reply to their email on Wednesday to inform them that you have received it.

If you have made other plans for your child's education, please contact the school immediately so we can accurately create our class lists for next week.

Gr. 1-5 students will start school on Thursday, September 10th – 8:20-10:20 (no snack or supplies required)

Gr. 1-5 students first full day is on Friday, September 10th – 8:20-2:12 (snack and lunch required, no supplies)

Based on the current epidemiology of COVID-19 in B.C., the latest research, guidance from the Provincial Health Officer, and evidence that children are at a lower risk of developing and transmitting COVID-19, K-12 students can return to full-time, in-class instruction in accordance with current public health guidelines for schools. These comprehensive guidelines build on the [COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings](#) developed by the [Office of the Provincial Health Officer](#) and the [BC Centre for Disease Control](#) (BCCDC) to ensure schools have robust measures in place to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. The health and safety guidelines established at Little Mountain Elementary have been developed to complement the BC Centre for Disease Control and [WorkSafeBC](#) protocols.

Little Mountain Elementary is a highly controlled environment for staff and students. Below are just a few of the Health & Safety measures we have put into place as a means of reducing the possible risk of transmission of COVID-19 along with the potential entrance of any infectious disease into our school.

Cohorts/Learning Groups

- Students will be divided into classes that will then be attached to a Learning Group with a maximum of 60 students.
- During recess and lunch, students will only play with other students in their Learning Group.
- Coloured wristbands will be provided to each student to help identify the Learning Group they belong to.
- Our recess and lunch times will be staggered to decrease the number of students outside at one time to half of our school population.
- Kindergarten Dismissal will be at 2:00. Grades 1-5 Dismissal will be at 2:12 to ease congestion by the west parking lot.



- Learning Groups will have designated washrooms to reduce interactions of students between Learning Groups.

Daily Health Checks

- Parents/Guardians are responsible for administering a Daily Health Check (attached to this letter) on their child(ren) each morning and staff must also self-assess.
 - If staff or students have any cold, influenza, COVID-19 or any other infectious disease like symptoms (outlined on the attached Daily Health Checklist), they **must** remain home until they have been assessed by a health-care provider to exclude COVID-19 or other infectious diseases AND their symptoms have resolved. School administration will work with staff and families in these situations to ensure staff and students have been cleared to return to school.
 - Anyone who develops symptoms throughout the day will be immediately escorted to our Isolation Room (supervised) and a parent/guardian will be called to pick up and have their child assessed by a medical professional.

General Safety Measures

- Our school will be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with [the BCCDC's Cleaning and Disinfectants for Public Settings document](#).
- All staff are required to wear a non-medical mask when working with students outside their cohort, when physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- Plexi-glass barriers will be used in areas such as our library.
- Classrooms with sinks are equipped with hand soap and paper towel.
- Hand sanitizer is available in every classroom.
- Everyone should keep to the far-right side of any walkway and not stop or group in hallways.
- Drinking fountains remain closed. Students should bring a personal water bottle and use one of our contactless refillable water bottle stations. If a child forgets their water bottle, we have disposable water bottles upon request.
- Until further notice, only staff and students will be permitted inside the school unless they have an appointment, and even then only under strict conditions (limited times, locations and contacts). This is to assist with keeping our school a “controlled” environment for students and staff.
- Parents are asked to drop off and pick up their children at the designated location provided via email from your child’s teacher and not gather. Parents must practice physical distancing when on school grounds.
- As much as possible, please send your child with shoes/jackets/clothes/food items that they can put on, off, open independently, to minimize the close contact with staff and students
- Please have your child dress for the weather, as we will be encouraging outdoor learning as much as possible rain or shine.

Personal Hygiene

- Students will be regularly taught about hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette (coughing & sneezing).
- Staff and students will wash their hands when entering the school, whenever they cough or sneeze on their hands, when leaving and upon returning to their classroom, when heading out for



recess and lunch and then again when they return back to the classrooms from outside, and before exiting the school at the end of the day.

- Students choosing to wear masks, will also be encouraged to wash their hands before and after touching their masks.

Little Mountain is a NUT FREE School

We have a number of students at our school who have severe peanut allergies and can have a life-threatening medical reaction to even the smell of peanut butter. There are a few others who are unable to eat peanuts and other nuts. Our school is nut free, we ask that students not bring any foods with nuts or peanut butter. Due to its sticky nature, it is especially dangerous for students with nut allergies as it can remain on surfaces (tables, chairs and taps) long after students have left the eating area. We thank you for your cooperation and understanding as the safety of our students is vital.

Student Supplies

Kindergarten and Grade 1– supplies will be purchased in bulk and the following amounts can be paid to the school (via the classroom teacher) by September 25th.

- Kindergarten - \$35
- Grade 1 - \$45

Gr. 2-5

This year we will continue with providing parents **two options** for purchasing student supplies. If you have a child going into grade 2,3,4 or 5, you will be able to. Please bring student supplies to school on Monday, September 14th:

1. Use the supplies list on our website <https://littlemountain.sd33.bc.ca/20202021-school-supplies>

or

2. You may go to <https://schoolstart.ca/> and purchase the supplies online using our online supply list provided to School Start. For this option you will pay the company directly online. Orders cannot be taken at the school.

- Click “Parents Shop Here”
- Select BC
- Select Chilliwack
- Select Little Mountain Elementary
- Click “Shop SchoolStart.ca”
- Click “Click here to purchase your school kits”
- Choose the grade your child will be going into next school year

School News and Updates

For updated information on weekly school and class events please visit the school website at <http://littlemountain.sd33.bc.ca/www.sd33.bc.ca>. We will also send out an “Upcoming Weekly Events and News” email every Friday to inform parents of important events and news for the upcoming week.



Student Absences

Please be sure to contact the school at (604)792-0681 or kim_heemskerk@sd33.bc.ca if your child will be late or absent. We have an answering machine in the office for early morning and afternoon/evening calls. If your child is not in attendance and we haven't heard from you, we will call. Your child's safety is our primary concern.

If after reading this information, you still have questions or concerns, please email or call either of us as we are more than happy to connect and discuss options that are best for each family.

Warm Regards,

Nicole Driscoll and Jackie Berkes