

**Skeena  
Middle School**

3411 Munroe Street Terrace,  
B.C. V8G – 3C1  
Phone - 1-250-635-9136  
Website - skeena.cmsd.bc.ca

Principal – Mr. Phillip Barron  
Vice-Principal – Mrs. Sonja  
Donnan  
Vice-Principal – Mr. Joe  
Dominguez

**Bell Schedule**

8:40	Warning Bell
8:45-9:50	Block 1
9:55	Block 2
10:10-10:20	Grade 8 Break
10:20-10:30	Grade 7 Break
10:30-10:40	Grade 9 Break
11:05-12:10	Block 3
12:10-12:58	Lunch
1:03-2:08	Block 4
2:13-3:18	Block 5

**Student Absenteeism**

Please remember to contact the school whenever your son or daughter is going to be away from school. If you send a note with your child, please have the note delivered to the main office first. If the absence is going to be for an extended period of time i.e. more than one day, we can put a homework request out to teachers.

**Visitors and Guests to the School**

All parents/guardians, visitors and guests are required to call first. Please follow the covid-19 protocol posted at the entrance after you enter the school. Wearing a mask is mandatory before entering. Thank you.



**October 2020 Newsletter**

Dear SMS Families,

It is hard to believe that October is almost complete. A lot has happened in the first six weeks and we have been very impressed with how our students and staff have coped with our new normal. We are very grateful for our staff's commitment and dedication to ensure that our students are safe while meeting their physical, emotional, and educational needs. Our students have settled in and are now used to the daily routines we have in place. We are particularly pleased with student's behavior we have observed the last six weeks.

Parent teacher interviews will be slightly different this year. We are in the process of finalizing how this will take place. We will give you an update on how parent teacher interviews will be conducted in the next newsletter. Our leadership and yearbook group are now in full swing. We are also starting a basketball skill session for girls and boys starting in November. Please feel free to reach out to us should you have questions.

Principal  
Mr. Barron

Vice-Principal  
Mrs. Donnan

Vice-Principal  
Mr. Dominguez

***PAC***

Thank you to all parents who attended the last PAC meeting. The Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Executive for this **2020-2021** School Year -

**Chair:** Jennifer Kenny  
**Treasurer:** Chris Simms  
**DPAC:**

**Vice-Chair:** Nicole Wallace  
**Secretary:** Kelly Sallenback

**Next meeting; October 28 @ 7 pm. via Zoom.**

**Students Leaving the School**

In the interest of student safety, any students who need to leave the school for any reason, i.e. an appointment, home for lunch – are required to sign out at the main office and to sign back in upon return. Thank you.

**School Photo Retakes – October 29<sup>th</sup>.**



*Relationships*

*Respect*

*Honesty*

*Responsibility*

*Perseverance*



Band is in full swing here at SMS! There is lots of beautiful sounds coming from the band room daily. This is just a reminder of rehearsal times. Ask Ms. Georgeson if you have any questions! You can contact her @ [Katia.Georgeson@cmsd.bc.ca](mailto:Katia.Georgeson@cmsd.bc.ca)

Grade 8/9 Full Band – Tuesdays 3:30-4:45  
 Senior Jazz Band – Wednesday Mornings 7:30 am - 8:40 am  
 Grade 7 Full Band – Wednesdays 3:30-4:45  
 Beginner Jazz Band – Thursdays at lunch

### Spirit days

Wednesday October 28<sup>th</sup>: PJ Days



Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup>: Twin Days



Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>: Costume Days



Thank you to all who participated in the Terry Fox event. Skeena Middle School raised and donated \$500 to this great cause. A special thank you to Ms. Klassen, Mr. Magol and Mr. Barron for spearheading this event.

We would like to recognize the following classes for winning the class run/walk challenge.

Mrs. Greaves – 1425 km Ms. O'Brien – 315.3 km  
 Mrs. Horne – 181.6 km  
 Mrs. Hisanaga – 935.5 km  
 Mme. Carter – 1139 km  
 Ms. Van Barneveld – 1301 km

Congratulations to the following students for winning SMS t-shirts by answering Terry Fox trivia questions.

Sofia Chataway Jaden Woods Wesley Bennett



BC School Sports is still in Stage 2 which prohibits inter school competition. Mr. Fraser, Mr. Midgely and Mr. Dominguez will be running skills sessions on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays for grade 7-9 boys starting November 2<sup>nd</sup> from 3:30-5 pm. Ms. O'Brien and Ms. Kenmuir will also be running skills session for grade 7-9 girls on Mondays and Wednesdays starting November 3<sup>rd</sup> from 5:00 – 6:30 pm

Be assured that we will all be following Covid-19 ministry guidelines when conducting skills session. If you have questions regarding what the sessions will look like, please feel free to contact Mr. Dominguez @ [joe.dominguez@cmsd.bc.ca](mailto:joe.dominguez@cmsd.bc.ca).

## **COVID – 19 Update from Northern Health**

The BCCDC's COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools was updated on Friday September 11, 2020. We have received many questions about the recent changes. This letter aims to provide further clarification. Key changes in the most recent version include:

### **A simplified symptom list in the Daily Health Check form**

The daily health check form now focuses on key symptoms, which are more likely to be due to COVID-19: fever, chills, cough, difficulty breathing, loss of sense of smell or taste, diarrhea, or nausea and vomiting. Over time, we have learned that other mild or short-lived symptoms are very common, and in the vast majority of cases, are not caused by COVID-19. Excluding from school everyone who only has mild symptoms, or requiring that they all be tested, would put an unsustainable burden on children, families, and the health care system, but would not contribute significantly to reducing COVID-19 risks in schools. The revised symptom list aims to maintain effective risk reduction, while avoiding unnecessary disruptions. It is generally unnecessary to stay home from school or seek testing if someone only has other symptoms (such as runny nose, fatigue, or headache), but none of the key symptoms. COVID-19 will generally be very unlikely in these cases. This tool is primarily intended to assist families in their decision-making. It is not intended to replace or override parents' judgement about whether or not their child is ill and needs assessment. Parental judgement will incorporate more information than can be captured by a standard checklist.

### **New criteria for returning to school after symptoms develop**

Staff and students should be allowed to return to school without health assessment or testing, if they have no fever, and only one of the key symptoms above, and it improves within 24 hours; or, if they have none of the key symptoms. Otherwise, if key symptoms occur (fever, two or more key symptoms, or one key symptom lasting over 24 hours), health assessment is recommended and the person should not return to school until COVID-19 is ruled out by assessment or testing, or at least 10 days have passed from when symptoms began. These changes will maintain effective risk reduction but will allow those who are very unlikely to have COVID-19 to remain in school and will reduce unnecessary burdens on families and the health care system.

### **Schools no longer required to report when absenteeism exceeds 10%**

Staff and student absences may be for any number of reasons, and public health surveillance for communicable disease activity, including COVID-19, is based on testing, case assessment, and contact follow up. Absenteeism alone, in the absence of any confirmed cases, does not require any unique public health action.

### **New testing procedure for students**

A new saline gargle test is now available as an alternative to the nasopharyngeal (NP) swab for COVID-19 testing in school-aged children K-12 in certain collection centers.

### **COVID-19 case notification process for schools**

Schools are generally not high-risk locations for transmission of COVID-19, but as long as COVID-19 continues to occur in our communities, occasional cases in schools will also occur. NH will notify the School District, Superintendent, and Principal when the Medical Health Officer determines that a confirmed case of COVID-19 may have exposed others in a school. Northern Health has added a School

Exposures section to its Public Exposures and Outbreaks web page, where you can find notification information of possible exposures to COVID-19 within schools in the NH region. These notifications are being made public largely in order to avoid misinformation. A public notification does not mean that most staff and students have been exposed to COVID-19, and it does not mean that most staff and students need to take any specific action. When a school has been notified of a possible exposure, no particular action is recommended to staff or students, except for specific individuals contacted personally by Public Health, who have been identified as close contacts.

Answers to many questions from schools and families can be found in the BCCDC Frequently Asked Questions resource for schools. There are many things you can do to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in school settings and in your own community. Please visit the BCCDC website for more information: [www.bccdc.ca](http://www.bccdc.ca).

