

4615 - 51 Street, Delta, BC V4K2V8 604.946.4194 deltasd.bc.ca/de

December 18, 2020

Dear Pacer Families,

As we head into the winter holidays, we want to thank you for your commitment to following our school's health and safety protocols, your involvement in your child's educational journey, and your continued support of our school and its initiatives.

In December, we saw our school and the Ladner community come together for our *Twenty Days of Giving Campaign*. Our combined efforts resulted in more than \$17,000 in food, clothing, toiletries, gift cards and cash donations being raised to support local families and the food bank. The appreciation we received from those families for our generosity was heartwarming and we want to thank everyone for their involvement and support of this wonderful initiative.

December also saw our Delta Youth Advocacy Council (DYAC) and Pacer students write over 400 Christmas cards that were delivered yesterday to local care homes, bringing joy, support and well wishes to the seniors who reside there.

Inside our school, our Grad Council and Culinary Arts Program worked together to provide our students and staff with holiday cheer and an opportunity to celebrate community within our learning groups while enjoying festive music, hot chocolate and chocolate chip cookies. Our school hallways and classroom doors were brightly decorated by our talented students and staff and a winter spirit week by our Student Government brought the 2020 school year to a positive and joyous close.

Below are some important items for your information:

Quarter 2 Assessment:

Yesterday, report cards were released on both MyED and on Parent Connect. If you are unable to view your child's report card, please contact the school for assistance on how to access the report card. *If you have any concerns about your student's progress, please contact the teacher directly via email. A reminder that students have the opportunity for support and assistance every day from 1:30pm – 2:10pm during Flexible Learning Time.*

Fraser Health Notification Procedures:

Effective December 5, Fraser Health has changed the way it issues exposure notifications to school communities. These updates were provided to families in a [District Letter](#) sent out last week. Previously, all staff and families at the school would receive the same letter notifying them there had been an exposure at the school, but the letter did not provide information specifying which class was affected. Moving forward, staff and families will receive one of these letters:

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- **Early notification letter - exposed:** Will be sent to classes where a positive case was in attendance during their infectious period.
- **Early notification letter - not exposed:** Will be sent to all other classes not exposed at the school.
- **Early notification letter - general:** Will be sent where a case is not attached to a specific class

These letters will be shared while contact tracing is underway and if any further follow up is required, Fraser Health will be in touch. This may include self-monitoring letters or additional direction from public health for specific individuals, for example, to self-isolate or get a COVID test.

Once contact tracing is complete, Fraser Health will issue a **School Bulletin** which informs the entire school community that all contact tracing linked to the positive case is complete.

Please click here to see a flowchart that outlines the new process.

https://district.public.deltasd.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/12/COVID-Exposure-Flowchart_Dec-8-2020.pdf

Contact numbers for Fraser Health for questions/advise specific to COVID and schools

- * **Fraser Health COVID Hotline 604-918-7532**
- * **COVID SCHOOL HUB Hotline 604-587-4769**

COVID-19 Safety Reminders:

When we return from the holiday break, a kind reminder of the important role we each play in our collective effort to flatten the curve and keep our school community and the wider community safe. Let's continue to do our part to keep our school safe.

We expect all students to do the following with regards to safety protocols:

- Completing the [Daily Health Check](#) and staying home if you are not feeling well or exhibiting any symptoms;
- **Wearing a mask is required when:**
 - Entering the building and moving through common areas such as hallways;
 - **Keeping a physical distance of 2 metres** from people outside their learning cohort is not possible—this includes school grounds and, in the community,
- **Washing hands or using sanitizer before entering** the building or a classroom;
- **Not sharing food or snacks** with peers and friends;
- Remembering to **“Be kind, be calm, be safe” to others.**

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Quarter 2 Literacy & Numeracy Assessments:

An advanced reminder that all Grade 10 and 11 Math and English classes in Quarter 2 will be scheduled to write the Numeracy 10 and Literacy 10 Assessments (respectively) during the **January Provincial assessment week from January 25 – 29, 2021**. *More information will be provided to students by their respective Math and English teachers as well as from the school closer to the assessment date.* **All assessments will be scheduled for Block C (1:30pm – 4:30pm) to minimize conflicts with scheduled courses.**

Focusing on the Positive:

When you ask parents what they want for their kids, the most common reply is that they want their children to be happy. Several years ago, Time magazine featured an [article](#) called *How to Raise Happy Kids: 10 Steps Backed by Science*. The article points out that while sometimes it's hard to balance what's best for children with what makes them happy, the two don't have to be mutually exclusive.

We encourage you to read the full article, but if you don't have time, here are the 10 steps:

1. Get happy yourself
2. Teach them to build relationships
3. Expect effort, not perfection
4. Teach optimism
5. Teach emotional intelligence
6. Form happiness habits
7. Teach self-discipline
8. More playtime
9. Rig their environment for happiness
10. Eat dinner together

Although the holidays are set to be very different than many of us are used to, we hope you will find safe ways to connect with family and friends. We would like to take this opportunity to extend our wishes of peace, love, joy and hope to all members of our Delta Secondary community. From our families to yours, we want to wish everyone a Happy Holiday and continued health, happiness and prosperity in 2021.

Sincerely,

John Pavão,
Principal, Grade 12

Mike Annandale,
Vice Principal, Grade 8 & 10

Maggie Callander,
Vice Principal, Grade 9 & 11