

# ALEXANDER PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

SAFETY \* RESPECT \* RESPONSIBILITY

Phone: (250) 344-5513

<http://www.sd6.bc.ca/school/apes>

Bob Wilson, Principal

[bob.wilson@sd6.bc.ca](mailto:bob.wilson@sd6.bc.ca)

## 21 April 2021 Newsletter

Find our newsletters and subscribe to our school calendar online! [www.sd6.bc.ca/school/apes](http://www.sd6.bc.ca/school/apes)



### Alexander Park Vision

Welcome to Alexander Park, where we discover our world through progressive practices in a respectful, caring environment.

### In this newsletter:

- Pick-Up/Drop-Off Routines
- Bikes at School
- Health Checks and Allergies
- What Can I Do?
- Dogs at School
- Health Information about Lice and Ticks

### Upcoming Dates to Note:

**Monday, April 26** Professional Development Day (no session for students)

**Wednesday, May 12** Early Dismissal Day (Busses run an hour earlier)

**Wednesday, May 12** Interim Reporting to Parents

Dear Alexander Park Families,



This is a longer newsletter that includes some important reminders and information. We have welcomed many new families to our Alexander Park community this Spring, and we want to keep everyone informed of our practices, especially those that relate to our COVID practices. Hopefully these are the last few months we will need to be vigilant to this level, but our staff and families have seen the benefits of increased attention to things like handwashing and staying home when sick. At times of the winter when our experience included widespread outbreaks of colds and flu, we have seen reduced absences due to illness. Thank you for all you've done to keep our school healthy!

More COVID-related information is in our school safety plan, which can be found online at: [Alexander Park School \(sd6.bc.ca\)](http://Alexander Park School (sd6.bc.ca))

### Pick-Up/Drop-Off

All pick-up and drop-off will continue to be near the arena parking lot for the rest of the year. Drop-off for students continues to be at 8:50, and pick up at 3:02, unless your work schedule requires an earlier drop-off (please call ahead to notify us).

Most parents who are driving will use the arena parking lot for pick-up and drop-off. Please watch for traffic and stay on the other side of the fence as



you drop-off/pick-up your child. If you are not dropping off from the arena parking lot, but rather crossing near the Rec Plex, please follow these directions:

- Do not drive into the bus loop or use the staff parking lot. Park near the Rec Plex and bring your child across the street.
- Stay to the far side of the bus lane if you are walking your child into the pickup/drop-off area.
- Do not walk through the staff parking lot.

*Please maintain physical distance from other families during pick-up and drop-off, and wear a mask if you cannot maintain that physical distance. Masks are required for all visitors on school grounds and in the school itself.*

*If you live on the Lady Grey side of town there is a bus that can transport your child to and from school. Please call the office for more information (250) 344-5513.*

---

## **Bikes at School**



We have many families biking to school! For your convenience, if your child is riding a bike to school we will dismiss your child from our class meeting spots directly to the bike racks. You are welcome to wait at the bike racks to pick-up your child after school if you are cycling with them. In the morning, students may drop their bikes at the racks and then walk around the school on the sidewalk beside the building to get to their meeting spots.

We moved the bike racks to the right side of the front door to avoid congestion between bikes and classes walking to and from meeting areas. When restrictions end they will be moved back to their usual spot. We still encourage students and families to use the crosswalk area for coming into the yard. This is where drivers expect to see students crossing.

---

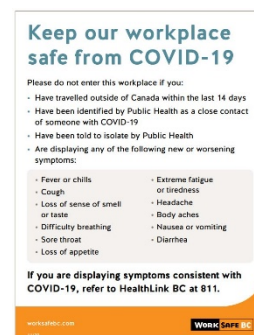
## **Daily Health Check**

Staff and students must perform a daily health check before leaving home. Families can find this health check for students online at [K-12 Health Check Online](#).

Families should be watching for new or worsening symptoms, including fever or chills, cough, loss of sense of taste or smell, difficulty breathing, sore throat, loss of appetite, extreme fatigue or tiredness, headache, body aches, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea. If you are noticing those symptoms, please contact Public Health (call 8-1-1) for advice and directions.

While it is not related to our COVID protocols directly, we always encourage families and staff to stay at home when they are feeling unwell, especially with easily spread respiratory illnesses like colds and flus, until symptoms mostly subside.

---



## **Allergies**



We have staff and students who feel the effects of seasonal allergies. If your child has seasonal allergies, please let us know so we can be expecting their regular, allergy-related symptoms. Nobody likes being uncomfortable at school, so if your health care provider has recommended a course of treatment for allergies please consider following those recommendations to relieve symptoms.

Please keep your child home if their allergy symptoms change or if they are experiencing unexpected symptoms, and consult your health care provider or 8-1-1 for advice.

Some seasonal allergy symptoms are similar to the symptoms of COVID-19. If we are not aware of your child's allergies, and your child is showing COVID-like symptoms, we will enact our COVID protocols and isolate your child until you are available to pick them up. Similarly, if we know of your child's allergies, and they are showing symptoms that are unusual or unexpected, we will act with an abundance of caution and call parents to discuss these symptoms.

---

### **What can I do to help schools stay safe?**

We can all help maintain schools as a safe environment by following our existing protocols, which include:

- Come into the school only if necessary. If you need to come, call the office ahead of time and arrange to meet us at the front door (250) 344-5513. All visitors are required to wear masks, and must sign in if they are spending time in the school or on our grounds.
- Give space to our classes outside. If you are in the same area as a class, like when our classes are coming into the school, or around the school and into the front doors, please give them space (at least 2m), wear a mask, and be patient to give them time to pass safely.
- Continue to follow Public Health orders in the community, including current orders around gatherings and travel. When the community is healthy, schools are healthy.



### **Dogs at School**



Some of our students have not yet had positive experiences with dogs. Some students are frightened of dogs, or may have had a negative experience with dogs. Consider leaving your dog at home or in your vehicle (if it isn't too warm, of course) at pick-up and drop-off times. If you must bring your dog with you, please keep it on a short leash close to you, and give students lots of space to be able to move around at a safe distance. Dogs are not allowed on the school property. Dogs are not allowed on school property. If you walk your child to school with a dog, please keep the dog on a leash and at the edge of the grounds, away from any groups of people.

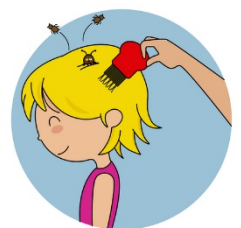
---

### **Head Lice**

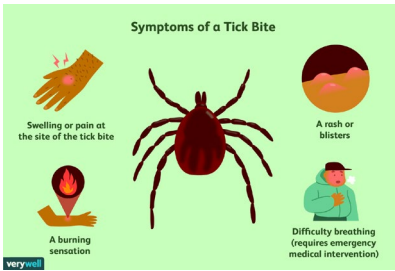
From time to time we are faced with the minor nuisance of head lice at school. While head lice neither transmit or cause disease, nor jump from head to head, it is important to know where to find reliable information in order to treat any cases you may come across with your children and to prevent further cases from arising.

It is a good idea to regularly check your children's hair and scalp. For more health care information about lice please visit: [Head Lice | HealthLinkBC](#)

---



## It is Tick Season



Ticks are tiny bugs which feed on blood. Most ticks do not carry diseases, and most tick bites do not cause serious health problems. But it is important to avoid and check for ticks, and to remove a tick as soon as you find it. Removing the tick completely may help you avoid diseases such as [Lyme disease](#) that the tick may pass on during feeding, or a skin infection where the tick bit you. For more health care information about ticks, please visit: [Ticks | HealthLink BC](#)

---

