



JUNIPER RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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<http://juniper-ridge.sd73.bc.ca/>

Principal: Colleen Wood Vice-Principal: Andrea Mangell Secretary: Stacey Kinney

REACH HIGH ~ SERVE WELL ~ LEARN TOGETHER

January 14, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians:

It is so good to have students back engaged in face-to-face learning with their peers and teachers. I hope you know that we are being very diligent with our control measures so that JRES is a safe place to learn and work during our 5th strand of **COVID**. These are challenging times for all of us. The [BCCDC's](#) website can be a resource for COVID information. While we are all living COVID, we all have unique family dynamics, wherein we need to mitigate different risks. Please continue to make the decisions that are best for you and your family.

Thank you so much for your **continued diligence** in doing a daily health check, sending your child to school with a mask and encouraging them to follow all protocols (wash hands frequently, give others personal space, respiratory etiquette, etc.). We will continue to have masks on hand for those students who forget to bring a mask. Please also send your child to school with a personal water bottle, as our water fountains continue to be filling stations only at this time.

Our weather has been interesting. We've gone from frigid cold to much more tolerable and warmer weather. Please continue to send your child **dressed for outside play**, as we like to enjoy the fresh air as much as possible during our recess and lunch breaks. Students who want to slide and play in the snow, should have snowpants, boots and mitts.

This change in weather continues to create **sidewalk and parking challenges**. Please continue to be very careful when you drop and pick students up as we have 500+ students being dropped off and picked up at the same time. Again, I would ask you to refrain from driving into the school parking lot as it is small and there is no space to turn around. Likewise, our bus parking spaces are dedicated spaces. I

know winter creates an extra challenge for us, but I ask that you be extra diligent in where you decide to drop your child/ren off for the safety of yourselves and all of our children/students. It is very important that we balance our convenience with the safety of all. Thank you for your continued attention to this important matter.

Formal **progress reports** will be sent home with students on Thursday, January 27. The goal of communicating student learning is for parents to have a clear understanding of how their child is progressing both academically and social emotionally. It also allows us the opportunity for the home and school to work together to further support the growth and development of your child/ren.

Our **basketball season** is delayed and will commence the week of January 31st. We anticipate a full season with 5 weeks of game play, with schedules being finalized sometime next week. Unlike volleyball season, we will not be able to have even 1 spectator per player attend the games. Basketball coaches will provide permission forms and schedules soon.

Children who are 5 by December 31, 2022 are eligible to begin Kindergarten in September. Please be aware of and share the following important dates with family, neighbors and friends.

January 24 - 28: Registration Week for Schools of Choice

Thursday, February 3 - Information Night Kindergarten Round-up @ 6:30 pm

February 7 - 11: Registration Week Neighbourhood Schools



Additional information on how we will be proceeding with Kindergarten Registration, including registration for Ralph Bell Elementary, will be sent out if not by the end of next week, the following week.

We recognize the challenges that many of our students are facing with wellbeing and **mental health**. For additional information and support please visit Interior Health's website at [Wellbeing.gov.bc.ca](https://www.wellbeing.gov.bc.ca). Our School District is also hosting a **parent information session on January 20 from 6:30 - 8:00 pm** on anxiety and depression. SD73 Mental Health Clinicians will discuss anxiety and depression basics with a focus on how they present in teenagers and then shift to effective ways to provide assistance and some tools to try. There will be opportunity to ask questions as well as help navigating community resources for support. **Register [here](#).**

The School District is improving our communication through **School Messenger** by offering a text message option for you. Please review the information below and send a text message of **y** to the number listed and you will be able to use the mobile number you have already provided to the office to receive a text message. For more information, please go to the school website under the heading of Attendance/Safe Arrival.



The Trusted Platform
for School Community Engagement

Parents and Guardians

You can take advantage of our Text Messaging Service

Our school utilizes the SchoolMessenger system to deliver text messages, straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more.

You can participate in this free service* just by sending a text message of "Y" or "Yes" to our school's short code number:

For CANADA-BASED numbers: 978338



You can also opt out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of our messages with "Stop".

*if your number is Canada-based.

SchoolMessenger is compliant with the Student Privacy Pledge™, so you can rest assured that your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone.

For CANADA-BASED numbers:

**Opt-In from
your mobile
now!**



**Just send "Y"
or "Yes" to
978338.**

(For Canada-based numbers).

Have a wonderful day & weekend!

Respectfully,

Mrs. Wood
Principal