



Falkland Elementary School

North Okanagan Shuswap - School District No. 83

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November 5, 2020

Dear Parents,

Falkland School has recently received another reusable mask for each of our students k-8 and staff from the School District. This is because the Ministry of Education stated that 2 masks would be provided for each student and staff member in the [BC Back to School Plan](#). Please review information previously sent home about masks in our [September 14th Newsletter](#). You can also access [BCCDC Guidelines for Schools](#).

Masks for Staff and Grade 6/7/8

At Falkland School, masks are required for anyone in grade 6 and older when they are in high traffic areas outside of their classroom or learning group/cohort and they cannot safely distance from others, like school buses and hallways. **Because masks are required for students in grades 6/7/8 in the areas described above, your child's reusable mask has been provided to them at school.**

- Students will have the choice to wear a mask in the classroom
- Staff will have the choice to wear a mask when interacting within their learning group
- Everyone must treat each other and those wearing masks with respect

Exceptions will be made for students and staff who cannot wear masks for medical related reasons. Parents are asked to speak to their School Principal about exceptions.

Masks for Students k-5

Elementary school students are not required to wear masks at any time. At this time, wearing a mask k-5 is a personal choice. We are asking parents to talk to their children k-5 about personal preferences for mask wearing while at school and develop a plan for caring for their masks that includes regular washing at home. **Your child's mask is enclosed with this letter. You can keep this mask at home or send it back to school for your child k-5 to use at their discretion. If you wish to not keep the mask, you can return them to the office in this envelop.** SD83 has also provided disposable masks to schools and these have been provided to teachers to keep in classrooms in case students request a mask or they become symptomatic with key symptoms identified in our update [Health Check form](#). You can access our updated Health Check form [here](#).

Information for Everyone

- Even when wearing a mask, staff and students will still be required to maintain physical distance from people outside of their learning group/cohort where possible.
- If a student or staff member develops key symptoms of illness while at school, they must wear a mask while they are preparing to go home. A tissue can be used for K-5.
- Students who have symptoms of illness (not identified as a key symptom) preventing them from participating fully in learning may need to go home as well. **Please continue to keep unwell kids at home.**
- A baggie can be provided by the classroom teacher for masks to be stored in while at school.

If you have questions about masks at school, please contact Shelly Cull, Principal.

Thanks ☺

Shelly Cull