

Ey Swayel. Good morning all. It's December 14<sup>th</sup> and the last week before winter break and I wanted to spend this time to send a message with three key components.

The first one is just an enormous message of gratitude to our schools, to all sites across the district, and for everything that everyone has done to help us make it through this fall with kids still in school and now looking towards a two week break. I know it's been such an extraordinary year. There's been lots of things on people's plates, there's been anxiety, but at the same time there's been amazing things going on in all of our schools. When I look back at the simple things like pumpkins being delivered to schools so that the kids don't have to go out to pumpkin patches and things like that. It's just remarkable that school spirit remains high. So again, thank you so much to everyone for all the work you've done in incredibly trying times. I know it hasn't been easy.

The second one is a message to also thank you parents and a message to our parents around our elementary schools and reorganizations that are happening in January. As you may recall, one of the things we did this year was add a blended program to our elementary program this year. And there are over 10,000 students in that program. So one of the intentions of that program was that the students would remain attached to their neighborhood school and would be given a chance to return to their neighborhood school in January. The blended program will continue, but we have over 1300 students who now want to come back to their schools for face to face learning in January, which is great news. This was always designed as a transition program, but we can't bring 1300 students back to our elementary schools without some impact directly around reorganizations of elementary schools. In the fall, when we launched this program, we informed parents of this possibility but I know it will come as a surprise to some as well, to find out that your classes may indeed be reorganized for January. Principals, Vice Principals, support staff and teachers have done their normal careful diligence. That's why we had the afternoon on December 11 as a piece to make sure that we do all we can to keep the learning continuous for students and to make as few changes as possible. But I know there will be some reorganizations and this has an impact on all of you. So we thank you for your patience again, it's such an unusual year.

And the final message is that today we have launched an interactive website about all of the [active COVID exposures in Surrey Schools](#). We know that it's really difficult for sometimes the public, but particularly for our temporary staff, our itinerant staff, teachers teaching on call, CUPE spare board, grounds and maintenance and people who are going back and forth between schools and need to know where had there been exposures and what are the dates. So we've created our own website. It's on the Surrey School's homepage, under COVID-19, active exposures. It's all filtered, it's interactive, and you can look at the full list of any exposures that way. On any given day, you can look and see what has happened in the district.



So those are the three things. An enormous thank you. Watch out for the reorganizations and any impact on your child, and know that we've done those with great care at elementary and again a huge thanks to the schools that have done all that work. And finally, if you wish to, have a look at the interactive website around our active exposures just to keep our public well informed.

Take care. Stay well. I hope you get the winter break that you so deeply deserve.  
Hy'ce:pka.