

# OUR LADY OF SORROWS SCHOOL



*In Faith and Love we build Christian Community*

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## Newsletter Reminders 2020-2021

### OFFICE HOURS

Please note that our office hours for the 2020-2021 school year will be as follows: 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Our after-school supervision ends at 3:05 p.m. No gatherings are allowed in the playground.

### OFFICE EMAIL

For all absentees and inquiries, please email [office@myolosschool.com](mailto:office@myolosschool.com).

### COVID-19

Thank you for your diligence of keeping sick kids home. Again, as we approach the “regular” cold and flu season, it is important to note that any sick child will not function well at school. However, we acknowledge that it is OK to send kids to school if they have only mild cold type symptoms but not if they have any flu like symptoms. Please review the screening form.

- 1) Screen your children daily (see screening form below). Please do not send ill kids to school. There has been a revision to the screening symptoms wherein an **isolated sore throat or cold like occasional sneezing and runny noses** are not definite symptoms of COVID.

<https://ourladyofsorrows.ca/site/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Covid-19-Daily-Health-Screening-Checklist.pdf>

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/about-covid-19/symptoms>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/symptoms.html>

\*This does not mean to send your kids to school sick! The recommendation is to wait 24hrs to see if other symptoms appear. If there is a fever, persistent cough, or other flu like symptoms, then the students should stay home.

- 2) If there are **NO** other symptoms, and there is **ONLY** mild sneezing, or common cold or noted allergy symptoms, and you have waited the 24-hr period, you may send the child to school. Please notify the teacher that no one in your family or a direct family member has tested positive or have any symptoms of COVID. Students may be asked to wear a mask, to keep distance and clean-up their areas to stop from spreading their colds. As per our OLS

Safety plan, all students have access to masks to use at school if they do not have their own.

- 3) If a Direct family member (same household, or babysitter etc.) tests positive for COVID, the recommendation from <http://www.vch.ca/covid-19> is to also keep children isolated at home. Your school aged children should stay home for 10 days. If they develop COVID symptoms they must stay home as well. If you are unsure, you may call 811 and ask for the procedure. Again, this is the hard part. We all understand that staying home is difficult for many. It is possible that your child does not have any symptoms after the quarantine period, however, we kindly ask that all direct contacts be tested PRIOR to returning to school. This is a safety precaution for all, so that we can rule out pre-symptomatic spread. We of course do all we can at school to stop the asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic exposure; cohorts, safety distancing, washing hands and surfaces frequently, and watching for any child who may develop symptoms or be spreading fluids at school. But we cannot stop COVID from entering the school community without your help. Vancouver Coastal Health has started to announce schools that are impacted. We will continue to update you weekly of any changes to the procedures or to the screening forms.

Thank you to all our parents and families who have followed all our safety first protocols! Let us continue to do our part to keep COVID spread out of the OLS School Community! Please continue to contact the school office with any questions or concerns or leave a message for me to contact you privately. Thank you for your diligence and care for one another!

### **STUDENT MORNING DROP OFF**

As in our June re-start, we will be introducing longer drop-off times (8:30 - 9:00 a.m.) and pick-up times (2:30 - 3:00 p.m.) to prevent crowding. Masks must be worn by parents in all public places, and in the pick-up and drop-off zones when physical distancing cannot be accommodated.

**\*There is no- playtime outside, PRIOR or AFTER, the drop-off times. Students must go straight to classes and then straight home.**

All school students will enter from the West lot doors and sanitize prior to entering the building. Parents can walk them through the Turner or Slocan gates; however, the **Pender gate is drive-through and out only!** If you wish to come from the north side, please use the Church steps or playground gate into the playground. (**Pre-school families will drop-off on the Slocan entrance to the Preschool. See Pre-school letter**).

### **PICK- UP PROCEDURES – FALL PROCEDURES! – NEW TIMES!**

PLEASE SEE THE NEW TIMES BELOW!!

Grade K - 2:35 p.m.

Grade 1 - 2:35 p.m.

Grade 2 - 2:40 p.m.

Grade 3 - 2:40 p.m.

Grade 4 - 2:45 p.m.

Grade 5 - 2:45 p.m.

Grade 6 - 2:50 p.m.

Grade 7 - 2:50 p.m.

Thank you all for your patience during the new drop-off and pick-ups. As we are entering the fall and soon the rainy seasons, the parking lots and roads become slicker for braking. The morning drop-offs are excellent and thank you to all our parent volunteers!  
There has been a slight modification to the afterschool pickup.

All Primary ONLY parents are able to enter the parking lot through the Pender gate from 2:30 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. and park in the 1<sup>st</sup> row stalls. **Primary kids (K-4)** will be dismissed through their exit doors.

We are asking the Primary parents with other **multiple grade students**, to park in the **second and third rows** back from the school as they wait for the intermediate siblings. We are trying to reduce the amount of kids walking through parked cars and in-between the rows as cars maybe exiting at the same time. We appreciate all the parents being careful and waiting their turn to exit. Back row cars may move forward when clear if there is space in the front row closest to the school. This will be a factor as the days get wetter and darker. Thank you for following all our safety protocols!

We have extended the safety zone for kids so they may walk behind the cones to their parked cars. Parents from the **back 2 rows may exit their cars** and wave or walk up to cones to escort their kids to their cars. Again, we ask that you wear masks in the parking lot and stay 6ft apart outside the gates! All parents not wearing masks must stay by their cars for pickup.

We have also created a drive through exit marked by the cones. Traffic parents will direct you through those zones. To indicate you wish to leave, either move forward slowly, or FLASH your car lights until noticed and waved through by the Traffic attendant. Thank you for moving slowly and safely through the pick-up zones!!

**There now only 15mins maximum wait time so PLEASE REMEMBER TO BE PATIENT and wait to be cleared, AS WE ARE INCREASING THE TRAFFIC THROUGH THE PICK UP ZONES!**

**Intermediate parents only (Grades 5-7)** must arrange for students to be picked-up outside the gates. Please arrange your pick-up areas in advance and please be patient in the lots. The exit doors for Grades 3-7 are the north doors, and Grades K-2 are the south doors next to the Turner gate. Again, we do not wish parents to walk through the Pender gate as there will be cars moving through this tight area, which is dangerous. Please use the Church stairs or the Slocan playground gate. **Thank you for staying safe and diligent!**

**PLEASE CONTINUE TO KEEP YOUR SOCIAL DISTANCES OUTSIDE THE GATES or wear a mask when waiting close to the gates and closer than 6ft with others.**

#### **RECESS AND LUNCH BREAKS**

Primary and Intermediate grades will have different recess and lunch breaks to stagger transition times and to provide a greater amount of space between cohorts on the playground.

**Primary** Grade 1 to Grade 4 (K when needed)

Recess: 10am – 10:15 am

Lunch: 11:55-12:20 p.m.

**Intermediates:** Grade 5,6,7

Recess: 10:15 to 10:30

Lunch 12:20-12:45

Students will need to be outside more often. **\*\*Please ensure all students are prepared with proper jackets and footwear daily as we will also increase the air circulation in the classrooms as well. Students will need to wear sweaters and jackets more often.**

### **AFTER SCHOOL CLUB**

Due to our new health regulations, **effective immediately**, we require a minimum of 24 hours-notice for all children attending After School Club. **We will no longer be accepting same day attendance requests.** All parents interested, please contact the office ([office@myollosschool.ca](mailto:office@myollosschool.ca)), with the days needed.

The After-School Club runs Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. The cost for this is \$5.00 per 30 minutes per student until 4:30 p.m. After 4:30 p.m., the cost will be an additional \$10.00 per student per 30 minutes.

After School Club will be located in the Gym. Children are to be picked up at the Gym. You can access the Gym by entering the school parking lot off Pender Street. As per [OLS's COVID 19 Safety Plan](#), once you arrive at the Gym, please wait at the door and we will bring your child to you. **Please do not enter the Gym to assist your child.**

### **MONTHLY AND WEEKLY NEWSLETTERS**

This year, we will continue with the weekly newsletter and monthly calendar. In order to keep you up to date on issues and remind you of special dates, there will be a weekly bulletin sent home via email as well as posted on our website: ([www.ourladyofsorrows.ca](http://www.ourladyofsorrows.ca)). This will usually be sent every Wednesday, so please ensure you check your emails regularly. If there is a change in your email address, please contact the school and provide us with the new one as soon as possible. The monthly newsletter will be sent home with the oldest child as a hardcopy.

### **VISITORS**

**All visitor contact must be by phone, email, or appointment due to COVID screening protocols.**

For the safety of our students and staff, all visitors and parents are required to report to the school office upon arrival where a "Visitor" tag will be issued if needed. We ask that all parents/visitors only use the Main School entrance on Slocan Street to enter the school. During instructional time, parents are not to go to their child's classroom. Any supplies or lunches (labelled with child's name and grade) are to be left at the office. It is your child's responsibility (not the office staff) to retrieve their lunch or supplies from the school office. We also wish to restrict calls home for supplies and lunches, so please have your child review daily routines and help them to prepare for their day prior to bedtime. We encourage your children to bring all necessary items to school daily. Thank you.

### **ABSENTEES**

It is very important that you call the school by 8:30 a.m. if your child will be absent or late. This will save time calling you to check if your child is home. Upon your child's return to school, you must send a note to the classroom teacher explaining the reason for the absence. Please also include all dates absent. If you have more than one child, we require separate notes for each one.

This information is required for our annual Attendance Audit which determines our Government funding for the year. We ask that all notes be written at home, not last minute at the school office. Absentee notes may also be emailed to the following email address: [office@myolosschool.com](mailto:office@myolosschool.com)

### **WEATHER UPDATE**

Please note, as the weather continues to remain cold and rainy, we are asking parents to ensure students have proper jackets and shoes. As well, please do **NOT** send students who have gym in the morning only with a PE strip! Students **MUST** stay outside until 8:35 a.m. as we have to ensure adequate supervision in the school while teachers are in staff prayer. Also, students may have to be outside throughout the day for recess or movement between the buildings (gym and Church). Please send jackets with hoods for your children to school daily, as well as ensuring proper uniform. Thank you.

### **SNOW PROCEDURES**

If you are unsure of what to do on a snow day, please follow the Extreme Weather and Snow Weather Procedures which is located in the download section on the school website ([www.ourladyofsorrows.ca](http://www.ourladyofsorrows.ca)). Please do not call the school as the phones will be busy. Our Website will be updated by 7:15 a.m. as it is difficult to predict the exact times when snow may fall. Thank you for your diligence.