



To: Parents/Guardians
From: Scott Slater, Principal
Date: October 18, 2023
Re: **Winter Weather and Potential Closure of Schools**

With winter approaching, I am sharing some reminders about how to ensure your children are prepared for school as well as our School District's Weather Closure Procedures. Typically, the weather has little impact on school operations, but we are grateful to families for their cooperation when it does.

WINTER CLOTHING

Appropriate clothing for winter includes clothing for **wet weather** – such as rubber boots or “outside shoes”, “inside shoes,” rain jacket, spare socks, even a spare t-shirt and pants – and **cold weather** – like extra socks, sweater, toque, and mittens. It is possible that your child will be at school during an earthquake or power outage and may, therefore, be in an unheated building (or even outside in the event of an earthquake) for a long period of time so warm clothing is essential. We also rarely have “inside recess” when it is raining so students should be prepared to be outside every day.

SCHOOL CLOSURE PROCEDURES

I have pasted below the School District's procedures regarding the potential closure of schools due to weather. School closures are communicated by our [District Website](#), radio (CBC, CKNW, etc.), and a direct district email to all parents, usually by 6 AM. Thank you for staying tuned to email when weather has the potential to impact school operations.

SNOWFALL & ICE

Our custodians do an excellent job of salting walkways, but students and families should be mindful of potentially icy walkways at school.

POWER OUTAGES

When the power goes out, the heating system at West Bay will not be operational and lighting will be limited to emergency use exits. On windy days especially when there is risk of power outages, families are encouraged to send children to school with lots of warm clothing. In the event of a power outage during the school day, families may be encouraged to pick their children up from school early. Decisions to encourage early pickup or even close the school during the day are made carefully and in consultation with the Superintendent of Schools and are dependent on several factors related to student and staff safety.

WI-FI OUTAGES & COMMUNICATION CHALLENGES

When we have Wi-Fi outages, related to power outages or other factors, our phone lines sometimes do not work. If you are not able to reach the school office by phone, please email all members of the office team as we will try to pick up urgent communications on our mobile phones or hot-spotted computers (sslater@wvschools.ca; jrichardson@wvschools.ca; sbarrie@wvschools.ca; bfichtner@wvschools.ca; gtupling@wvschools.ca). We do have communication channels to email families in the event of localized outages but receiving communications can be more challenging.

Please find our District Weather Closure Procedures below.

DISTRICT WEATHER CLOSURES AND PROCEDURES

As winter approaches, the likelihood of school disruptions due to snowfall or power outages increases. As such, I would like to provide you with some important information about the district's weather closure of schools procedures and announcements process.

The district aims to keep schools open on every regular instructional day, including those with snowfall. However, the final decision to send students to school resides with the parent or

guardian since they are most familiar with the specific road and weather conditions around their home and community.

Weather Closure of Schools (Outside School Hours)

Any decision to close schools for the safety of children will be made by the Superintendent. Parents, students, and staff will be informed of the Superintendent's decision via the school district website at www.westvancouver.schools.ca and a School Messenger email

We endeavour to communicate this information to parents and staff by 6:00 a.m. on the day of closure.

Weather Closure of Schools (During School Hours)

If weather conditions create a concern for the safety of students returning home, the school principal can decide to dismiss school early after consulting with the Superintendent.

The decision will be communicated to parents and students using the school's normal communication systems.

Student safety is our first priority. Every effort will be made to keep schools open, but parents are encouraged to establish a plan for their children in the event of early dismissal or school closure.

As always, please refer to [this section of our website](#) for the latest information.

School closures may also appear on several local news sources including:

News 1130 <http://www.news1130.com/>

CKNW 98 <http://www.cknw.com/news/>

Global TV <http://globalnews.ca/live/bc/>

CBC <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia>

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