



# OCTOBER NEWSLETTER



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

On Monday, Promontory staff joined colleagues from Cultus Lake, Unsworth, and Vedder Elementary Schools, as well as from Stitó:s, Mt. Slesse Middle Schools, and GW Graham Secondary, for a powerful day of professional learning focused on **Truth and Reconciliation: Going Deeper – Decolonizing and Indigenizing Curriculum with Equity**.

We were honoured to begin the day with keynote addresses from two inspiring speakers: Kevin Lamoureux, Professor and Associate Vice President at the University of Winnipeg, and Dr. Dustin Louie, Professor in the Department of Educational Studies and Director of NITEP – the Indigenous Teacher Education Program at UBC. Their insights challenged us to reflect deeply on our practices and continue our commitment to reconciliation through education. In the afternoon, each school shared the rich teachings and meaningful learning taking place in their communities.

This learning is rooted in the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action**, released in 2015. Specifically, **Call to Action #63.3** urges ongoing professional development for educators, emphasizing the need to build “student capacity for intercultural understanding, empathy, and mutual respect.” This is exactly why days like this matter — and why our staff remains dedicated to growing our understanding of the histories, cultures, and perspectives of Indigenous Peoples in Canada.

We look forward to continuing this vital work at Promontory, in partnership with our families and the broader school district. Together, we are committed to fostering a more inclusive and equitable learning environment for all students.

*Ms. Kass*







# EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

## SCHOOL EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

School and student safety are a priority for all schools in the district. Schools follow emergency procedures to ensure students, staff, and any visitors in our schools or sites are safe. Staff are trained and review emergency procedures that includes practicing a set number of drills annually. On Friday September 19<sup>th</sup> we held our first Hold and Secure and Fire Drills and had a brief Lockdown that became a Hold & Secure on September 26<sup>th</sup> at 8:25 am, when the RCMP called schools due to an incident in the neighbourhood. We will hold our annual Earthquake - Drop, Cover, Hold-on drill after Thanksgiving. See our drills:



## SHELTER IN PLACE

Used when personal safety is in jeopardy and used mainly for environmental or weather-related events.

- Bring everyone into the school.
- Remain indoors
- Close and lock all windows and exterior doors

## DROP, COVER & HOLD ON

Used in an event of an earthquake, explosion, or an event that shakes the school.

- Quickly move away from obvious hazards
- DROP - low to the ground
- COVER - take Cover under a sturdy chair, desk, table, furniture or other large sturdy items
- HOLD ON - to the furniture you are under, when shaking stops -count to 60, evacuate to shortest safe route. Report and assemble outside at the designated assembly site



## LOCKDOWN

Used in response to an imminent threat inside the building.

- Quickly gather in your vicinity into a secure room
- Close and secure doors
- Turn off lights, be quiet, students lower to floor and gather in a designated area of the room out of sight line
- Silent all cell phones and face phones down on floor
- Remain until all clear is given or request to report to designated assembly area



## HOLD AND SECURE

Used when there is a security concern in the neighbourhood not related to the school.

- Bring everyone into the school. Remain inside
- Close and lock all exterior doors and windows
- Close exterior window blinds/shutters (if available)
- No one may enter or exit the school or classrooms during Hold & Secure



## ROOM CLEAR

Used to move people away from a hazard or potential threat contained in one room/area.

- Students are directed to leave area
- Students go to a designated safe area (Another classroom, Gathering Space, Library, MakerSpace, Gym ...)
- Summon assistance as needed and appropriate







# HALLOWEEN



## HALLOWEEN AT SCHOOL

With the arrival of October, the countdown to Halloween has officially begun for many excited and eager students (and staff!). We're looking forward to a fun, festive, and not-so-scary day at Promontory, and we can't wait to see the creativity and imagination on display in the costumes that fill our hallways.

As your family begins planning costumes, we kindly ask that you help your child choose one that is respectful and inclusive. Costumes should not make others feel uncomfortable or disrespected, so please avoid those that could be seen as culturally insensitive or inappropriate for a school setting.

Thank you for helping us ensure Halloween is a safe, welcoming, and enjoyable experience for everyone. We look forward to students enjoying a fun-filled day!

### WHAT TO WEAR

- ✓ Costume
- ✓ Dress in Orange & Black
- ✓ Wear regular clothing



### COSTUME PARAMETERS

1. No weapons of any kind
2. No full-face masks
3. No blood or gore
4. No cultural stereotypes
5. Must be easy to remove for bathroom visits



## PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES & EARLY DISMISSAL

On October 22<sup>nd</sup>, Teachers will be scheduling Parent Teacher conferences from 2:30 - 5:30pm. Each teacher will be sending home information about conferences for their class and how you can book an appointment, if you would like to meet your child's classroom teacher.

If you would like to meet with one of our specialist teachers: PE, Music, ADST/Maker Space, Librarian, Learning Assistance or Resource Teachers to discuss the additional learning support your child is receiving, you can email the teacher or phone the school to arrange a meeting. As a valued partner in your child's education and key member of our school community, we look forward to connecting with you.

October 23<sup>rd</sup> is an Early Dismissal Day, where students will be dismissed at 11:25 am



## DRESS FOR THE WEATHER

Our fall weather is often filled with rainy days. Students will go out for play periods at recess and lunch, unless there is a downpour, thunderstorm, snow storm or freezing temperatures. Please ensure your child is well prepared for the day's weather, has the proper coat and footwear. Families are encouraged to send a spare set of socks and/or pants in your child's backpack in case a quick change into dry, clean clothes is needed.

## COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR SCHOOL AND/OR TEACHER

To ensure success for students at school, it is important for the schools and families to work together. If a question, concern or issue arises, families are encouraged to speak with their child's teacher first. The District has a Communication Protocol to guide communication protocols that can be found on the both the [school](#) and [district](#) websites.

## WHEELED ITEMS (BICYCLE, SCOOTERS, SKATEBOARDS HEELYS ETC)

A reminder that these "wheeled" modes of transportation should be walked onto and off of school grounds for safety reasons. This includes the front of school sidewalk. With many younger students and pre-school children walking or running about and an unfortunate accident could occur.

Students riding these wheeled modes of transportations must also be wearing a helmet.

## PERSONAL ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT & TOYS

Students often would like to bring a beloved toy or one of their electronic devices to school. Teachers will have shared with families their classroom routines and "rules" for bringing these to the class. In general, students are encouraged to leave these devices at home. Recognizing the importance these items hold for students and family, we don't want them to be broken, damaged or misplaced as we cannot be responsible for their safekeeping while at school.

Please note for students who have a personal cell phone device, they are to be turned off, kept in student's backpacks. Students are not allowed to use cell phones while at school, in class or during the play periods and due to privacy concerns and cannot take photos or videos of students at school. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.