

# École Doncaster Elementary School SAFETY NEWSLETTER

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## SPECIAL EDITION SAFETY NEWSLETTER 2020-2021

Every year we send out a safety newsletter to give Doncaster families an overview of how we keep students safe and healthy!  
The newsletter is organized into three parts: **safety to and from school, safety at school and safety drills.**

### SAFETY TO AND FROM SCHOOL

#### 1. Walking, Biking, Skateboarding, Scootering

If you live close enough to the school and it works for your family, getting to school by human power can make a difference to your child's learning and to the environment. If you are able to support your kids walking or riding bikes to school, here are some important safety ideas:

- Children should cross the street only at intersections or clearly marked crosswalks. Our teachers, supervisors and police liaison officer remind students to use the crosswalks and sidewalks. Of course, the best way to teach children is good adult modeling - please use the proper crosswalks in front of the school.

- Best walking routes to École Doncaster are on our website:

[https://doncaster.public.sd61.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2013/10/best\\_walking\\_routes\\_all.pdf](https://doncaster.public.sd61.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2013/10/best_walking_routes_all.pdf)



- Students coming to school on their bikes, skateboards or scooters should take care and know the rules of the road. All students should **wear helmets**. Students should walk their bikes, skateboards or scooters in the crosswalk and on school grounds. Please avoid walking, riding or skateboarding through the staff parking lot.

We are still looking for crossing guards on Cedar and Shelborne Street and Cedar Hill and Rowan Street. Until a guard is found, parents will need to look after their own child's safety to cross this street. It is a paid position and requires about 40 minutes in the morning and again after school. If you are interested, please e-mail Carolyn at [csimister@beaconcs.ca](mailto:csimister@beaconcs.ca) or call the Doncaster office at (250) 595-3611.

## 2. Driving

Parking continues to be very tight near the school. If you have to drive, carpooling can help. Dropping your child off a short distance from the school decreases the length and time of the traffic jam. Parking is available at the Cedar Hill Golf Course.

- Please pay close attention to traffic rules and traffic conditions around our school. Cedar Hill Road and Rowan Street leading into the school get very congested during the morning drop off and afternoon pick up. Use caution and be aware of the no parking zones on Rowan Street - you could get ticketed by Saanich police. **Please respect our neighbours and do not block their driveways.**



**When using the drop zone, please do not leave your car and please pull all the way forward.**

- The parking lot is reserved for staff, presenters and assistants. Because we have staff that come at different hours, an empty spot in the morning may well be needed for staff later in the day.

### Cold Weather Wear

Fall and winter days in Victoria can be wet and cold. Please make sure your children are properly dressed for the weather with a warm, dry coat and warm, dry footwear. Hats and umbrellas can also help your child feel more comfortable on the playground.



Please note, if you have extra gear in good condition that you no longer need, our office collects extra warm weather gear for students who don't have their own.

## SAFETY AT SCHOOL

### Building Security

- The front entrance is open until 5:30 pm each day for parents coming to pick up their children from out-of-school care. We ask that all families, parents and visitors check in at the office.

### Outside Supervision

- Supervision is provided 15 minutes before (from 8:25) and after school (to 3:05) at the front and back of the school. The focus of the adult supervisors is safety first and helping with friendship issues or conflicts second.
- Students should be picked up by before the end of supervision at 3:05. If they are not picked up they are asked to come and wait inside by the office.
- If students wish to stay to play on the playground after school, they must go home to get permission and then return to the school. (Our phone gets very busy after school, so we ask that students make their after school plans beforehand and avoid phoning unless absolutely necessary)



## SAFETY DRILLS

We hold safety drills throughout our school year as a regular part of our safety plan. Most drills are announced beforehand.\* The more students practice, the more prepared and calm they will be if a real emergency should arise.

### 1. Fire Drills

- We practice fire drills on a regular basis. Saanich Fire Department monitors our fire drills and inspects our buildings for fire hazards.

*\*Some fire drills are not announced beforehand, according to Saanich Fire Department procedures.*



### 2. Earthquake Drills

- Our earthquake preparedness plan combines continuing efforts to reduce non-structural hazards and ensure that the building is as structurally sound as possible. We also make sure that we are prepared to respond appropriately in the event of an earthquake. We have a minimum of two earthquake drills during the year.
- We would like to thank DPAC for keeping our earthquake kiosks supplied with water and food.



### 3. Lockdown Drills

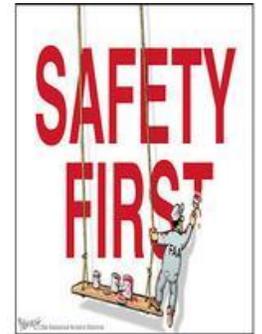
- Emergencies that require lockdown in which students remain secured in their classrooms are very rare. Nevertheless, it is important for schools to be prepared. Lockdown drills **will be handled in a low key manner**. These will be practiced by the students on a very limited basis, although the staff will be well versed in the procedures. Students will be aware before, during and afterwards that it was a drill.

### 4. Hold and Secure

A 'hold & secure' is used when it is desirable to secure the school due to an ongoing situation outside the school and not related to the school (e.g. a robbery occurs near a school, a cougar has been sighted in the neighbourhood). In this situation, the school continues to function normally, with the exterior doors being locked until such time as the situation near the school is resolved.

### Parents/Guardians:

Thank you for reading this special edition newsletter. At École Doncaster we strive to ensure that your children are as safe as possible while they are in our care.



If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Cindy Harte or Mr. Tim McCreesh at our office, (250) 595-3611. Thank you.

Mrs. Cindy Harte  
Principal/Directrice

Mr. Tim McCreesh  
Vice Principal/ Directrice adjointe