



THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 58 (NICOLA-SIMILKAMEEN)

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Stephen McNiven, B.Ed., M.A., Superintendent of Schools
Barbara Ross, C.P.A., C.G.A., Secretary Treasurer

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September 24, 2020

Hello Strong Start families and caregivers:

We are very happy to be back at school and have been working hard to get Strong Starts up and running this fall. You and your children have been very missed!



In order to make sure that we are all staying safe and following all necessary safety protocols, we will be making some fundamental changes to our programs:

1. **Learning Cohorts or Groups:** in order to reduce the number of different people/families going into specific Strong Starts, for the time being we will be asking you to commit to attending only one of our programs for as long as increased safety measures are required. Please contact the school of your choice and ask the secretary to connect you with the SS facilitator to register as a Learning Group member.
2. **Limited Daily Numbers:** we will be limiting the number of people/children in a Strong Start on a daily basis. We will not be allowing more than 5 families OR 15 people a day in the centres. In order to not disappoint any little ones, please contact your facilitator and they will let you know what their system for sign up/drop in and scheduling will be.
3. **Schedules and hours will be adjusted** in order to ensure cleaning and safety, please contact your facilitator or school secretary to find out hours.
4. **Things will look and feel a little different** – we will be following School District protocols as outlined by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education. This means that:
 - a. No one should attend if they have any signs of illness
 - b. All adults will be expected to wear masks and wash and sanitize hands while in Strong Start Centres. Please bring a mask if you are able, however, masks can be supplied when needed. Children are not expected to wear masks.
 - c. Families will also have to sign in and out whenever they attend.
 - d. Adults will be expected to physically distance from others and children will be expected to always be supported by their caregivers in reducing physical contact with other children.
 - e. Parents and caregivers will be responsible for helping their kids play individually and engage in supervised and safe group activities.
 - f. There will be reduced materials/supplies in centres in order to ensure cleaning is thorough and manageable. All toys and surfaces will be cleaned safely and in a scheduled manner.

Success for ALL Learners ~ Today and Tomorrow

- g. Centres will be reorganized to ensure that families have lots of space to move around safely without coming into contact with each other.
- h. There will be individualized snacks for families, but there will be no coffee/tea available for adults at this time. Adults are expected to be wearing masks and should refrain from bringing beverages.

5. **Complete safety orientations** will be provided whenever a family arrives for the first time, so don't worry of things seem big and overwhelming – your facilitator will be more than happy to help you become familiar and use all safety protocols.

We have **re-opened as of September 21, 2020**. Please contact your facilitators to register as a part of their group and find out schedules of individual centers.

Merritt:

Barb	Merritt Central	250-378-9931	bscapinello@365.sd58.bc.ca
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Princeton:

Erin	John Allison	250-295-6727	ewilliams@365.sd58.bc.ca
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Yours truly,



Jane Kempston
District Principal of Student Support Services

