



# Cumberland Community School

## Principal's Report to CCSS For October 2021

### **School Operations:**

- Attendance is good, people are being responsible (staff too) about not coming to school when unwell
- Teachers continue the slow compassionate pacing for students, focusing a lot on social emotional well-being, relationship making, outdoor time.
- 2 x 30 minute recess breaks each day – great mask breaks and cohort-free friend breaks. we are struggling with older students (and younger, too) who try to hide in the washrooms to avoid outside time
- Student behaviour is “ok” - we are struggling with lots of hands-on problem solving – a huge surprise to most how children see no peaceful options other than what they determine as a justified hit – we have tons of supervisors outside who are clearly identified with high vis vests and still we experience physical conflict. suggestions are welcome 😊
- Vaping – this was mentioned in the most recent newsletter, and is a problem right now - kids showing others what they have available to them or sneaking out of bounds to use their vaping devices. These infractions are dealt with by immediate suspension and contact home. This is a problem we need to solve together – if your child comes home with stories, please follow up with either the teacher or Erica / Warren.

### **Community Engagement:**

- FSA – fantastic participation by both gr 4 & 7 divisions – both grades described challenges with the math part – felt like they had forgotten a lot
- Go By Bike – very successful engagement – most signed up with active travel to / from school by walking, but many made great use of the new bike racks. wearing helmets is a challenge for many (it is the law), but it was great to have between 8 – 22 kids come out for each of the 10 recess / lunch sessions over the two weeks. super skills shared on bikes, scooters, etc. great way to get to know students. Prize winners were so happy with their fantastic swag!! Thank you, active travel committee. we are still waiting for the scooter racks to be installed – so many work orders are still in the cue – we (like the rest of BC) have a back log of work to be done.
- We tried to host a “meet the teacher” morning so parents could have an opportunity to meet the teacher either outside or for a quick classroom visit (not a personal conference) - our SBO asked us to pause on these plans because they did not want parents or staff members feeling pressured to participate in a gathering yet – we are currently planning conference day for Nov18 but do not have firm plans if teachers will be offering phone calls, video conferences or F2F meetings. Safety and current health state will drive all

decisions. Thank you to all for keeping in touch with teachers via phone or email with any questions.

**Covid updates:**

- Masks are now being worn by students gr K – 9 & staff – it is hard, but most are making their best effort
- Return to school sports this year will see some challenges (reduced occupancy in gyms (spectators), masks to be worn when not on the floor competing. currently we have gr 8/9 Girls V-ball, Gr 8/9 boys v-ball, 2 x gr 6/7 v-ball teams coached by gr 9 students with teacher sponsor. we had about 15 kids participate in cross country this year and twice that for the morning practice runs (sponsored by Ms. Spearman)

**Events:**

- Gr 8/9 electives - awesome opportunity is provided for all students signed up for wood shop, and div 20 – sheet metal opportunity.
- Grade 7 classes are taking a pause on exploratories while CCS's shop teacher continues to heal his broken leg.
- Terry Fox Run was successful Thurs., Oct 7 – raised over \$1700 for the Canadian Cancer Society
- Wenjack Walk – Thurs., Oct 21 - leadership will marshal and set up the course. Each classroom will participate for a length or time of their choosing. - this is another great way to keep reconcili-action at the fore front all year – Orange Shirt Day is no longer a one day event.
- Cultural events – we have 3 classes receiving a one class virtual presentation (2 x puppet show and indigenous story telling) - most cultural groups are sticking to a smaller group they can interact with online vs “whole school show”