



June 22, 2022

Dear Parents / Guardians / Caregivers,

As the school year draws to a close, I reflect on the variety of challenges we encountered this past year which included COVID-19 variants, floods in the Fraser Valley, and the impact of last summer's wildfires and heat dome. The events from the past year will forever remind us how resilient Chilliwack is as a community and how we came together to support and lean on each other despite the exhaustion we may have felt after each new challenge.

The school district would like to sincerely thank parents, guardians, and caregivers for your support, caring, and patience, as we worked through these challenges all while focusing on supporting students' success. I also want to take this opportunity to thank our staff members in our schools and district sites for their caring, empathy, and kindness as they supported students, families, and each other this past school year. Despite high levels of illness due to COVID-19 and the resulting staff shortages, staff members pulled out all the stops to keep our schools open so that we could continue face-to-face instruction for students and families and not have to endure a functional closure. I also want to extend my appreciation to the district leadership team, principals, vice-principals, and managers, for their calm, thoughtful, and empathetic leadership as we navigated a variety of challenges as a school community and ensured continuity of learning for our students.

The past two weeks have been a reminder of the important milestones in June. For the first time since June 2019, we were able to participate in commencement activities with parents and families in attendance and celebrate the outstanding accomplishments of the graduating class of 2022. It indeed was a moment to be grateful for as we collectively raised our hands to the graduates as they proudly walked across the stage to receive their diplomas at commencement ceremonies.

As the school year draws to a close, the Ministry of Education and Child Care continues to work with public health and the Steering Committee to inform our response to COVID-19. Public health has advised that their [K-12 guidance issued in March 2022](#) can be used to inform planning for September 2022, as their recommended prevention measures are not expected to change significantly, based on the current understanding of COVID-19.

Finally, we live in a fast-paced world that contributes to mental distraction and allows little time to practice stillness and mindfulness. In the words of Eckhart Tolle, "most humans are never fully present in the now because unconsciously they believe that the next moment must be more important than this one. But then you miss your whole life, which is never not now." My wish for you this summer is that while spending time with family and friends, you can slow down, enjoy every moment, and appreciate what unfolds around you while celebrating the beauty of life. Have a wonderful summer.

Sincerely,

Rohan Arul-pragasam
Superintendent of Schools