



News and Information

January 6, 2015 – 1:45 pm

Plans for School Opening on Wednesday, January 7, 2015

An Appeal from the Central Okanagan School District

Kelowna, B.C.

Once again, thank you to our parents and community members for your support and flexibility during the recent challenges resulting from the record snowfall.

Based on the current weather forecast, as well as the ability of crews to clear most of the roads in the School District, we are planning to reopen our schools tomorrow (Wednesday, January 7th). We fully anticipate that there will be some safety concerns for both pedestrians and motorists as not all side streets and sidewalks will be completely cleared prior to school opening. As such, the School District is making the following appeal:

1. Community members are asked to help clear sidewalks that are typically used by students in order to travel safely to and from their schools.
2. Motorists are asked to be extremely cautious when travelling in or around the vicinity of local schools, and to watch for students who may be challenged to find safe walking routes.
3. Parents are asked to assess the safety of the normal routes their children take to school prior to sending them tomorrow morning. (Some neighborhoods may still be unsuitable for pedestrian travel.)

Maintenance crews are hoping to have bus routes cleared and sanded prior to tomorrow morning's bus runs. However, there is always the possibility that a bus may not be able to reach all its normal stops. Students should be reminded as to the safety plan to follow (ie: return home or go to an alternate safe location) in the event that the bus has not arrived within 20 minutes of the normal pick-up time.

If any changes are required to our plans for tomorrow, announcements will be posted on the School District website and communicated to the media.

We look forward to having our schools fully operational tomorrow, and thank everyone for their patience during this challenging time.

For media comments, please contact:

Hugh Gloster, Superintendent of Schools, at 250-470-3256 (during office hours)