



Okanagan Indian Band

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September 1, 2021

EDUCATION UPDATE

Way̓ x̓ast s̓x̓l̓x̓l̓t students, parents and staff.

This is an extra-ordinary time for everyone. Hopefully, evacuees will soon be able to return to their homes, when the evacuation areas are deemed safe by OKIB EOC and BC Wildfire. Therefore, you can understand that proposing re-opening dates for the on-reserve cultural immersion school, language nest and daycare is difficult. However, I have decided to propose some **tentative re-opening dates**, if all goes according to plan. Understand that these dates are tentative as we don't know what to expect upon return. However, these dates will help parents and students prepare for the new school year:

- **snc'c'amala?tn** remains within the evacuation order. The building will be assessed later this week and will tentively re-open on September 13th. This will depend on staff availalbity.
- **ck^wu k^w λlap il sk^wk^wλilt nal λx̓x̓λx̓ap** will be assessed before staff and children return. Tentative re-opening for children's program will likely be October 4th, once a new Nest Coordinator is hired.
- **n̓kmaplqs i? sn̓mama̓ya?tn i? kl sqilx^wtət** is currently being renovated and new modular classrooms are on the way. Therefore, school opening depends upon the status of the renovations and installation which were delayed due to the evacuation orders. The tentative re-opening date for students attending the cultural immersion school will be September 22nd. The K4-K5 classes may return earlier as they are located in a separate building – likely September 20th; however, **school bus transportation will only begin when the cultural immersion school is fully open.**
- **SD 22, Vernon Christian School or Saint James Catholic School** students – school begins on Tuesday, September 7th. Lacey and Kevin are working to coordinate school bus transportation for evacuees in collaboration with SD22. Staff from SD 22 will be calling parents today (Sept 1) and through the long-weekend if necessary to ensure transportation is availbe to those who need it. Back-to-school backpacks, filled with school supplies, for both elementary and secondary school OKIB students are currently being distributed. Please contact Kevin email: school@okanagan.org cell: 250.241.2442 if you have any questions or concerns.
- COVID-19 remains very active within the Okanagan region. All health and safety protocols remain in-place for this school year. Please take time to review the health and safety guidelines for OKIB and familurize yourself with the BC CDC recommendations for school-age children.

[Daycare] <https://okib.ca/uploads/files/COVID-19-Health-and-Safety-Plan-for-Parents.pdf>

[Cultural Immersion School] <https://okib.ca/uploads/files/COVID19-Health-and-Safety-Plan-for-staff.pdf>

[General] <http://www.bccdc.ca/schools/parents-and-students>

There is also a **health check app** that can be downloaded to help you assess the daily wellness of your young student

<https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/healthcheck?execution=e2s1>

In the meantime, stay strong and stay safe.

Lim' ləmt | Thank you



Gareth Jones - Director of Education, Language and Culture

snc'c'amala?tn | Early Childhood Education Centre

ckwu kw'lap il sk'kw'wilt nal'łxəłxap | Language Nest

nkmaplqs i? snmama'ya?tn i? kl sqilx'wtət | Cultural Immersion School

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