

January 22, 2021

Superintendent Letter: A Safe and Inclusive Valentine's Day

Dear Families,

Valentine's Day may look a little different this year, but it can be celebrated in a safe way. It is important that our learning environments remain welcoming and inclusive for all students, families and staff.

While our school district does not have an official policy on Valentine's Day celebrations, we must always be guided by our district [Respectful Schools and Workplaces Policy](#) as well as any additional guidelines set by your school.

The following essential guidelines should be considered when selecting a way to celebrate at school:

Activities that can go ahead:

- ♥ Student/staff exchange of paper cards (pens, stickers). Be mindful of how the exchange occurs, to not involve large groups of students/staff gathering in an enclosed area.
- ♥ Crafts that involve paper - Ensure students are using their own set of supplies (glue, scissors, colouring pens, etc.)
- ♥ Valentine's Day themed dress up day (or pajama day).
- ♥ Baking and creating of edible items in a Foods lab or teaching kitchen, if the items will be consumed there by the class creating the item.

Activities that can't occur due to COVID-19:

- ✘ Sharing of food of any kind (includes, but not limited to, individual exchange or communal sharing of chocolates, cupcakes, candy, treats that come with Valentine's day cards, treats that are prepackaged and are individually wrapped, pancake breakfasts, staff potlucks, etc.).
- ✘ Student dances.
- ✘ Crafts that involve baking, or items intended to be consumed, even if prepared by the teacher and students are provided with individual kits.
- ✘ Exchange of items wrapped in plastic or made of plastic, such as treat wrappers or plastic bags.

When considering activities:

- ? Can it be done outside?
- ? No food, except if created and consumed in a Foods lab or teaching kitchen as stated above.
- ? Minimize physical contact within learning cohorts and maximize physical distance outside of learning cohorts.
- ? Build in hand washing/sanitization time prior to Valentine's distribution
- ? Avoid activities where students face each other unless physical distancing can be achieved.

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Lastly, the BC Centre for Disease Control (BC CDC) has published a number of helpful tips for safe celebrations and ceremonies. Visit the [BC CDC website](#) to learn more about celebrating safely.

Thank you for helping us keep our school communities healthy, safe, caring, and socially responsible!



Angus Wilson
Superintendent of Schools