

Vale Families:

As we begin to see the days lengthen and feel warmer weather approaching, we hope you are well and looking forward to Spring! Vale staff is wrapping up report cards in the coming days and we anticipate a productive and successful third trimester of the school year.

One of the purposes of this newsletter is to communicate health and safety information. Most of the information regarding Covid-19 safety, is not new. Nevertheless, we thought a reminder of our protocols and procedures might be helpful and reassure you that we are mindful and diligent in adhering to them. Please feel free to contact us by phone or email if you would like further clarification.

### **Classroom Safety Protocols:**

- We continue to adhere to 6-foot distancing recommended by the Department of Health. Therefore, class sizes are smaller than in a normal school year.
- Approved masks must be worn by staff and students at all times.
- Hands are washed when students arrive and throughout the day.
- Hard surfaces are cleaned during the transition between morning and afternoon sessions, and again before the morning classes arrive the next day.
- Parents use the Qualtrics safety screener to inform the school of their child's health
- Teachers check temperatures when students arrive in the classroom.

### **Positive Covid protocols:**

When we have a positive in the district several things are immediately done by the District Nurse and/or Health Clerk:

- The district tracking document starts the investigation process. This helps us identify who may have been a close contact or in proximity (between six to twelve feet - or for Vale, in the same cohort/classroom). It also considers various departments, such as transportation or interventions.
- We contact staff directly involved to provide us with information and seek out potential close contacts.
- Students/staff who are close contacts immediately go to one of our designated isolation spaces or they leave if able to do so. (This is a rare occurrence as most are already at home.)
  - Close contact is considered closer than six feet for a cumulative of 15 minutes in a 24-hour period. This is a generalized rule and may depend on circumstances.
- We contact families of students in close contact or proximity and provide necessary information as well as offer guidance.
  - We only contact those who have been in close contact or proximity as we are doing our best to maintain a certain amount of privacy for those who have tested positive.
- We review safe return dates with those involved directly. Offer guidance and refer to Health Care Providers for follow up.
- We contact administration (superintendent and building administration).
- Update the CSD Covid dashboard: <https://www.cashmere.wednet.edu/domain/722>
- Complete and communicate a DOH report.
- If there is question or concern related to the incident, either the Superintendent or District Nurse reach out to the DOH for further guidance on how to handle the situation.

### **Mid-Winter and Spring Break Health Hotline:**

Vale office phones will be answered from 12:00-4:00 PM on Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup> and April 11<sup>th</sup>. We would ask that you give us a call during these hours if your child is unable to attend the following day because of Covid symptoms, a confirmed positive or exposure to someone confirmed with Covid. This will ensure that we are prepared after an extended break.

**Class Placement:**

Parents will have the opportunity to provide information to administration about the class placement of their children for the 2021-2022 school year. We will have a class placement form in both English and Spanish available on our website between April 12-30. Please watch for reminder in our March Newsletter.

**State Assessment Update:**

In a typical school year, all third and fourth grade students are required by Washington State to take the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA). We are currently waiting for guidance from the state whether the SBA will proceed as usual, be modified, or cancelled.

**2021-2022 Kinder and Pre-School Enrollment:**

Registration will open on Monday, April 12th. You can use the online enrollment system or stop by the Vale office for an enrollment packet.

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

March 2: Report Cards Sent Home

March 3-5: Mid-Winter Break (No School)

April 5-9: Spring Break (No School)

Thank you for your continued support and positive outlook during this unusual school year. We are very proud of the work our students, parents and staff are doing!

Sean McKenna,  
Vale Elementary, Principal  
509-782-2211  
[smckenna@cashmere.wednet.edu](mailto:smckenna@cashmere.wednet.edu)

Rhett Morgan,  
Vale Elementary, Assistant Principal  
509-782-2211  
[rmorgan@cashmere.wednet.edu](mailto:rmorgan@cashmere.wednet.edu)