



FH COLLINS SECONDARY SCHOOL

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SCHOOL NEWSLETTER January 11th, 2021

Welcome back everyone! I hope that you had a restful and relaxing holiday, and are back in the swing of things at school. As of the day that I am writing this, we are one week away from the beginning of semester 2. Students in grades 10-12 will continue to work in models of blended learning that involve work being completed for half of the day in school, and the other half outside of school. As a reminder, students with the last name M-Z are in the morning session in semester 2, and students with the last name A-L are in the afternoon group.

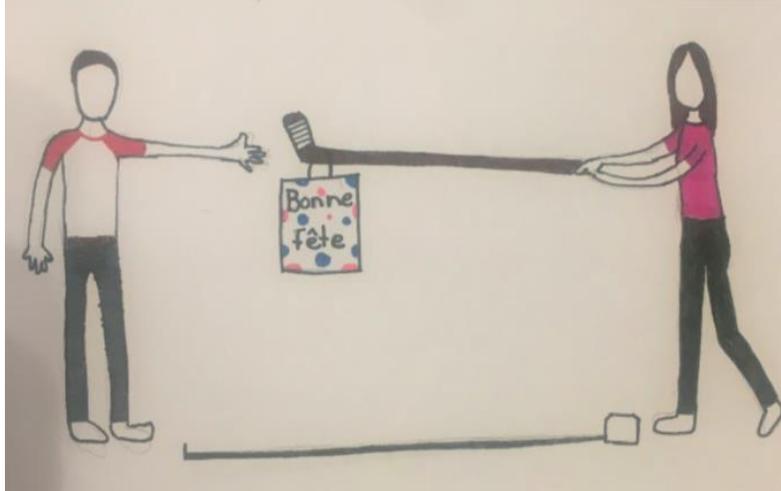
There are some exciting support initiatives that FH Collins will be putting in place for students in semester 2. We recently received funding to implement a tutoring program, as well as a literacy and numeracy intervention program. These initiatives are due to increased staffing that we received from the Department of Education.

Now, more than ever, we need to continue to follow the health and safety guidelines for schools provided by the Chief Medical Officer of Health. This includes practicing the Safe Six, and wearing masks when in public spaces in the school. We are having some issues with students not wearing masks when they are working at the tables above the atrium. It is essential that students wear masks when they are working at these tables.

Be safe.

Sincerely,

Jay Thomas, principal



Start of Semester 2

Monday, January 18th is the first day of semester 2. Students in grades 9-12 will receive their semester 2 timetable on this day. On this day, students in grades 9-12 will go to their semester 1, period 1 class at 8:40am. Their semester 1, period 1 teacher will provide students with their semester 2 timetable and review the Covid-19 procedures for our school. Students will go to their Semester 2, period 1, Day 1 class at 9am. We will repeat this for the afternoon group.

As a reminder, students in grades 10-12 with the last name M-Z will come in the morning in semester 2, and those with the last name A-L will come in the afternoon.

Important Assessment Dates in Semester 2

January 29th- Report cards will be sent out

February 19th- Informal Reports Must go out by then

March 31st/ April 1st- Three-way conferences (format to be determined)

April 13th- Midterm progress marks and comments are due in Aspen

June 7th- 10th- Exam Week

Tutoring in 2nd semester

In December, FH Collins submitted an application to the Department of Education for a tutoring program in semester 2. Our application was successful, and as a result, we will be implementing a tutoring program. This program will provide students with an opportunity to receive added support from either current grade 12 students, recent graduates, and retired teachers and school staff. This service will be made available to all students, and at both the main FH building and the Wood Street campus, and will be a combination of regularly scheduled hours, and opportunities for one-on-one support. There will be a schedule coming out at the beginning of second semester and individual tutoring should also be available.

Student Success Coaches & Additional Supports

FH Collins has received Covid funding and will offer support to students who are struggling with the half day schooling. The goal is to work on filling gaps due to the suspension of classes last year, as well as to support students in the opposite part of their schedule in classes that they need some extra time or help with. Mr. Main will be supporting Humanities and English, and Ms. Daniels will be supporting Math and Science.

In addition, we will be implementing a literacy and numeracy intervention plan for students in grades 8 and 9. For literacy, we will be using the Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment and Levelled Literacy Intervention programs, and for numeracy, we will be using the First Steps in Numeracy as a guideline for developing numeracy interventions.

Credit Recovery will also be offered for students who fit certain criteria but were not successful completing their courses last semester. Recommendations and request for this support should be channeled through the student's teacher. We will provide this criteria in the near future.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that the grade 8 students at the Wood Street campus will have a staff member whose position is to provide counselling and LA support to grade 8 students. Ms. Sarah Taylor will assume this role in semester 2.

Donation of Technology from Connected North

Our school received a donation of 18 Chromebooks and 9 scientific calculators in January. In addition, through Connected North, we submitted 60 applications for either a MacBook Air or iPad for First Nations students. Connected North has approved 10 applications. We are very grateful for the generosity and support provided by Connected North to our students.



Staffing Updates

We wish to welcome back some staff who have been on leave. Chelsea Kelly McNally will be rejoining our staff in semester 2 after being on leave in semester 1; Veronique Theriault is also returning from parental leave; and one of our vice-principals, Shaun McLaughlin, is returning from his parental leave. Welcome back!



Shaun McLaughlin



Veronique Theriault

No Photo Available

Chelsea Kelly-McNally

Scott Kerby will be on leave for semester 2, and Mattaeus Geisler will be on leave until May. We wish both Scott and Mattaeus a relaxing time with their families.

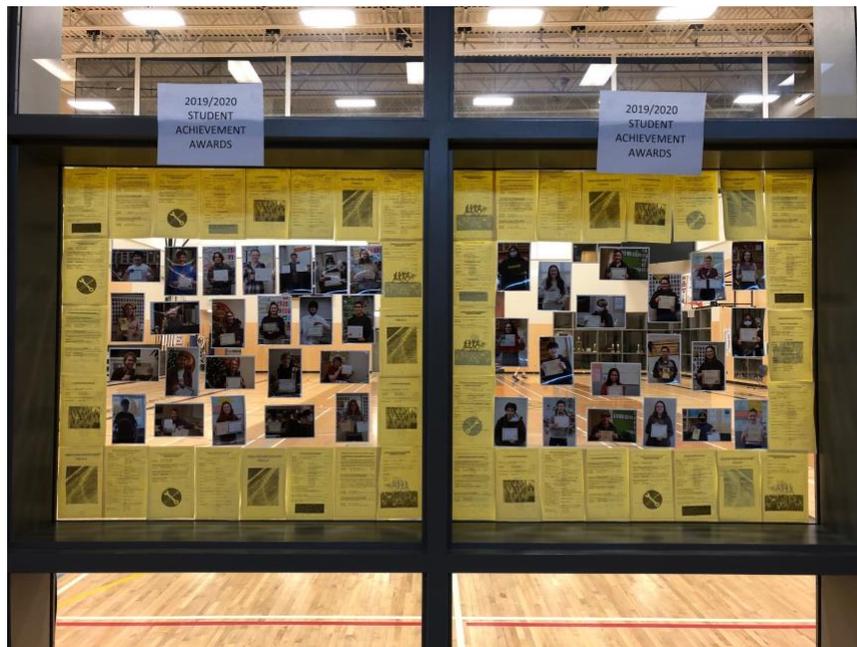
Grade 9 Acts of Kindness Projects

Admin had been working with grade 9 students on anti-bullying lessons throughout semester 1. The culminating activity for these lessons was Kindness Projects. Students were responsible for completing a project where they could demonstrate or display positivity. Here are some photos of some of the projects that students completed:



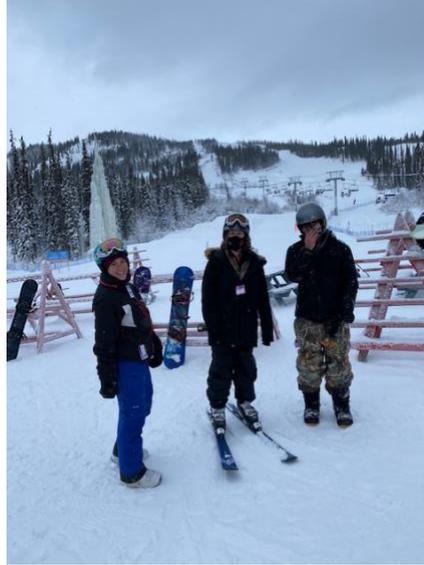
Student Awards

This year, due to Covid-19 restrictions, 2019/20 awards were recognized in a different manner. Awards were distributed in class, and a photo was taken of the award-winning students. Students photos were displayed in the atrium. Here is a photo of the display:



Students on Skis

Our FLEX and Transitions students went skiing on Friday, January 8th. Here are some photos of their trip:



Important Dates

January 11th- 14th- Assessment/ Exam Week

January 15th- PD Day (no students)

January 18th- First day of semester 2