November 6, 2018

Dear SFUCCS Parent,

We have enjoyed a fairly mild autumn and as a result we have been distracted by the calendar and that winter weather could arrive soon. SFU will be hosting their annual "Winter Fest" tomorrow, Wednesday, November 7th, from 11:00 to 2:00 pm, so I hope that you can attend to find out their information on SFU snow events. Snow is certainly possible at the higher levels (Burnaby Mountain in particular) and SFU Childcare Society has Snow Protocols that we follow in the event that the University releases the community due to this type of weather condition. When considering the changing seasons during this time of year, one important point to realize is that weather conditions on the mountain are often more hazardous than below the mountain. For example, it may be raining at the bottom of the hill and a blizzard at the childcare centre!

As SFU provides a broad range of services, including student residences and Campus Security, the University does not close during a weather event. Instead, when severe weather poses a safety risk for those travelling to and from campus, it moves to limited operations in order to maintain a basic level of service on campus. When this happens, it is important that your children and our staff team be released at the same time as SFU staff and students. Therefore, if the University does move to limited operations, we will follow with the closure of the childcare. Educators in each program will remain until all children have been picked up from their program.

Part of our snow event protocols are to regularly update our website (sfu.ca/childcare) before, during and after an expected weather event with information for families and staff. Communication will also be updated via our Facebook page (facebook.com/sfuchildcare) and parent email list. Please ensure that your child's program educators have your up-to-date contact information and where you can be reached if a weather event may occur that day (reminders will also be placed on or near the sign in sheets in your child's program when possible).

In particular, as early as possible on a snowy day, we will alert parents to some of the possible scenarios to expect throughout the day to help you plan, or if there is a childcare closure. Parents are strongly encouraged to check our communication channels regularly throughout the day for updates on our status.

For parents of children who attend University Highlands Elementary & École Sperling, a decision will be made by 2:00 pm as to whether or not we can transport children back to the childcare centre. This decision is dependent on adequate staffing and the University's decision to move to limited operations. In the event that we are required to follow this protocol, information will be relayed to you as mentioned in this letter and the school will also be notified. If children cannot be transported to the childcare from their school, they will remain at the school until parents can pick them up.
Please check in with your child's program educators or contact the office if you have questions regarding our protocol for a weather event. Hopefully we will have a winter with little or no snow!

Thanks so much for your attention to these important details.

Sincerely,

Pat

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