November 8th, 2019

Dear SFUCCS Parents,

We have enjoyed a fairly sunny autumn and as a result we have been distracted by the calendar and that winter weather could arrive soon. It is time for our yearly reminder that in the winter months, 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 of a closure on campus 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!

In the event of severe weather, the University will rely on reports from Environment Canada, TransLink and observed conditions at each campus to determine if it is safe for the normal operation of university services. Should campus closure be deemed appropriate, communications will be sent to the SFU community, which includes SFU Childcare Society. 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 informs us of a closure, 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), Twitter account (twitter.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 École Sperling, a decision will be made by 2:00pm 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 close. 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.

Regards,
Rachel

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