

10 February 2022

Longer Days and Expanded Campus Boundaries

Our patient students, faculty, staff and campus residents have, over the past two weeks, received a number of COVID-related updates from myself, Ty Pile and the campus Operations Committee. Thank you all for your attentiveness as we continue to navigate pandemic-imposed protocols and campus wellbeing.

This week, some much-needed good news. As of this writing, no students are isolating due to a COVID infection. Realistically, we know there will be future cases but with measures such as indoor masking, physical distancing, voluntary antigen testing for “bubble-piercing” faculty and staff remaining in place, we continue to be vigilant. Preparation for Project Week in late March, including risk assessments for safe, planned activities, are well underway.

The Operations Committee, which includes student representatives, reached consensus on expanding College boundaries for unsupervised student activities. While nearby communities remain out of bounds for unsupervised activities, this still opens up additional local trails, a nearby regional park and a local beach for student access.

Some of the trails are reasonably well-travelled while others are somewhat remote. All are unlit at night so access to the regional park (Matheson Lake Park) is for daylight hours only while anyone visiting Weir’s Beach via quiet public roads must be back on campus by 10:30 p.m. After sunset, which is getting later in the northern hemisphere spring, students must walk in groups of 2 to 3 and need to wear College-supplied reflective armbands or use a flashlight for visibility. Students are also able to leave campus on adult-supervised educational excursions, such as a visit to the [Royal British Columbia Museum](#).

We continue to make every effort to strike the right balance between Public Health Office (PHO) and campus COVID protocols and our support for the mental health and wellbeing of students and the entire campus community. We have learned some valuable lessons during this journey and will continue to adjust our policies and protocols to enhance the student social experience without jeopardizing education and programming or campus operations. Current trends suggest Omicron is subsiding in B.C. and Canada and the PHO is expected to relax some public protocols in the coming weeks.

At this time of year, we would normally see students enthusiastically preparing the College’s annual One World stage performance in downtown Victoria. Unfortunately, for the third year in a row, conditions do not allow us to move ahead with a live performance. Instead, we are looking forward to “One World Reimagined,” a video collage of student performances recorded

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over the coming weeks at outdoor and indoor locations around campus. We are very excited to reimagine the venerable One World show for a truly global audience. Details about how you will be able to enjoy this event online in May will be shared in the weeks to come.

The live version of One World was also an occasion when some student parents, guardians and families, as well as Host Families, friends and supporters of Pearson could join us at the performances and spend time with their students on a campus visit. If you made plans to visit in conjunction with One World, or if you would like to make plans, we welcome visiting parents/guardians and families anytime between **4 March and 21 March**, provided there is no unforeseen tightening of public health rules. We know the presence of family can often have positive mental health benefits. Please note though, the College is unable to provide accommodation or transportation assistance.

Thank you again for your support and best wishes for good health.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Davis'.

Craig Davis
President and Head of College