



École
Frank Ross
Elementary

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November 19, 2021

To: Ecole Frank Ross Parents/Guardians

RE: Student cell phones & electronic devices / School Parking / Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

I am writing today to share some important information regarding a code of conduct update, our ongoing school parking lot issues and to share information about the importance of PAC and our encouragement to get involved.

Our staff has been addressing more issues related to student cell phones and electronic devices in recent months and identified that continued education around safe use as well as some clear expectations and guidelines are crucial to supporting a safe and caring environment at school, including the responsible use of technology.

It is now common for students to carry cell phones, smart devices such as music player (iPods) or watches (Apple watches) and other electronic devices to school. We recognize for some families a phone is important for communication between parents/caregivers before and after school.

Cell phones can, however, be a source of disruption in the classroom, a safety concern on the playground, cause privacy issues and be a source of social difficulties, especially amongst older children.

In order to support safety and appropriate to school use, cell phones/electronics can only be used outside of our building while outside of school hours. Cell phones at school must be turned off and kept in a zipped backpack, or a safe place permitted by staff.

Students will not be permitted use of their personal cell phones/electronic devices from the time they arrive on school grounds to the time they depart.

Students may use their devices under the following conditions:

- a) Teacher led activity where the teacher has submitted a plan for use and supervision of devices in class.
- b) Staff has granted permission for one time use under their direct supervision.

NB: During the school day students may access the school phone in order to communicate with parents/guardians.

Below you will find our updated Code of Conduct language:

Students will not be permitted use of their personal cell phones/electronic devices from the time they arrive on school grounds to the time they depart.

Misuse of cellphones/electronics may include but is not limited to:

- Taking pictures/video without permission at school
- Inappropriate messaging
- Use of social media
- Sharing inappropriate content with others directly or indirectly
- Cyber-bullying

Misuse of cell phones/electronics at school will result in removal of the phone to the office for the remainder of the day. Further infractions will result in removal of the phone for parent/guardian to pick-up from office. An individual plan for having the phone at school will be implemented at the discretion of school administration.

The safety of students at pick-up and drop-off times remains a priority for us and as such we are asking again that we all please be respectful of one another during these busy times of day. The winter weather has arrived, and because of ongoing congestion challenges, we are returning our road markers to help indicate crosswalks in the parking lot and the no parking zone along the metal barrier as you enter the lot.

We ask that people please refrain from parking in our emergency access lane as you enter the parking lot and that if you are waiting for your child, to please use the available stalls in the front or back lots. Please do not leave your vehicle if you are stopping in the pick-up and drop-off zone in front of our outdoor classroom.

We appreciate your consideration of one another and regard for our children's safety when you use our parking lot. Please be patient. Please consider picking-up or dropping-off on a neighbouring block if possible. Please be kind and calm.

Lastly, our Parent Advisory Council plays a crucial role in supporting our student community, adding to the vibrant life of the school, connecting families, helping teachers, and fostering the home-school partnership that is essential to student success. Our PAC has some long serving members and our regular attendance has shrunk recently. We are asking that you consider coming to a regular PAC meeting once a month, on the third Tuesday, at 3pm. You can now also attend virtually, via zoom. There is further information about PAC on our [website](#). Our next PAC meeting is scheduled for December 14th.

Kindly,

Shaun Henry

Principal