



WINCHELSEA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

P.O. Box 1208, 140 Renz Road,
Parksville, B.C. V9P 2H2
Tel 248-3296 Fax. 954-1734

Ian MacDonald, Principal

Winchelsea Elementary - Emergency Closure of Schools

Under the District's Policy 7160, Emergency Closure of Schools, Winchelsea may have to be closed temporarily at times for any of a number of reasons, including the following:

- Inclement weather
- Power outage
- Failure of heating or water services
- Emergency health issues
- Other emergency situations.

Power outages at the start of the day: The district will notify parents through the media and there may be some cases, when bus students will not be picked up in the morning, as we have been advised that the power outage is expected to last throughout the day.

Emergency Early Dismissals During the School Day: Every effort will be made to keep our school open. However in some circumstances health or safety issues can become a concern during protracted power outages or the Principal may advise the Superintendent that local road conditions in the area have deteriorated due to weather. In this case the Superintendent may inform the Principal that an Emergency Closure is to take place.

When an Emergency Closure has been announced, the Superintendent shall activate radio broadcasts which notify parents that schools will be closed early and some or all bus schedules have been advanced. In this case, we will be contacting parents and asking them to come and take their children home.

If a school bus driver is unable to complete their normal bus run, the driver is expected to ensure the safety of students. Before students disembark, the driver should consider the age of the students, the weather and road conditions, the number of houses along the road and other factors related to safety. Where the bus driver considers it too hazardous to permit students to disembark, the students will be transported to a place of shelter, such as a school or other supervised public building until arrangements can be made with parents for acceptable transportation.

As portable phones (cordless) do not work during a power failure, we strongly encourage parents to have a regular phone for use during power outages.

We remind parents that during a power failure at schools, there is usually only one working telephone line to call parents. Therefore you should not expect to call the school at such times. School offices will be making contact with parents using the emergency contact information that you have provided your school. Please update that information if necessary. If there is a change to your designation of other persons who may pick your children up during an emergency, please notify the school.

Our student's safety is our paramount concern and each emergency situation affects our schools differently. The district works in cooperation with BC Hydro, the RCMP, Emergency Services and other community agencies in order to monitor the situation and wherever possible maintain school operations.

Changes in bus operations or school closures shall be communicated to the following media outlets, who usually make such announcements between 6:30 and 8:00 a.m.

List of Local Media Outlets

CIBH Radio ("The Beach" – 88.5 FM) Parksville
CHPQ Radio ("The Lounge" – 99.9 VM) Parksville
CHWF Radio ("The Wolf" – 106.9 FM) Nanaimo
CKWX Radio (1130 AM) Vancouver
CKNW (980 AM) Vancouver

CBC (90.5 FM) Victoria
CBC (690 AM) Vancouver
CH News Victoria
CITYTV Vancouver
"A" Channel Victoria
BCTV (Global)
The Weather Network