

From: [Karen Matthews](#)
To: [Karen Matthews](#)
Subject: FW: Mask Mandate - Please read
Date: October 6, 2021 2:35:17 PM

From: Jolie Ann Marie < >
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 5:00 PM
To: Leanne Lee <leanne.lee@sd68.bc.ca>; Superintendent <Superintendent@sd68.bc.ca>; Assistant Superintendent, Elementary Programs <AsstSupElementary@sd68.bc.ca>; Learning Services Director of Instruction Elementary <DirectorofInstructionElementary@sd68.bc.ca>
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Subject: Mask Mandate - Please read

CAUTION: External Message

Good evening,

First, I would just like to let you know that this email comes from a place of love and compassion. It is in no way meant to be hostile. I just wanted to make that clear, as I know we can all misinterpret emails very easily.

I am a mother of two young children in your district. I have cc'd some other parents, that I personally know in the district, on this email as well.

This mandate affects us deeply. There are a lot of us who are voicing many concerns regarding this matter, no matter what their vaccination status is. Vaccinated or unvaccinated, this is troubling for so many parents I personally know, who don't know how to use their voice. I'm sure many have already, but today, I choose to use mine.

I am sending this email to voice my concerns regarding this mask

mandate. There are some serious consequences for emotional and social development, of empathy through facial recognition, and feedback.

Masks used for many hours a day creates hypoxia and that is detrimental to brain development as well. I have many articles that support this if you would like to see them. This will also create some serious social anxiety in our young children as well, I can attest to this with my own little ones. Last years pneumonia rates were very high too and that was due to children and adults wearing their moist masks for too many hours a day. Bacteria grows and it can cause many different issues. I have headaches daily from wearing my mask, so I can only imagine what it is doing to children of a tender age.

Friday I sent mask exemptions for both of my kids to their principal, via email. Again this morning, I sent both children with printed versions. I also sent an email this morning to my sons teacher and the principal again. Letting them know the following:

“After discussing it with my son over the weekend he is begging me to keep him home. Neither one of my kids want to go to school anymore due to this mask mandate. They worry they’ll get in trouble for not wearing one. And my son has voiced to me that he might feel indifferent to his peers if he chooses not to wear one but yet still doesn’t want to wear one. I did reassure him he won’t get in trouble for not wearing one and that it is ok to be different than his peers because everyone has different beliefs and that is completely ok. We all need to love one another the same.”

During times like this, our kids need to feel comfortable in their surroundings. Our world is upside down right now and we need to support our children during these times. We need to make sure that they are not pressured and are reassured that this is ok. That they aren’t segregated or discriminated against. In times like these - we all do what is best for our families. We all need to respect and find compassion for one another. Hopefully you agree.

I appreciate the time you’ve taken to read this. I expect you have your plate very full during this time. Please know I’m here to support you and our children in any way I can.

Thank you so much for your understanding. I truly appreciate it.

The principal and the teachers were very kind and understanding in their replies and I appreciate that. I understand there is a meeting being held [this evening](#) with Scott Saywell.

This is my voice, as a mom, who is only doing what I know in my heart of

all hearts, is right for my children. Children this young shouldn't be forced to wear a face covering, limiting their breathing and ultimately depleting their immune systems. We need sunshine and fresh air and whole foods, now more than ever. Please. As a Mom with 2 young children in this district, I am begging you to please hear us out. Please help us guide the way for our children by doing what we all know is right.

I hope and pray you all make these decisions in the best interests of our children. All of them.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I really do appreciate it. And I think I can speak for the other parents who are cc'd in saying that we all appreciate it.

Sincerely,

Jolie Pendergast

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