NEWS RELEASE

Comox Valley Secondary Schools Reopen

For immediate release 25 January 2018

COMOX VALLEY B.C. – Three School District 71 secondary schools will reopen Friday and return to regular operations following an emergency closure Thursday.

Mark R. Isfeld, G.P. Vanier and Highland Secondary were closed all day Thursday due to a safety risk detected by the Courtenay RCMP Detachment.

All provincial secondary school exams scheduled for Thursday will now be administered Friday. Check with the respective school for more detailed information pertaining to these exams.

School District 71 received notification early Thursday morning from the RCMP that there were indications one of our secondary schools was not safe. As a precaution, SD71 closed all three secondary schools.

RCMP conducted an investigation throughout the day working closely with SD71 staff until the situation was deemed safe thereby allowing school operations to reconvene.

The closure impacted approximately 3,000 students and staff in the district.

“The decision to close a school never comes lightly but when it comes to the safety of our students and staff, and the safety of parents and families we will act accordingly and make decisions to ensure no one is put in harms way,” emphasized Dean Lindquist, District Superintendent. “This was an unprecedented situation. Never have we had a safety issue that impacted more than one school at one time. Nevertheless, we exercised a thorough and well-rehearsed emergency protocol working closely with emergency responders and were able to effectively and efficiently contain the situation.”

The situation is under investigation by the RCMP and details pertaining to the nature of the threat will be released once the investigation concludes.

-30-

Find us on Facebook @SchoolDistrict71
Twitter @ComoxValleySD71
Instagram SchoolDistrict #71