



The Communiqué

May June 14 - 18, 2021

Message from the Admin Team

We have just completed our fourth week of remote learning. We continue to have approximately 75 children of Critical Service Worker parents learning from the school each day. Our teachers are both working from home and working in the school on a rotational basis.

Divisional devices were sent home with students who had no access to technology. These devices will be returned to the school on Friday, June 25th. As a result, we have set Thursday, June 24th as the final day for remote classes. Students will have access to learning tasks up until June 30th, however the online component will wrap up on the 24th. Report cards will be issued on June 25th.

Our divisional leadership team continues to deal with the reduction of teacher positions. We have not yet been able to finalize classroom arrangements but hope to have your child's classroom and teacher for next year identified in the report card going home on the 25th.

Monday, June 14, 2021
Day 4

Tuesday, June 15, 2021
Day 5

Wednesday, June 16, 2021
Day 6

Thursday, June 17, 2021
Day 1

Friday, June 18, 2021
Day 2

Physical Education



Physical education throughout the 2020-2021 school year has looked very different, with the entire year of regular programming being spent outdoors. Several measures were taken to ensure safety during the pandemic. Despite these pandemic restrictions, Robert H. Smith students continued to develop skills in a wide variety of physical activities through physical education programming. The basic movement skills (e.g., hop, skip, gallop, underhand throw, catching, etc.) were practiced through a variety of games and activities. While restrictions may have led to changes to traditional games and activities, developing physical competence, confidence, motivation, knowledge, and value for physical activity remained pillars of the program.

The variety of activities included the Terry Fox Run, ultimate frisbee skills, frisbee golf, soccer skills, sledding, cross-country skiing, tchoukball, yoga, dance, Festival du Voyageur activities, Indigenous games, Spikeball, volleyball, traditional low organized games, and running club among many others.

I would like to extend well wishes for a safe, active summer to all R.H.S. families. To our grade 6 students, I wish you all the best as you venture off to a new school, we will miss you! Thank you for your ongoing support of the physical education program. To our returning RHS students, see you in September!

Mr. Donato



Library Notes

It has been an interesting year for the Library at RHS. Even though the physical space was used as a classroom for the better part of the year, the opportunity to take books out was still available to our students. We are happy that so many of our new titles had a chance to get into the hands of lots of our young readers. That being said, it's time to bring everything back to school/the library. There will be a cart outside the front doors starting on Tuesday, June 8th, where you can drop off any titles that you may have at home.

Education for Sustainable Development



Million Tree Challenge

According to a Chinese proverb, the best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago. The second-best time is now. Grade six student, Raya S., representing her grade 6 classmates, planted four trees on Thursday, June 10, 2021. She recruited help from Nicole W., and both got their hands dirty. Each tree will commemorate one of our departing grade six classroom: 201, 202, 203, and 110. It is a small token of hope and optimism. Raya told me, "I hope people are inspired to plant trees all over Winnipeg."



Thanks to Mr. Zawadski, each seedling has been fertilized and protected by a two-foot cage. Apparently, a white spruce tree can grow to 60 – 80 feet high and live for hundreds of years. <https://www.treeswinnipeg.org/million-tree-challenge/>

Beyond Brick Donates Two Beauties

A funny thing happened on the way to the nursery! Mrs. Kowalchuk had collaborated with her Green Team students to choose two substantial trees to plant behind the hill. They selected an Ohio Buckeye and an Ivory Silk Lilac tree. Mrs. Kowalchuk explained, "The buckeye has interesting flowers and nut-like seeds that make



good habitat for small animals. The lilac will have beautiful white flowers and will be a real feature behind the hill.”

Mrs. Kowalchuk had selected more mature trees in (two to three years old) to increase the chances that the trees would survive; however, these trees were also more expensive. Fortunately for RHS, local business owners who have children at RHS chose to purchase and donate the trees to the school. THANK YOU, Beyond Brick! Your generosity will be enjoyed by kids, the community, and squirrels alike!

Thank you also to Mr. Zawadski and Mr. Tanada for preparing the new homes for these trees and building protective cages.

Health Month Fundraiser

In May’s Health Month initiative, students set weekly health goals for physical activity, sleep, nutrition and mental wellness. Students then asked parents to support their health pursuits by raising money for the school through sponsorship. Though we were interrupted by the latest school closure, **students raised \$5164.50** to support this initiative.

Our goal is to purchase and install a *Traverse Wall* in the gymnasium, a climbing wall installed horizontally to accommodate even the youngest climbers. Mr. Donato, the RHS physical education specialist, said, “This traverse wall is going to be a super exciting opportunity for students. I am incredibly thankful for the generosity of our school community for supporting physical activity.” This initiative fits with the school’s focus on fit-for-life practices championed by the physical education programme. Mr. Donato explained, “The traverse wall represents entry to an individual sport that you can enjoy throughout your life. It promotes strength and balance. Students will be able to use it in class as a strength station, or just have fun on it during indoor recess.” This fundraising takes the school over half way to the total cost of the project.



Parent Advisory Group (PAG) Updates

Thank-A-Teacher Thursday

In case you missed the opportunity to drop off a message of Thanks to the staff - don't worry, we have extended it for another week! We encourage all students and families to put together letters/notes/cards/art/crafts - with messages of Thanks to all our Great Staff! You can send something to a specific teacher/staff member or something general to all the staff! Please drop off these messages of Thanks at the school - a special Bin labelled "Thanks" will be set outside the Front Entrance doors Monday-Thursday between 9am-3:30pm. Also, this week we will be offering the



staff a special lunch of Empanadas from La Pampa on Grant Avenue along with special sweet treats from Frenchway Bakery on Lilac Street.

Playground Update

The PAG is excited to announce the next phase of playground improvements will get underway later this summer. In addition to repainting by the school division of the hard-top games (four square, basketball, etc.), the PAG will add further enhancements through the addition of painted games and artwork on the outdoor fitness track.

Professional local artist/designer James Culleton (www.jamesculleton.com) will be painting up a storm at our school adding colourful games, distance markers, and other designs to the fitness track, in order to increase the opportunities for active play in our playground. Elements from the sensory path within the school will be carried outside, such as flowers, logs, and bugs.

James has done sidewalk murals at the Forks, Ecole Precieux-Sang, Transcona BIZ, and also awesome art installations for ZooLights at Assiniboine Park Zoo. We know his additions to the RHS playground will bring some excitement to the school, especially if the requirements for Covid cohorts/recess zones continue. While these murals won't be as durable as the 'industrial' line-painting done by the division which lasts for many years, we know the artwork will bring some joy to RHS students when they return to school this Fall.

Be sure to watch for this exciting artwork getting underway later this summer, and mind the 'wet paint'!

If you are interested in joining the PAG or finding out further information please email Melanie at: chair@roberthsmithpag.ca. Don't forget to check out our PAG website: www.roberthsmithpag.weebly.com and our PAG Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/RobertHSmithPAG> (please like and follow us).

