



École Robert H. Smith School

The Communiqué

February 8 - 12, 2021



RHS STUDENTS TRY OUT CROSS COUNTRY SKIING IN MR. DONATO'S PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Message from the Administration

Greetings on this cold winter morning! We are expecting a frosty week ahead; students will likely be inside most days. It will be a shorter week for them with tomorrow being a school closure. Please ensure that your children are not arriving at school early – we will be trying to screen students quickly in order to get them inside promptly. Patrols will be arriving at 8:30 for their shift each day and at that time we will determine the length of their time outside. If the temperature and windchill are extreme, we will be counting on our adult crossing guards at corners.

With Valentine's Day celebrations later this week we are needing to ask again for your support. In working to ensure consistency across the school, we have tried to provide a clear directive around the sharing of food this year. While sending packaged candy to share would likely be safe, we have said since the start of school that we will not be handing out food to students that comes from other students' homes. We do not want your children disappointed if treats brought to school on Friday are sent back home. We are not making exceptions to this rule as we do not

want to be in a position where your children are consuming anything here without your knowledge.

Our staff has greatly valued the outpouring of support from our community. The kind notes, emails, lunches and treats have brought warmth and truly made staff feel appreciated. On Thursday our PAG is showing support with their annual Staff Appreciation Lunch. We are again humbled by this generous initiative.

We continue to examine and discuss our health protocols and approaches within the school. The health, safety and learning of our students remains at the forefront of all of our decision making. We thank our PAG executive for their understanding that in an effort to ensure that we are doing our utmost to exceed provincial guidelines, that baking from private homes will no longer be accepted for staff.

And finally, a reminder that if your child is handing out valentines on Friday, they need to be in to the classroom teacher by Tuesday, February 9th in order to “quarantine”!

School Patrols

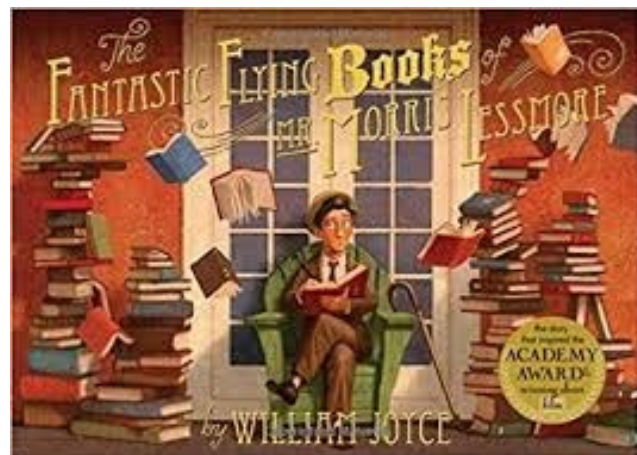
Patrols from Rooms 115 B (formerly 212) will be on duty this week.

I Love to Read

We kicked off *I Love to Read* month with daily DEAR time (Drop Everything and Read). Students are asked to track their reading – for every quarter of an hour of reading, students are able to fill in a ballot for a draw to have breakfast with Madame Powell, catered by Falafel Place (students will choose their breakfast from the menu and will arrive to find it individually packaged and ready for them). Additional precautions will take place in order to allow for this small gathering of four students.

This past Friday, we had our first “Mystery Reader” – parent Saul Hillel Benjamin. The reading was beamed into classrooms by Google Meet. Saul read the book *The Fantastic Flying Books of Morris Lessmore* by William Joyce. Who will be reading at 3:00 on Friday the 12th? Stay tuned!

This week RHS students participated in the first week of February’s I Love to Read initiative. Each day, students participated in a daily Drop Everything and Read (D.E.A.R.). On Friday, we



shared a schoolwide D.E.A.R. and shared reminders of February's initiatives on the announcements.

One of the initiatives encourages reading at home. Students have been given a sheet of tickets. For every quarter of an hour of reading, students can enter one ballot to win breakfast with the principal, catered by Falafel Place. Of course, the prize breakfast will be complete with health measures, including sanitizing before and after mask removal, distancing, plexiglass barriers, and other precautions.

Parents Advisory Group (PAG) Update

Fundraising

A BIG Thank you to all the families that purchased Sunset Gourmet Products and supported this yummy fundraiser! Items will be distributed out this week. Small orders will be sent home in your child's backpack Tuesday/Wednesday. For large orders, families will be contacted by the Fundraising Committee to arrange for a doorstep drop off.



Staff Appreciation

The PAG's Annual Staff Appreciation Lunch will be taking place this week on Thursday, February 11th. Since this event is just before Valentine's Day, we have decided to go with the Theme: We Love RH Smith Staff! A special catered lunch from The Greek Market will be individually prepared for each Staff Member. Plus, additional food items can be provided by parents - please login to: [Sign Up Genius Link](#) for a list of items and further info. **NOTE:** With the new changes announced by the school in today's newsletter - parents will ONLY be able to purchase items from a store/restaurant/bakery - the school will NOT accept any items prepared at home.

Also, we are asking every family to prepare messages, cards, drawings and/or creative art for any or all staff members at our school. This is a great activity to keep your kids busy on Monday with no school! We encourage you to get creative and to personalize messages to the staff - Classroom teachers, Gym & Music, Teachers from previous years, Support staff, Office staff, Custodians and even your child's lunch supervisor! A special We Love RH Smith Staff 'Mail box' has been set up at the school in the front foyer for students to drop off their special messages. All messages must be dropped off by Feb 10th so that the 'Mail Box' can go into Quarantine. The mail box will be opened up at the end of the week and messages will be distributed to the staff with general messages being displayed in the staff room.

Don't forget to checkout our **PAG website:** www.roberthsmithpag.weebly.com and our **PAG Facebook Page:** <https://www.facebook.com/RobertHSmithPAG> (please like and follow us). As always if you have any questions, concerns or would like more information on our PAG please email Melanie at: chair@roberthsmithpag.ca

Education for Sustainable Development

ESD committee lead, Mrs. Kowalchuk (Grade 6), has been working closely with the Parent Advisory Group's Environment committee, led by Tanis Knowles. The school is planning for a spring planting by students of the garden boxes on the south side of the school on Ash Street. With a small ESD grant from the division, we have been able to procure 25 pairs of work gloves and a dozen hand tools (4 trowels, 4 potting spades, and 4 cultivators) that students can use to plant their classroom's garden box.



GARDEN GLOVES AND TOOLS READY FOR SPRING PLANTING AT ÉCOLE ROBERT H. SMITH SCHOOL