



École Robert H. Smith School

# Newsletter

September 14 - 18

## Message from the Administrative Team

Welcome back! After our staggered start on the first two days, school has fully begun for all except our Nursery/Kindergarten students. We can't wait to meet our youngest student on Monday. The energy in the building has been palpable and we have loved watching the children reunite with friends.

Our staggered start allowed us to ensure that our protocols were workable; we will make slight adjustments over the coming weeks as needed. We are trying to speed up the entry in the morning (a group of us were out sanitizing hands while students were still in their lines) and will be rejigging our recess schedules slightly. Students (and their teachers!) showed patience and understanding throughout the week.

Our school features several shiny new faces. RHS welcomes **Marilena Kowalchuk** (Grade 6 English), **Elizabeth Byron** (Grade 6 French Immersion until Madame Brooklyn Brunel returns from leave), and **Rae-Anne Saunders** (Grade 2 French Immersion) to our teaching staff. In addition, we are delighted to host a practicum for teacher candidate **Myriah Tollenaar**. A big 'welcome back' to **Nancy Hodgson** who continues her part-time role this year as a Learning Support Teacher. Finally, a big thank you to **Neil Wilcox** who has stepped in to cover Ms. Graff's class in her absence. Sadly, we say goodbye to long-time education assistant, **Judy Taylor**, who has sailed into retirement.

Parents, we kindly request that during drop-off and pick-up times you respect the 2-meter distance between other parents and children or come wearing a mask. During the week, there were large groups gathered, especially around the front doors to the school. We appreciate that our space is limited, however it is important that we observe health protocols and physical distancing. Many thanks in advance.

We are eager to get the school year underway and work in partnership with you. Here we go!

## Classroom Parent Communication List and Classroom Parent Rep

Each year, classroom teachers at École Robert H. Smith appoint a parent to be a classroom representative. This rep will share contact information with other parents, as well as help to organize special activities, help to find parent volunteers or support with celebrations. Please click on the following link to join the parent contact list for your child's classroom:

[Classroom Parent List  
\(click\)](#)

# Physical Education News

Physical education classes look different this year. In order to create a safe environment which adheres to public health guidelines, I will adapt activities and physical spaces to create a safe environment for all students and staff. These adaptations are subject to change throughout the year based on divisional policies in light of public health advice. Here are some important changes:

- Physical education classes will take place **outside** until further notice. All students should come to school prepared to be outside for physical education every day their class is scheduled for physical education. In the event of extreme weather, physical education class will take place in the classroom.
- Physical education lessons and activities will be selected, altered, and modified to adhere with public health recommendations. Activities and games will be modified to **eliminate or reduce close contact** (physical distancing is required). These adaptations will reduce or eliminate equipment sharing.
- To promote physical distancing and to eliminate and/or reduce equipment sharing, I will focus on **individual skill-building activities and games**, such as gymnastics, yoga, fitness activities, manipulative skill-building activities (such as throwing, catching, striking), sport-specific skills (shooting with a hockey stick, passing a basketball, passing a volleyball, etc.) building activities and community walks. There will not be any equipment sharing across classes (cohorts).
- Students will **not change clothing** for physical education until further notice.
- Students will **not be required to wear masks while outside** during physical education classes (however they may wear one if they choose to). Physical distancing will be required while participating in physical education.
- A copy of the current public health guidelines regarding physical activity and sport can be found [here](#).

Despite many changes to physical education programming, the program goal remains the same. The goal of the physical education program is to promote lifelong physical activity by building physical literacy.

“Physical literacy is the motivation, confidence, physical competence, knowledge and understanding to value and take responsibility for engagement in physical activities”

(Whitehead, 2016). Through the physical education program, students will build a variety of basic movement skills (running, throwing, striking, etc.) with the goal of

developing competence and confidence with these critical skills. This confidence and competence with these skills will help to promote a lifetime of physical activity. In addition, students will take part in activities which; build knowledge of different types of games, build knowledge of strategy for these games, build knowledge of the benefits of physical activity, and build knowledge of personal fitness management.



## Clothing

Students should come to school dressed appropriately for the weather conditions. Physical education classes run for either 30 or 45 minutes and could be attached to lunch or recess. This means students should come to school planning to potentially be outside for up to one hour. On physical education

days, students should wear clothing which will not get caught or impede movement. In addition, any jewelry which could be hazardous (dangling, long necklaces, earrings, etc.) should be removed prior to physical education classes.

### **Injury and Concussion Protocol**

If your child has an injury, please provide a note stating their current limitations and please provide a written update when they are fit to return to activity. In addition, the Winnipeg School Division has developed a concussion protocol which must be followed in schools. This protocol requires medical clearance for a student exhibiting concussion symptoms prior to returning to activity. Clearance must be provided in writing prior to returning to activity. The Winnipeg School Division protocol can be found [here](#). Your support in creating a safe environment in which all students can be physically active is greatly appreciated.

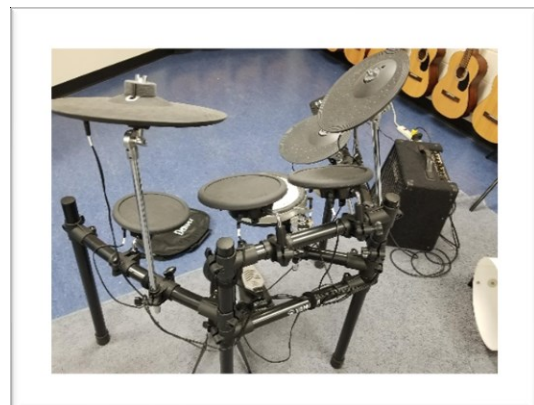
### **Extracurricular Clubs/Activities**

As the year begins, classes will be cohorted and will not be permitted to interact with other cohorts (classes), these restrictions include clubs. With staggered recess and lunch breaks, finding physical space for clubs outside, while maintaining cohorts provides a challenge. As the year begins, the ability to run clubs in adherence with public health guidelines will be evaluated. If it is deemed possible to safely run clubs before, during, or after the school day information will be sent through permission forms and the weekly school news update. As the year progresses, if it is deemed possible and safe to provide extracurricular clubs, information will be provided, or appear on the physical education calendar (<https://goo.gl/Mqd42K>). This calendar will be updated if changes need to occur throughout the year. Due to the need to maintain class cohorts, the fall running club will not take place this year. This will be re-evaluated in the spring.

### **Terry Fox School Run**

The Terry Fox Run will look a little different this year. There will not be a schoolwide assembly as there has been in the past. Instead, students will learn about Terry Fox throughout the month of September and will have opportunities to complete their run in physical education or with their classroom teacher. Students are encouraged contribute to the Terry Fox Foundation online at (<http://www.terryfox.ca/RobertHSmith>). Thank you for your support.

## **Performing Arts News**



We have a unique, dynamic [vision](#) for performing arts at RHS, where every student is a **music maker**, and every student is a **creator and composer**. To support the development of our musicians, RHS has

received the final shipments of modern band instruments. This equipment was co-funded by the generosity of the Parent Advisory Council and the Winnipeg School Division.

The performance plans for 2020-2021 are tempered by health restrictions, but Mr. Ossachuk is planning ways for students to perform nonetheless. Right now, he is contemplating performances for Remembrance Day, the CBC music challenge, and culminating performances for grades 1 – 3 and for grades 4 – 6. These performances may be virtual.

## Classroom Supply Lists – Payments through Permission Click

Parents will have received an email regarding classroom supply lists, unique for each classroom at RHS. Payments for these classroom supplies were due Friday, 11<sup>th</sup>. Payments are received electronically through our new payment platform, Permission Click. The new service makes payment and permission forms more convenient and paperless.

Using this online service schools means there will be transaction fees. Schools have the choice to embed the fees in the charge or make them transparent. Many schools are moving to this new payment platform, we would appreciate your feedback as always. For our classroom supply lists, please know that the fees are calculated based on a percentage of the total rather than being a per transaction fee.

## Student Description Forms

On Monday, RHS will send home a student information form. Parents will be able to review, verify, and update the information we have on file for each student. Please ensure the email addresses are the accounts that you check regularly!

## Birthday Celebrations

We are requesting that birthday treats not come to classrooms at this time. While we'd love to suggest pre-packaged options (and realize how unpopular this decision may be), celebrating birthdays with shared food items presents far too much of a challenge given our current situation. ☹️

## PAG Fundraising - Mabel's Labels

Hello and Happy New School Year Robert H. Smith Families,

To kick off our fundraising efforts for the fall, we have teamed up with **Mabel's Labels**.

**Tired of losing your child's mitts? Lunch containers? Rubber boots? Pencil cases?**

**You need Mabel's Labels!**

Mabel's Labels helps you create personalized labels for a variety of surfaces - clothes, water bottles, bags, lunch containers - that are durable, waterproof, and guaranteed to STAY PUT! With easy online ordering and FREE SHIPPING!

**To support our campaign:**

1. Visit <https://mabelslabels.ca>

The logo for Mabel's Labels, featuring the text "mabel's labels" in a pink, cursive, handwritten-style font. The logo is contained within a white rectangular box with a thin grey border.

2. Click on **SUPPORT A FUNDRAISER**
3. Search for and select '**École Robert H. Smith School Parent Advisory Group**'
4. Create your personalized labels!

**Note:** This fundraiser is available **YEAR-ROUND**. A portion of all sales will go towards supporting and enhancing the learning environments for the students of École Robert H. Smith School.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at [fundraising@roberthsmithpag.ca](mailto:fundraising@roberthsmithpag.ca). Thank you for supporting our fundraising efforts and stay tuned for more exciting news from the PAG Fundraising Committee!

The PAG Fundraising Committee

## Beautification of the Grounds / Improvements to the School



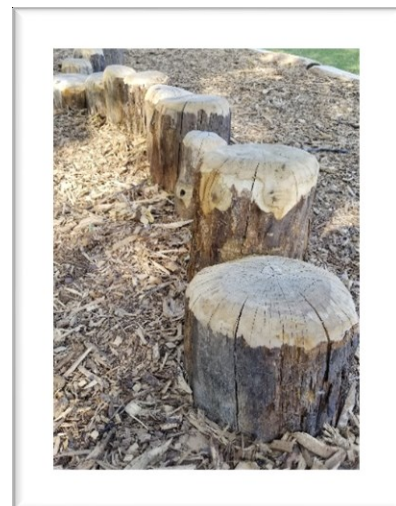
We are very excited to see the last phase of the improvement of the grounds take shape in the southwest corner of our playground. Julie Garcia and Tanis Knowles from the RHS Parent Advisory Group have worked in tandem with Wendy Simonson, landscape architect, to plan, fundraise, and develop the beautiful landscape addition. Local company Viking Landscaping was awarded the contract for installation.

RHS students love the new addition. RHS students Declan McCarthy and Tracy Soulier paid the new area a high compliment, noting that "It looks like it's always been here."

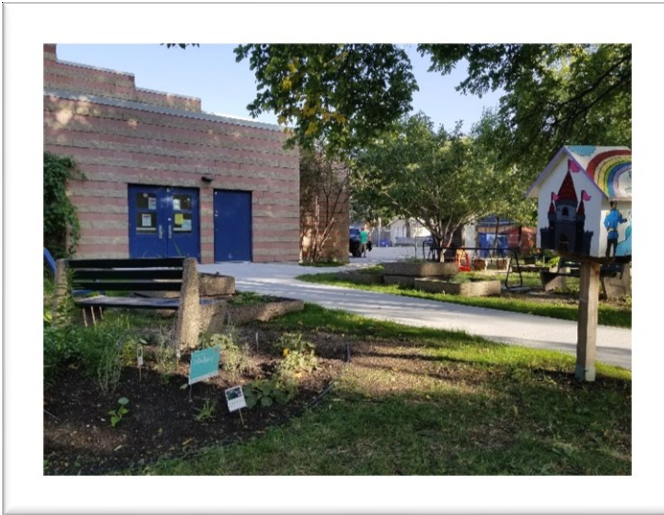
The area features log steppers and groupings of smooth stones for play. Soft mulch is held in by four large logs at the boundary to the field. New trees and shrubs are integrated into the site – the young trees are protected by cages to ensure they grow strong enough to withstand children's play.

### Other improvements

We are also thrilled to have our entire roof replaced, funded by the Public Schools Finance Board, as part of the five-year capital plan of the Winnipeg School Division. Besides sealing leaks, the new roof includes better drainage and improved Styrofoam insulation to make the building more energy efficient.







The school division also rebuilt the Ash Street entry way by the community gardens, removing an overhang and a tree and replacing all of the concrete walkways from the street and parking lot. The area will be much safer and more difficult to climb up onto the roof. Last year the front entryway was replaced and the basketball court relevelled and repaved. It's heartening to know that the division and the province has invested in good maintenance and care of our building and grounds.