



École Robert H. Smith School

Weekly Newsletter

September 28 – October 2

Message from the Administrative Team

It has been a beautiful fall week. Fortunately, Mr. Donato has continued to hold physical education classes outside. He has ensured that each class has had separate equipment and has had the equipment disinfected for use in rotation by the next group of students. Incredibly, Mr. Donato tells us he is putting twenty kilometres per day on his fitness tracker as he leads students. We appreciate his Herculean effort is not sustainable, and as the weather turns colder this coming week, we will see how things go.

On Monday, the Chief Provincial Public Health Officer announced that Winnipeg will be moved to the Orange/Restricted level under the Province's Pandemic Response System. Under this new level, health orders do not change the measures related to schools. Schools will be open for students on Monday under the same protocols that have been in place since the start of the school year, including guidance on wearing masks.

Orange Shirt Day, September 30

École Robert H. Smith School will take part in [Orange Shirt Day](#) on September 30. Staff and students are encouraged to wear orange on Wednesday. The effort is part of the school's ongoing commitment to infuse indigenous perspectives and continue to move toward reconciliation.

The school will host a virtual assembly 11:15 and 11:45. Our guest speaker will be Myra Laramée, Winnipeg School Division's elder and knowledge keeper. Her message to students will be age appropriate. For example, she will reflect on Phyllis Webstad's orange shirt story as an opportunity to value own belongings and respect others' belongings. Her consistent message in indigenous education has always been one of love and compassion, thinking of ways we can bring those on the outside in and make them feel appreciated.

Planning for Technology

In the coming three weeks (until October 23), our staff will help familiarize students with the online learning platforms (SeeSaw and Google Classroom). During these small-group sessions, their learning goals will be as follows:

Google Classroom Learning Goals

I am able to :

- ☐ Locate the Google Classroom website
- ☐ Login to my Google account
- ☐ Join and find my classroom
- ☐ Create a Doc, Sheet, and Slide
- ☐ Find my assignments
- ☐ Submit an assignment (with attached doc)
- ☐ Join a Google Meet



SeeSaw Learning Goals

I am able to :

- ☐ Locate the SeeSaw website (or app)
- ☐ Login to my SeeSaw account
- ☐ View a posting
- ☐ View an assignment
- ☐ Post to my classroom account
- ☐ Submit an assignment
- ☐ Comment on a post
- ☐ Add voice or drawing to a posting



Student Accident Insurance

The Manitoba School Boards Association and the School Division recommends all parents consider Reliable Life Student Accident Insurance, which provides 24-hour coverage for all accidents at school, home, or play.

The Student Accident Insurance Program supplies coverage for medical, dental, disability or accidental death and dismemberment insurance on behalf of students. Protection is also provided for dental damage due to accident, fracture benefits, and other important coverages, which are not Government Insurable Health Services.

Some parents/guardians may participate in an Employee Benefits and Group Dental Plan, but many of these plans are limited in areas - where Student Accident Insurance is not. We ask that you compare them to make sure you have the coverage you need.

Information about Voluntary Student Accident Insurance from Old Republic Insurance Company is now available. Those parents/guardians with an active email address will receive information via School Messenger. Printed copies of the brochure are available through the school office. For more information, visit <https://manitobastudentinsurance.ca> or by calling 1-800-463-5437.

Parent Advisory Group (PAG) Meeting

Reminder: First Parent Advisory Group Meeting **Tuesday, September 29th**, from 6:30pm-8:30pm by Zoom. All Parents are welcome to attend! To receive the Zoom link please email Ainsley: secretary@roberthsmithpag.ca.

During this first meeting we will hear an update from the school by our Principal Mme. Powell, we hope to provide clarity on what the PAG can and cannot do during this school year (because of COVID), we will discuss plans for this year's fundraising and events (Dance, Fun Lunch, Staff Appreciation and Family BBQ) as well as future plans for our playground/gardens.

Pandemic Procedures ... reminders

By way of reminder, we are currently unable to welcome parents and visitors into the school. If you are picking up your child or need to drop something off, please call the school from outside the front doors and someone will come and help you. If you have been invited to a meeting in the school, please call and let the office staff know that you are here for your appointment.

We are working very hard throughout the day to keep our classroom cohorts separated. Please ensure that your child is heading directly home if you are not at the school to pick them up. The school (and our families) must be able to identify close contacts, should a positive case of Covid-19 arrive at RHS.

Children are carefully screened prior to coming into the school each morning. Should a child report to their teacher later in the day that they are not feeling well, we are working to ensure that we understand the nature of the symptoms involved. Please know that we no longer have discretion to try to decide for ourselves what might be at play – if specific Covid-19 symptoms are shown by a student, we need to call home to have the child picked up. We thank you for your ongoing support in this while acknowledging the added burden to families.