



École Robert H. Smith School

The Communiqué

October 26 - 30

Message from the Administration

Manitoba Education has announced that as of Monday, October 26, all schools in the Winnipeg region, which includes our school, will start operating in the Restricted (orange) level of the Pandemic Response System (PRS). Although schools have not been a source of transmission of the COVID virus, the department is looking at ways to ensure transmission remains minimal.

This means schools must take the following measures:

- As much as possible, schools must ensure there are two metres between students and staff.
- Extracurricular activities are only permitted if the required distances can be followed and everyone is following Public Health guidelines.
- Staff who move between student cohorts will wear medical masks.
- Indoor choirs and the use of wind instruments are not permitted.
- Field trips are postponed or cancelled.

The other health protocols—including handwashing, hand sanitizing stations and student cohorts—continue to be in place.

In-class learning remains in place in our school as we are able to increase distancing between students. As a result, we do not require additional space and we will not be offering temporary remote learning at this time.

To reduce class sizes, we have used all available spaces, including the library, music room and resource classrooms. It has been a major undertaking for our custodial team and teachers to prepare those spaces. We moved student desks in place and set up new classroom spaces today.

To teach in these spaces, we have reassigned our specialist teachers from physical education, performing arts and resource. Mr. Nickerson is also teaching a class of grade 6 students (Madame Powell says that she lost the arm wrestle). We have created a new school timetable, new resource schedule and new class lists. These teachers are experienced professionals, and other staff in the school are supporting the transition. These new classrooms will be in place until the province changes the health status back to yellow.

We have been in contact with families who have children moving into new classrooms.

Winnipeg School Division is in daily contact with Manitoba Education and Manitoba Health and will keep families informed of any new information as quickly as possible.

We are sure that you can appreciate how hard our staff is working to keep our children safe while continuing to focus on learning. However, this change may delay some of our timelines, including our reporting to parents about student achievement. Thank you for your continued support throughout these changing times.

Parents Advisory Group (PAG) Update

Greetings from the PAG! With all of the changes that have been happening due to COVID there have also been some changes for our PAG this year and we thought it best to give you a quick update. Unfortunately, we are unable to host our annual Halloween Family Dance at the school and the School Division is not allowing any Fun Lunch events to happen inside the school until at least Christmas. If the situation improves and restrictions are lifted, we will be looking at offering Fun Lunch in the new year, possibly a Family Dance in the Spring and hopefully our Family BBQ in June!

We are also looking at the possibility of having some PAG Family Events Online for this year - some great ideas were discussed at our first PAG meeting, so stay tuned! On the bright side we will still be having some great Fundraisers this year that will be offered online they include: Mabels Labels which runs all year, Last year's Wine Raffle was so popular that we are doing it again before the Christmas Holidays, Sunset Gourmet in the New Year (Jan/Feb) and finally Glenlea Greenhouse for all your gardening needs in the Spring!

Our next PAG meeting will be by Zoom on Tuesday November 17th at 7pm - all parents are welcome to attend, we hope you will join us! If you have any questions, concerns or would like to be more involved in the PAG please feel free to email me directly at: chair@roberthsmithpag.ca

Melanie Dorrington
Chair - Ecole Robert H. Smith School PAG

School Patrols

Patrols from rooms 117 and 120 are on duty this week.

Renewing Your Volunteer Status

Reminder to anyone that received **Volunteer Renewal Forms** please send them back to the school [with your student] as soon as you have finished filling them out. As well, scan two pieces of Identification and send to tmccallum@wsd1.org.



School Photo Order Deadline

The deadline date to submit photo orders is Monday, October 26, 2020.

Photo Retakes

Photo Retakes will take place on **Monday, November 9, 2020** in the morning. If your child missed the first photo session or requires a retake. Parents with a student in the afternoon Nursery and Kindergarten program can bring their child at 8:45 am on retake day to have their photo taken. We ask that parents call the school office at (204) 488-1137 when they arrive outside and someone will come gather your child to bring them in for their retake photo while you wait to take them home.

LifeTouch has implemented new procedures to ensure picture day is safe. Individual pictures will still be taken.

Calendar of School Closure Dates

Each year, schools set aside ten non-instructional days to conduct administrative work and teacher professional development. Some of the dates are designated provincially, some by the metro school divisions, and two by the school itself. Here are the closure dates for the 2020 – 2021 school year:

- September 2 – 4, 2020 (preparing schools for reopening)
- October 23, 2020 (school choice)
- November 20, 2020 (tri-conferences)
- February 8, 2021 (professional learning day)
- March 19, 2021 (student-led conferences)
- April 16, 2021 (divisional common closure)
- May 3, 2021 (professional learning day)
- June 7, 2021 (school planning day)

For reference, here is the Winnipeg School Division calendar showing the common closure dates, holidays, and days of the cycle: [LINK](#).

Lunch Time Sign Out at the Office

Lunch Time Sign Out at the Office Students that go home for lunch must sign out at the office before they are dismissed (Oak Street doors near the office). If you have paid for the lunch program service, you need to let Safe Arrival know before 9 am that your student will be away from 12:00-12:55 pm. Finally, if a student leaves at 12:00 pm they must stay away for the whole of the lunch break. Please don't return to school before 12:55 PM.