



École Robert H. Smith School

The Communiqué

November 16 – 20, 2020

This Week

Mon., Nov 16, Day 3	Virtual Scholastic Book Fair begins
Tue., Nov 17, Day 4	
Wed, Nov 18, Day 5	
Thu, Nov. 19, Day 6	Tri-conferences (4:30 PM to 8 PM)
Fri., Nov. 20	NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY (no school) Tri-conferences (9 PM to 3:15 PM)

Message from the Administration

On Tuesday we held a virtual Remembrance Day Ceremony. It was lovely to welcome parents and grandparents virtually. We managed to have a bagpipe procession, presentations from six different areas of the school and wreath bearers from each classroom. Special thanks to Lt. Col “Joe” Doubrough, our guest speaker who joined us from his office. Joe is a parent at the school of a grade one student. Students appreciated hearing about his experiences as a soldier in many places in the world, including Afghanistan. We would also like to thank Garth McCombe, Pipe Sergeant of the Winnipeg Police Pipe Band. We learned that Garth, a veteran of the Winnipeg Police Service, has been piping now for sixty years.

One reminder is worth mentioning again. The province has added two non-instructional days before Christmas. Our school division has decided these closures will be on **Monday, November 30** and **Monday, December 7**.

School Patrols

Patrols from Room 115C (210) are on duty this week.

November Tri-Conferences

For those parents who already signed up for parent conferences, we have to re-issue the links that were sent out. **You will get a new email message with the correct link by Wednesday.** We’re sorry for this confusion.

[if you’re interested in knowing why this link problem happened, reading this parenthetical comment. If not, skip to the next paragraph :) In the past, Google Meet links lasted a little longer. When North America was doing lots of remote learning in the spring, some students learned they could copy the teacher’s link from the address bar, and then after class they could use it to meet and chat. To prevent this unsupervised use of school software, Google has recently set the links to expire after the host leaves. Now we’ve learned how to

set up a *recurring meeting* in the Google Calendar and generate a link we can use on the days we've specified in the calendar.]

On the evening of Thursday, November 19, and during the day of Friday, November 20, École Robert H Smith School will host Tri-Conference meetings. These meetings are virtual this year. If you missed the email message on November 11, the link to the conference schedule app is

<https://www.schoolinterviews.ca/code?code=rx8jb>

If you're new to Google Meet and video conferences, here are some instructions that might help you navigate the meeting, first for Desktop/Laptops, then for Phone/Tablet, then for a regular landline phone.

How Do I Log in to the Parent Conference from my Desktop or Laptop Computer?

Go to the email that was sent to you from School Appointments. There you will find the link.

Google Meet works best on a Chrome Browser. If your link opens in a Chrome browser window, you're fine. If not, you can open a Chrome window and copy and paste the link into the address line.



When the Google Meet meeting link opens, click "Ask to Join".

*If you are logged in to a Google account, a message will be sent to the teacher that Someone named <your name> wants to join the meeting. The teacher will Deny entry or Admit.

**If you aren't logged in with a Google account, you will need to enter your name on the Ask to Join page and then a message will be sent to the teacher to deny or admit entry

Wait until your appointment time and the teacher will admit you.

Once you are admitted, if you see a pop-up window asking you to allow the camera and microphone for meet.google.com, click ALLOW.

Google Meet for Parents/Guardians Joining a Google Meet on a Phone or Tablet

1. You will need a Google account to join the parent conference Google Meet session if you are using an iPhone, iPad, or Android device.
2. Download and open the Google Meet app.



3. Sign in to log into the Google Meet app with your Google account.
4. If you already see your Google account that you want to use, tap it and enter your password. If you don't see your Google account that you want to use, tap "use another account".
5. Join the meeting.

Option 1: Go to the email (on your tablet or phone) sent to you, click the link, and click "Join". This should bring you into the Google Meet.

Option 2: Go to the Google Meet app and tap "Meeting Code". Enter the 10-digit code found at the end of the link the teacher sent to your email. (example: iya-ccvt-myk). Tap "Join Meet" and "Ask to Join". A message will be sent to the teacher.

* You may need to wait until the teacher “admits” you into the meeting, usually at the scheduled appointment time.

Can I join without a Google account?

You can join without a Google account if you are working on a computer in a Chrome browser.

Can I join on a phone?

Yes, you can join on a phone without a Google account by choosing “join by phone” option from the email the teacher sent. You will dial in the phone number and enter the pin provided. This will allow you to join via audio only (“speaker phone”).

What is a Tri-conference?

A tri-conference is a conversation involves three parties: teacher, parent, and student. In the conference, the participants share the goals of learning. Then, they discuss strengths, areas to strengthen, and next steps. The process involves students in reflecting on their own growth in the presence of both teacher and parent / guardian. Appointments with other teachers (resource, physical education, music) can also be arranged.

When/How are Report Cards Being Issued?

The report cards will be sent digitally on December 2nd. RHS is part of a divisional pilot program to distribute reports using *School Messenger*. You will find that the report cards have been “digitally signed” by the principal, but not the teacher (a teacher-signed copy will be placed in the students’ school folders). Please note that our reporting process sees Andrea & Warren each reading report cards. The staff are split in half and send reports to their “admin contact” to read and provide feedback.

Tree Canada

Valerie Molino, the Communications Coordinator at Tree Canada, has recently launched grant applications for [Community Tree Grants](#).

Community Grant Opportunities:

1. The [Edible Trees](#) grant provides funding and resources to plant fruit and nut trees, offering equal access to healthy food while making a positive difference to the environment. This grant is open to schools, community gardens, recreation centres, First Nations communities, and many more.
2. The [Greening Canada’s School Grounds](#) program provides funding and resources to educational establishments to plant trees on school grounds, allowing students to experience the benefits of trees within their learning environment. This grant is open to all educational institutions across Canada.
3. The newest grant, [Treemendous Communities](#), encourages and supports community tree planting projects, wherever people live, work or play, creating long-lasting benefits. This grant is open to



Canadian municipalities, Indigenous communities, business improvement associations, non-profit and community groups.

Applications for the 2021 season are officially open and will be closing on November 30, 2020.

School Entry Reminders

Please remember that there is no entry to the school before 8:55 AM. Now that the weather has turned cold, it's important that students are warmly dressed. There is supervision on the playground beginning at 8:45, but students do not enter the building right away, especially due to the screening process. Students need to dress appropriately for the weather.

A reminder to parents/guardians/grandparents dropping off and picking up RHS students that you need to **wear a mask** if you enter the schoolyard or the congested area around the school.

Playground Closure

Because Winnipeg is now in Red, the school division has closed public access to the playground. New signs have been installed on the play structures. Schools are permitted to use the structure during the day, but access after 3:30 is no longer permitted.



PAG Updates

Please join us for our next PAG Virtual meeting this Tuesday night (November 17th) at 7pm. This meeting will be our last for 2020. We will be hearing from the school with COVID updates, discussing ways that parents can support teachers, fundraising updates and more! We encourage you to attend. To receive login information to attend the meeting please email Ainsley at secretary@roberthsmithpag.ca

Wine Raffle Tickets

Currently we have sold 302 tickets and have raised \$1510, Our goal is to sell all 1250 tickets - so please login to: <https://rhs.hotlunches.net> and purchase your tickets now! If every family purchases 5 tickets we will sell out and reach our goal! All money from this fundraiser will go towards the purchase of sound amplification devices (microphone/speaker) for classroom teachers, each device costs \$500 - so for every 100 tickets sold we can purchase 1 device.

Donations Needed!

We urgently need parents to Donate a bottle or two of wine for this fundraiser to be successful! Currently we have only received 26 bottles, we still need another 34 bottles to fill our 3 prize packs (60 bottles)!

Bottles can NOT be dropped off at the school. For drop off locations please email:

fundraising@roberthsmithpag.ca

Virtual Book Fair



Enjoy shopping from home during the RHS Online Book Fair. Use this link <https://virtualbookfairs.scholastic.ca/pages/5151597> to access our account starting on November 16th. French and English titles will be available. Free Standard shipping on orders over \$35.00, delivered directly to your home! Share this link with family members near and far. Thank you in advance for helping to grow our school library.



Looking for some good news stories about learning? We will be trying as much as possible to share images and updates through Twitter. Please check us out at: @EcoleRHSSchool!