



École Robert H. Smith School

The Communiqué

November 2 – 6, 2020

Message from the Administration

We have had a full week at RHS! At the time of this writing (Saturday afternoon), we have staff members and additional custodians in the building moving classrooms and setting up learning spaces for Monday morning.

To briefly summarize the changes that we have made, we looked again at all available spaces within the school to ensure physical distancing of two meters. We have tried, as much as possible, to restore children to their original classrooms/teachers. We have also restored our performing arts and physical education programming. We will use our educational assistants in some classrooms in a very intentional way, supporting learning with teacher planning. Please refer to the parent email (dated October 29th) for the full rundown of changes.

We will monitor how students are entering and exiting the building with our new classroom assignments and may need to adjust to minimize congestion. We will update you should this become necessary.

We heard from many parents since we sent the email outlining upcoming changes to classrooms and programming. We appreciate the kind words of support and were able to share these sentiments with staff members. We were humbled by your responses and kindness.

Parents Advisory Group (PAG) Update

The Parents Advisory Group (PAG) Fundraising Committee is excited to announce that they will once again be having a Wine Raffle this year in time for the Holidays! The money raised will be going towards purchasing Sound Amplification Devices for the teachers in our school. These devices are basically a microphone and speaker that allows teachers wearing facemasks to be heard by all the students in the classroom. In order for this Fundraiser to be successful we need the help of you the parents to donate a bottle or two of wine which will then be put together into three prize packages. In total we need 60 bottles of wine to be donated. On Monday an email will go out with further information including the 2 locations to drop off the wine - the wine CANNOT be brought to the school! Please consider donating a bottle or two to help us achieve this worthwhile fundraiser.

PAG Fundraising Committee

fundraising@roberthsmithpag.ca

School Patrols

Patrols from Room 212 (the newly formed Room 115B) are on duty this week.

Masks – Updates

With the provincial move to a “Red Status” in Winnipeg, we have considered further changes that may be required at school. Until now, we have allowed our students in grades 4-6 to be without masks at recess time. We learned on Friday that the province has now mandated that students in grades 4-12 are required to wear masks during Physical Education periods, even when outdoors.

We have decided to require mask-wearing at recess time for students in grades 4-6. Teachers will endeavour to find times for students to have some mask-free time (other than during the eating of snacks and lunch). Wear masks outside reduces the possibility of mask-less chatting while in line. Students also sometimes have trouble distancing from one another while moving in or out of the school, so requiring masks seems a prudent move at this time.

By way of reminder, students are to wear face masks and not “neck gaiters” - the buff-style “neck tube” that can be pulled up and down over the mouth and nose. Some students are continuing to wear them around the neck and forgetting to pull them up, or they are regularly sliding down.

We continue to strongly recommend the wearing of masks with children younger than grade four if possible. While our children have done a wonderful job of adjusting to our new routines, there continues to be the possibility of children forgetting to distance, running into another child or speaking next to somebody in line without a mask. Any enhanced measures through this time are encouraged.

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.

Remembrance Day

We have a virtual Remembrance Day Assembly planned for the morning of November 10th. Classrooms will be continuing the tradition of creating wreaths, and this year, two representatives will bring them out to the flagpole to be placed outside for the day (weather permitting).

Our grade six students will be involved in the assembly and a guest speaker is going to meet with us virtually. We thank Lieutenant-Colonel Joseph Doubrough, CAOC Mission Support Division Chief of 1 Canadian Air Division Headquarters (and dad to Ivy in grade one) for accepting our request to address our students.

We hope to be able to offer an opportunity for our parents to join us virtually. We have needed to put a “pause” on our planning these past two weeks with everything going on at school, but you will learn more in the coming week.

November Book Fair

Each year, RHS has held a Scholastic book fair. To continue the tradition, Scholastic has come up with a way to hold virtual Book Fairs. The book fair will be open for shopping between November 16 and 30. A portion of the sales from this book fair enable RHS to purchase new materials for the library. Stay tuned for details.

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.

That's it for now – hope that you had a good Halloween!

Andrea & Warren (resident pirates)

