



The Communiqué

November 30 – December 4, 2020

This Week

Mon., Nov 30	School Closure Day
Tue., Dec 1, Day 2	
Wed, Dec 2, Day 3	Report Cards emailed home
Thu, Dec 3, Day 4	
Fri., Dec. 4, Day 5	

Message from the Administration

Staff have appreciated greatly the gestures of thanks from parents. Thank you to PAG and parents who provided treats for the staff room on Thursday. We have also had many statements of thanks in emails and phone calls. The statements of support are truly meaningful.

Remote Learning Simulation

During the morning of Tuesday, December 1, schools across Winnipeg School Division, including École Robert H. Smith School, will practice for remote learning. The practice will explore what it will be like if we have to quickly switch to a code red status. We are in the process of developing our plans in more detail, aligned with the guidelines from Manitoba Education, and this simulation will help our planning. We will communicate the plan to parents in the upcoming weeks.

Students should attend as normal for the school day. We will conduct the practice in our classrooms, even though we will be teaching as though students are at home.

At the beginning of the year at École Robert H. Smith School, we allocated time to our specialist teachers, Mr. Ossachuk and Mr. Donato, to have every student log in to their account using their proper username and password. Students accessed their SeeSaw or Google Classroom accounts and practiced doing important tasks, like viewing/creating documents and submitting assignments.

On Tuesday, students will take the next steps to be prepared in case the school needed to close for a short time. All students will have access to a computer or tablet for about one hour. Teachers will guide them through online and offline work. Creating familiarity with our code red remote learning plan will reduce anxiety and increase student confidence.

If you have any questions, please contact the school.

School Patrols

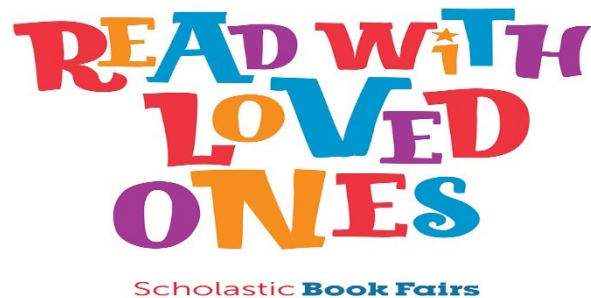
Patrols from Room 115B (212) are on duty this week.

Screening Protocols

Many thanks to our families who are doing a health-screening with their children each morning prior to coming to school. One way to support us here at the school is to both screen your child and ensure that they are at school on time. Some mornings, with 15-20 students late, it takes us considerable time to screen children and send them off to class.

Virtual Book Fair – final few days!

The Virtual Book Fair ends Monday the 30th at 11 Pm CST. We are very thankful for all the purchases that have been made so far. Our hope is that things will end on a high note and we will reach our goal of 500 books sold. We've heard that some families have already had their orders delivered! That is great news!



Financial Donations for Virtual Christmas Hampers

Traditionally, the École Robert H. Smith School community solicits food and gift donations for families who could use a boost at this time of year. Like the Christmas Cheer Board however, we have decided not to assemble hampers of food items this season.

As an alternative, we have decided to create virtual hampers consisting of vouchers for groceries and for children's gifts. Students can bring a small cash donation (about \$2 or \$5) to their teacher. We anticipate creating six "hampers." We will divide the total donations according to the family's size and number of children and deliver them the week before Christmas holidays. Should donations exceed what is needed for the "hampers", additional funds will be given to Harvest Manitoba.

Thank you in advance for making the Holiday Season brighter for those in need.

During the pandemic, some families have experienced income gaps and job loss. If you are a family that is struggling and could make use of a hamper for the holidays, please reach out to Madame Powell at the school (**204-488-1137**). She will keep your request in the utmost confidence.

Parent Advisory Group (PAG) Update

We are so excited to announce that our 1st **Thank-A-Teacher Thursday** was a success! A HUGE thank you to the parents that made this happen in such a short time. We had some very yummy snacks & treats for the staff at our school. As well we were able to have our 1st **Pay-It-Forward Thank-A-Teacher Thursday** with a surprise delivery going to the 28 Teachers and Staff at Pinkham School. Have you seen the pictures on our PAG Facebook page? We can't wait to do it again this week with another school! This week - let's flood the school with messages of Thanks! Please have messages sent in your child's backpack on Thursday. If you missed this week, don't worry - you can still participate in any of the 3 options:

- 1) **Food:** sign up to bring food (snack/treat) for teachers at our school or an inner city school, to enjoy throughout each Thursday. This can include home baking or an item from a local store/bakery that the parent will drop off at the office. Go to: [Sign Up Genius Link](#)
- 2) **Money:** donate money online to go towards a catered lunch in December. If we receive additional money we will look at putting together another lunch and/or flowers and/or gift for the staff. You can also make a donation to go towards a teachers lunch at an inner city school. Go to: <https://rhs.hotlunches.net>
- 3) **Messages:** The PAG is encouraging all families to put together messages for the school staff. Messages can include: cards, art, notes, posters, drawings etc... for classroom teachers as well as other important staff in the school (a full list of staff was sent as an attachment to the email sent out on Nov 24). Be creative and get the kids involved! We ask that this be sent with students in their backpack each Thursday.

Wine Raffle Tickets: Currently we have sold 720 tickets and have raised \$3600. 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 PAG 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. Deadline is December 9th.

Don't forget to checkout our **PAG website:** www.roberthsmithpag.weebly.com and our **PAG Facebook Page:** École Robert H Smith PAG (please like and follow us we will work at posting each week). As always if you have any questions, concerns or would like more information on our PAG please email Melanie at: chair@roberthsmithpag.ca