



École Robert H. Smith School

The Communiqué

November 9 – 13, 2020

Coming Up

Upcoming Schedule

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| <i>Monday, November 9</i> | Picture Retakes (Room 212) |
| <i>Tuesday, November 10</i> | Remembrance Day Ceremony (Virtual) |
| <i>Wednesday, November 11</i> | Remembrance Day – NO SCHOOL Web conferencing booking opens for parent conferences |
| <i>Thursday, November 12</i> | |
| <i>Friday, November 13</i> | |

Message from the Administration

We have had a wonderful week at RHS. Many staff members have commented on a sense of calmness in the building and marked return to “routine.” The classrooms that were transformed over past weekend have been lived in for a week now and teachers and students are settling in. In visiting learning spaces, we are seeing small (distanced) group work, students “turning and talking”, project work, engagement, and a buzz of learning. I watched a guided reading lesson on Friday that bore a remarkable resemblance to practices of the past (!) – with the exception that the small group of students were well distanced in their “overflow” learning space. We are continuing to look for rainbows through this time – and endeavour to develop new creative practices that will outlive the days of COVID!

Our children did a fine job this week of wearing their masks during physical education (now mandatory from grades 4-6). Our students in 4 - 6 are also wearing masks at recess. This practice will remain while Winnipeg is at a Critical Red Level. We are strongly encouraging the wearing of masks for children old enough to manage this practice, as it provides us with increased confidence that should children forget to remain distanced, they have an added layer of precaution. Despite their best intentions, children are children - we offer gentle reminders to ensure precautions are in place.

We have had several “treats” this week from our parent community. We feel incredibly blessed to have your expressions of gratitude and support through this time. We cannot properly express our appreciation; many staff members have commented that they feel a stronger connection to our community. Another rainbow!

School Patrols

Patrols from Room 115A (Mme Carstens’ room) are on duty this week.

Link for the Remembrance Day Ceremony

On Tuesday, we will hold a virtual Remembrance Day Ceremony. Students will remain in their classrooms. Weather permitting, the ceremony will take place at the school's flagpole, where class representatives will lay wreaths.

Our guest speaker, a parent of an RHS student, will be Lieutenant-Colonel Joe Doubrough, CAOC Mission Support Division Chief. Lt.Col Doubrough will join us from a remote location using Google Meet. The bag piper for the service will be Garth McCombe from the Winnipeg Police Service Band.

Parents and grandparents can attend the service by logging in to the following link:

<https://meet.google.com/vou-ewpf-bvm>. If students want to donate money to the Legion for poppies, they can bring their donation to their classroom teacher.

Booking Parent Conference through *School Conferences*

This year we will be using an online booking application to arrange virtual tri-conference times. River Heights has been successfully using the same software for grades 7 and 8 and the reviews have been very positive. You can now select the exact times that you would like to meet with teachers, arranging either back-to-back appointments or staggered times. The time slots are 12 minutes in length in order to allow for transition to the next conference. You will receive further information (along with a link) in the coming days.

We will send a link to the online booking system to your email on **Wednesday, November 11th** at 9:00 a.m.

Reminder: Critical Service Worker Forms

Information and a fillable PDF was sent out on Tuesday for families to self-identify as critical service workers. We are gathering data in order to plan for classroom supervision should schools go to Critical Red Level. Please return your forms as soon as possible if you plan to have children at school during this time.

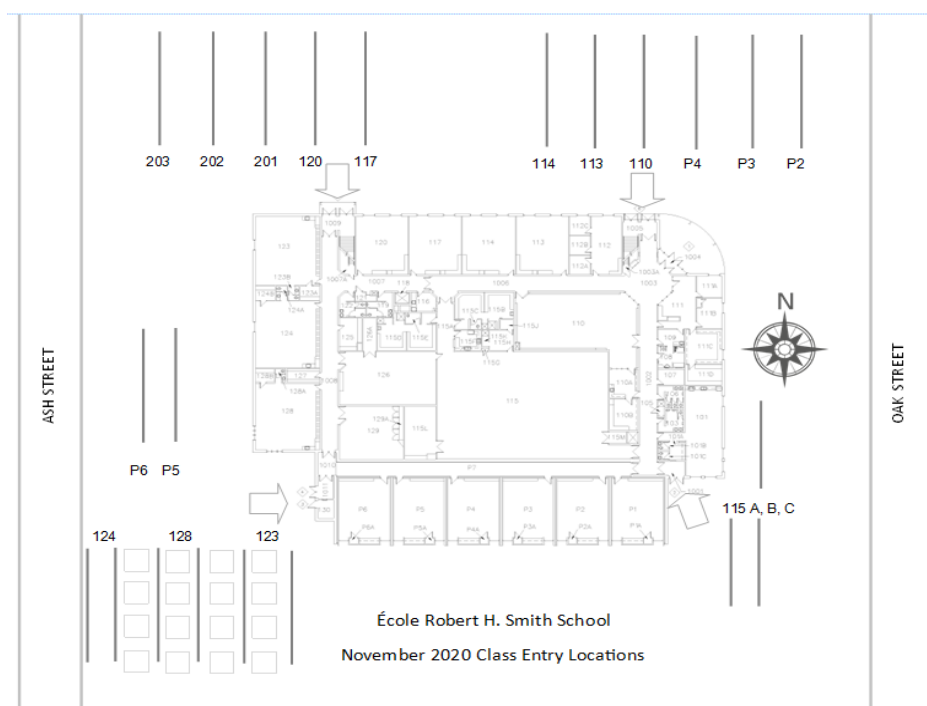
Photo Retakes

Photo Retakes take place on Monday, November 9, 2020 in the morning if your child missed the first photo session or requires a retake. Parents/guardians with a student in the afternoon Nursery or 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 and get 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. LifeTouch continues to take individual pictures.

New Entry Doors

With the provincial move to a “Red Status” in Winnipeg, we have considered further changes that may be required at school. In order to reduce the congestion at the entry/exit points at school, a few classrooms have had their entry/exit locations altered. Please expect that your child will be both entering and exiting from these doors. The changes include:

- Room 115 A, B, C (grades 4/5 French Immersion) to line up at the doors on the South East corner of the building
- Room P5 moving to “garden doors”
- Grade 6 French Immersion (201, 202, 203) moving to NW doors by the play structure.



These changes will begin on Monday.

As you are aware, we are continuing to screen all children each morning. The province has added new questions to the “exposure history” portion of the screening protocol during the Critical Red Level in Metro Winnipeg:

- Have you been in close contact (within two metres/ six feet for more than 15 minutes) in the last 14 days with a confirmed COVID-19 case or does anyone in your household have symptoms of COVID-19?
- Is anyone in your household awaiting COVID-19 test results?

Parent Advisory Group (PAG) Update

The PAG is excited to announce that tickets for our Holiday Wine Raffle are now on sale! All tickets are \$5 each for a chance to win 1 of 3 prize packs:

1st Prize is 30 bottles of Wine

2nd Prize is 20 bottles of Wine

3rd Prize is 10 bottles of Wine

All tickets will be sold using our Online ordering system and the ticket numbers will be sent to you by email once payment is received. To order simply login to: <https://rhs.hotlunches.net> follow the steps to create a login and register your child. The deadline to order is December 9th and the draw will take place at the school on December 14th - winners will be contacted by phone. All funds raised will go towards purchasing Sound Amplification Devices for teachers. We need each Family to sell 5 tickets in order to sell out and reach our goal! ***Reminder: we do still need more parents to donate and drop off a bottle or two of wine in order to reach the 60 bottles needed for the prize packs! If you would like further information on purchasing tickets or the locations for bottle drop off, please email: fundraising@roberthsmithpag.ca

Our next PAG meeting will be held online at 7pm on Tuesday, November 17th - to register please contact Ainsley by email at: secretary@roberthsmithpag.ca

If you have any questions, concerns or would like more information about our PAG please checkout our website: roberthsmithpag.weebly.com or send an email to Melanie at: chair@roberthsmithpag.ca.

Flu Shots

River Heights Public Health is offering appointment-based (no walk-ins) Flu Clinics for Families with children under the age of 7. Call: 204-938-5039 to book an appointment

WHERE

ACCESS FORT GARRY

135 PLAZA DR, room 166

WHEN

Thursday, November 12th (1:30pm – 5:30pm)

Tuesday, November 24th (9:30am-3:30pm)

Wednesday, November 25th (9:30am-3:30pm)

Please note: the nasal spray, or HIGH dose flu shots, will not be available.

November Book Fair

Our Scholastic Virtual Book Fair will take place November 16-30

When it's time to shop, visit our school's Virtual Book Fair site using this link:

<http://scholastic.ca/bookfairs/resources/videos>

**Our Virtual
Book Fair
is coming!
Save the date!**

Virtual Book Fairs