



The Communiqué

December 7-11, 2020

This Week

Mon., Dec 7	No School – Provincial Closure Day
Tue., Dec 8, Day 1	
Wed, Dec 9, Day 2	
Thu, Dec 10, Day 3	
Fri., Dec. 11, Day 4	

Message from the Administration

The Manitoba government has mandated a two-week period beginning Jan. 4, 2021, where school attendance in nursery to grade 6 will be optional. Regular, in-person classroom learning will be available during this period for *all* nursery to Grade 6 students. From anecdotal indications, we believe most parents will choose to send RHS children to attend school in-person, as many parents in our community work in essential services. We will soon send a survey link to find out in detail which option parents/guardians will choose. Because our teachers will be engaged with in-person teaching, our optional remote learning choices may take the form of independent work at home supported by other staff members.

Many thanks for the flexibility you have shown as parents/guardians in handling so many new procedures. School entry is much faster when children are screened for signs of illness and exposure at home. Most recently, we conducted video parent conferences and then issued electronic, virtual report cards. There were a few glitches (expired links, lost emails), but thanks to parent/guardian patience and willingness to flex with the times, most of the conferences and reports succeeded in connecting teachers and parents.

School Patrols

Patrols from Room 115A (previously 208) are on duty this week.

Spirit Week – December 14 - 18

We thought it would be fun to end the 2020 school year with some fun. Participation is optional; we've tried to come up with theme days that won't be too taxing for families. The themes are as follows:

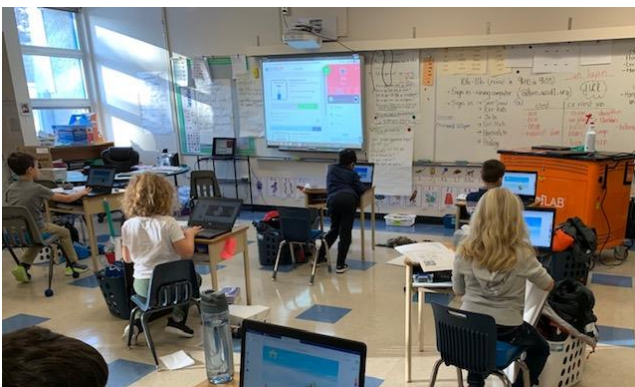
- **Monday** – *“Get a Move on! Day”* – wear gym pants, hoodies or other athletic wear
- **Tuesday** – *Comfy Cozy Day* – wear your PJs or other comfy clothes
- **Wednesday** – *Cheer on!* - wear a jersey, hat or other sports gear
- **Thursday** - *Cool in the Shade Day* – put on beach T-shirt and sunglasses :)
- **Friday** - *Holiday Fashion* – wear an ugly Holiday sweater or Santa hat

WSD Remote Learning Simulation

On Tuesday, schools across the division spent the morning in a remote-learning simulation. While we have been planning for the possibility of moving into a remote setting (should the province move schools into “red”, the simulation proved to be helpful in identifying what was already working well and what we might need to further address. Each classroom had a block of time with our school’s technology (iPads, Chromebooks and laptops) and teachers planned a series of activities or learning tasks to practice while all together.

Several things worked well for teachers. Classrooms practiced logging in to the platforms being used (SeeSaw and Google G-Suite) and a variety of apps (NetMath, RazKids...). Some classrooms practiced having a virtual meeting where students were asked to use tools such as muting, raising hands, chatting and using Jamboard.

Some of the “take-aways” for us were that students needed more strategies for working independently: initiating tasks, planning learning, solving problems that arise, dealing with frustration, and staying on task. Our younger students need more time and practice with basic keyboard and touchpad skills, such as gestures on the touchpad (e.g., one finger moves mouse, two fingers up or down to scroll, pinch makes it bigger, left click, right click). Logging on in general continues to be a challenge for our younger students, who need ongoing support, especially if working on a different type of device (a laptop instead of an iPad). It remains to be seen if we will need to put this into action at some point.



Parents Advisory Group (PAG) Update

We are excited to announce that our Second **Thank-a-Teacher Thursday** was even bigger than the first! A HUGE thank you to the families who supplied snacks/baking and the treasured messages to the teachers and staff. As well we were able to have our second **Pay-It-Forward Thank-A-Teacher Thursday**, we received even more snacks/baking than last week so we were able to surprise an even larger inner city school! We delivered snacks/treats to the Fifty Teachers and Staff at Victoria-Albert School. Have you seen the pictures on our PAG Facebook page?

This week will be our final week before Christmas of Thank-A-Teacher Thursday and Pay-It-Forward Thank-A-Teacher Thursday. We have also decided to stop donations on Wednesday this week (December 9th), so if you still want to donate, please login before the deadline. We are amazed at the outpouring of support from families for our teachers, we are considering starting up this initiative again in the new year. Please let us know what you think. If you missed the first two weeks, 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](#) ***Note: this week will be the final week for food donations.
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> ***Note: **Deadline for this is Wednesday, December 9th.**
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 Last Call!!

There are only **three** days left to purchase tickets! Currently we have sold 867 tickets and have raised \$4335. We are so close to reaching our goal of selling **ALL** 1250 tickets. We would really appreciate it if you would consider purchasing tickets - 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. There are three Prize Packs to be won with the draw being held on December 14th. Please login to: <https://rhs.hotlunches.net> and purchase your tickets now! **Deadline is this week, Wednesday 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

Book Fair Wrap up

Our very first attempt at doing this virtually seems to have run quite smoothly! We ended up selling 444 total books. Your orders should be arriving on your door steps any day now. Infact, they may already be part of your home libraries. At this point we aren't sure what will be available from Scholastic in the spring, but we may have the chance to host our next book fair in a similar fashion. We are very appreciative to everyone that had a chance to login and look at what Scholastic had to offer to us in this way. It was great to see so many French titles offered online. Once the numbers have been calculated, we will do some shopping for the school. If anyone has purchased items for their teachers from the wish lists, there are gift sticker inserts available at the office. Thanks again.



Lost and Found



Winnipeg Public Library Resources

The [Winnipeg Public Library](#) has made available several of their online digital resources. Anyone with a WPL membership can access the resources from their Digital Library for personal use. There are, however, some restrictions for students and teachers. Resources both students and teachers can use with their personal library card for schoolwork at home include:

- BookFLIX
- Hoopla
- McGraw-Hill eBook Library
- World Book including Encyclopédie Découverte
- Tumblebook (includes TeenBookCloud, Teen Book Cloud Jr, and Tumble Book Library)

Don't have a WPL Library Card? During Covid Red restrictions, residents of the City of Winnipeg [can apply online for a temporary membership](#). For updates on this information, please visit the [Winnipeg Public Library website](#) or be in touch through their [Ask Us](#) service.

Source: Jo-Anne Gibson of the [Manitoba School Library Association \(MSLA\)](#).