



West St. Paul School

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David Ingram – Principal

Tanya Kohut – Vice Principal

Friday, April 30, 2021

Dear Parents,

As we enter the last two months of the school year, we have great optimism. The weather has been fine and students have been outside in the schoolyard and neighborhood for many different types of learning. Students have been studying trees and branches as the tree buds swell and prepare to open. Many classrooms have been planting flowers and vegetable seeds in anticipation of the upcoming growing season. Spring is an exciting time of year!

Thanks to our parents for respecting the needs of our children in the drive through area of our parking lot. This area is not accessible during school hours. Our music, band and PE classes have regularly used this space for learning and playing games and musical instruments. Classes use the doors that exit from the gym and band rooms to this area of the parking lot throughout the day.

Please encourage all friends and families new to our area to register their children for school as soon as they are able. As our school continues to grow, we want to be sure to accommodate all families. If you are moving this year, please call the office so we can begin to prepare your child's file for the new school. Due to the continuing growth of our neighborhood, our school catchment area has changed. Streets inside the perimeter are now designated as Riverbend and Edmund Partridge for new registrations. Students who are currently attending West St. Paul School will continue to have the option of completing grade 8 at West St. Paul.

The possibility of a case of COVID entering our school is always on our minds. We continue to restrict general access to our building to students and staff. Further, we work with kids so they know which door is assigned to their cohort. We appreciate parents checking with their children and keeping them at home whenever they are symptomatic.

We expect to begin September with many similar COVID reducing strategies in place. We expect masks, hand sanitizing, physical distancing, cohorting, handwashing and more to be taking place. Classroom teachers, who know their students best, are currently looking at class lists for next year. Our goal is to put each student in a class grouping of students where their learning can continue in the best way possible. This will continue over the next two months. We know that any special needs for individual

students will have been addressed with classroom teachers already in the first eight months of the school year.

Staffing the school this year has been particularly challenging on a daily basis. The spread of COVID has affected all staff, some of whom have needed to quarantine with members of their own families. Whenever we have had teacher absences, we have always provided classroom teachers – either with substitutes, music and PE teachers, learning support teachers or administrators. We are committed to providing the best opportunities for each child every day.

For parents who pick up children at the end of the school day, we urge you to park across the street on Minnehaha and Hiawatha. Walk across the street at the streetlights and meet your child. It creates a dangerous situation for kids when parents park on the shoulder of the highway and have kids get into their car. We want to keep our kids as safe as possible.

We know the province has moved us to Critical level (red) on the Pandemic Response System and play dates and sleepovers are not allowed. We still hope you can get outdoors with your family at night and on weekends. Kids love to be outside and we have so much around us in West St. Paul to discover. Aki Centre and Sunova are open on weekends. Get outside and enjoy our beautiful community!

David Ingram Tanya Kohut

Administrators