



West St. Paul School

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David Ingram – Principal

Tanya Kohut – Vice Principal

December 15, 2020

Dear Parents,

During this last week of school before the Winter Break, we hope our families and community are well and in good health.

Last week the Province and Manitoba Education announced that in order to support the public health initiatives, grade 7-12 students would move to a two-week block of remote learning after the Winter Break. Because our grade seven students are multi-age grade 6/7 classes, all our grade seven students can continue in their regular classes at school. Only our grade 8 students will have remote learning from January 4-15 and then they will return to regular classes at school. After the Winter Break, all kindergarten to grade 7 students resume regular classes at school. If parents of kindergarten to grade 7 students would like for their children to stay home for the January 4-15 period, they should speak to their child's teacher. Kindergarten to grade four students will be able to pick up a paper package in the front of the school on January 4 and follow their teacher's Seesaw while grade 5-7 students will follow classroom work online through Google Classroom.

We continue to be successful in keeping kids and adults safe at school. We have multiple layers of protection for students and staff. We have been teaching students to physically distance, wash and sanitize their hands frequently and to wear a mask on the bus, in the school and at recess. Students have been distanced in classrooms to the maximum that space allows. Class sizes have decreased because additional teachers have been hired to reduce crowding. We have taught students to cough or sneeze into one's elbow and the beautiful fall weather has allowed learning to be taken outside. Symptomatic staff have stayed home from school and been tested. Our school building has increased airflow, improved air filtration, introduced more outside air and installed physical barriers such as Plexiglas. Sanitation at school is ongoing during the day and evening.

Parents continue to contribute to our safe school. Parents are screening their children at home each morning and any children with COVID symptoms are being kept home from school. Parents have picked up symptomatic children from school as soon as they find out their child is ill. Parents are backing up our school by reinforcing distancing, sanitizing and masking rules. When required, parents have been getting children COVID tests and isolating when told to do so by health officials.

Our success in dealing with the pandemic has been a community effort. Parents have worked together with school staff. Our school staff has been unrelenting in their efforts to keep everyone safe. Also, our school staff has been supported by our Division and governments. As we move into the New Year, we encourage our community to continue practicing the code red

fundamentals set out by the Chief Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Roussin. We look forward to resuming classes on January 4th, 2021.

We have a few staff changes happening for the new year. Mrs. Gill will be returning to her grade 3/4 multi-age class. We thank Ms Moskal for her strong work and dedication to the Early Years students at West St. Paul School this year. She will be moving to Constable Edward Finney School to continue her teaching after the break. We also bid farewell to Mrs. Oliver who has been teaching our afternoon kindergarten class. We wish Mrs. Oliver well as she will be returning to her retirement. We welcome back Mrs. Jozwiak who is returning from her maternity leave and will be teaching the afternoon kindergarten class for the remainder of the year.

With the arrival of winter weather, we expect that all children will wear indoor shoes during the day. This is both for their comfort in class and safety when running in the gym.

Due to the generous support of our community, we were able to donate \$798.36 and a bag full of gifts to the Middlechurch Home to support their Santa for Seniors program. As well, our students created over 800 Christmas and holiday cards to brighten the season for our friends at Middlechurch.

Please note that there will be a Divisional Professional Development day on Friday, January 15th.

We wish all our students, parents and community a happy and healthy holiday season.

David Ingram Tanya Kohut

Administrators