



# West St. Paul School

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David Ingram – Principal

Jenny Macdonald – Vice-Principal

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Friday, January 14, 2022

Dear Families,

We are pleased to be able to welcome all our students back to school on Monday. We understand that virtual learning and online classes is a distant second-best to being in a class with peers and a teacher at school.

We are following new provincial guidance and will no longer be sending home notices of cases of COVID-19 in the school. Instead, we will be continuing to track attendance and report large-scale absences due to illness to Public Health. We appreciate parents continuing to share with the school when their children test positive for COVID-19. Knowing this information will help us monitor illnesses in the school. Please continue to screen your child for symptoms each morning and phone the school to report when your child will be absent. The school answering machine will record messages outside of regular school hours.

We anticipate all students returning to school in-person. If families choose to keep their child at home, the child will be recorded as absent with parental consent. Students who are kept at home due to isolation or illness are recorded as such. Teachers will continue to post some assignments on their Google Classroom or Seesaw accounts, but their primary responsibility is teaching students in attendance and at school.

We are distributing Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) kits today. Parents are invited to pick up the kit for their child between 8 and 2:30. If parents choose to use the test kits, it is suggested that children be tested twice weekly, on a Sunday and a Wednesday. **Children who have symptoms of COVID-19 can not attend school even with a negative test result.** Children who become symptomatic at school will need to be picked up from school.

Children should wear the best quality mask that fits well. A three-layer, snug fitting mask is best to keep everyone safe. The school will be receiving some three-layer masks for students who do not have one, but a good fitting mask is most important. For outdoor use, please continue to send extra masks for your child because a mask does become excessively wet when running and playing in the snow.

Along with all the safety measures in place at school, children will continue to learn with their peers at school. Gym, music, and band classes will continue with safety protocols in place. Students will continue to go outside for recess daily. We will reduce the number of children eating at the same time in classrooms by sending half of the class out for recess while the other half eats in class.

We will be postponing our Professional Development day that had been planned for Friday, January 21 until later in the school year.

As we return to in-class learning, we will continue to work with families to keep all students and staff safe. We know it is best for children's learning and safety to be in school. We are looking forward to an exciting second term of learning.

David Ingram          Jenny Macdonald

Administrators