



# West St. Paul School

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David Ingram – Principal

Tanya Kohut – Vice Principal

Dear Parents,

Friday, October 16, 2020

Kids are settling in to the regular routines of being at school more and more each day. Our return to school has gone well. Teachers have been assessing student work to see where gaps in learning may have opened over the time of remote learning in the spring and are working to strengthen student skills in all areas. All classroom teachers should have been in contact with parents to have a brief conversation and we know that parent-teacher conferences will take place in less than five weeks.

We continue to work with staff and students to keep everyone as safe as possible in this time of pandemic. We appreciate parents checking their children for symptoms of COVID each day and keeping children at home if they are symptomatic. The screening tool was shared to all parents at orientation meetings last month and is available here:

[https://manitoba.ca/asset\\_library/en/coronavirus/covid19\\_screening\\_checklist.pdf](https://manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/coronavirus/covid19_screening_checklist.pdf)

The division has maximized air flow throughout the school and classroom teachers open windows to provide continuous fresh air flow in the school. Many band, music and Phys. Ed classes are taking place outside in the school yard and community. Classroom teachers continue to take their students outside for learning experiences. Please be sure that your children are dressed to spend at least part of their day outside as cooler weather arrives.

At school, children wash and sanitize their hands frequently throughout the day. They are encouraged to distance from each other by two meters. When that is not possible, we have installed plexiglass barriers on tables that seat more than one child in all classrooms. Our students are doing a good job of properly wearing face coverings in the school. We continue to encourage students to distance themselves outside and wear their face coverings. The layers of protective measures are the best way to keep everyone safe and we appreciate reinforcement of these strategies by parents at home.

There have been many individual cases of COVID showing up in Winnipeg area schools. West St. Paul School has not had a case of COVID but we are learning from other schools and we are prepared if we are contacted by Manitoba Health. Parents should be aware of steps that would be taken if a case does occur at our school. If we were alerted about a case at our school:

- 1) Manitoba Health will contact the person who tested positive and close contacts
- 2) An email would come from the school to close contacts to isolate
- 3) An email would come from the school as information to all families
- 4) Divisional staff would be called in to deep clean the school
- 5) Manitoba Health would tell the school to resume classes as normal or they would tell us to move to remote learning for a class (or classes)

For privacy reasons, Manitoba Health can not provide the school with the name of any individual that tests positive. In the case that you need to be contacted by Manitoba Health, we must have accurate contact information for all our families. Please update your phone number on Parent Connect or phone the school to have your phone number changed.

Again, the school is prepared in the event a COVID case happens. All parents should have been contacted by classroom teachers about their use of Google Classroom or Seesaw. All parents should be able to see notes sent home by teachers and work assigned to their child. If you have not spoken to your child's teacher about Google Classroom or Seesaw or if you have trouble logging in to see assignments, please phone and speak to the teacher for help.

Our Middle Years students have been enjoying riding through the neighborhoods near the school on bicycles. A safe riding instructor for the BEST (Bicycle Education & Skills Training) bike program has been at the school daily, working with and teaching students. The bikes have been provided by the division and students have been going on hour-long bike rides and practicing safe cycling.

We know many of our families enjoy and celebrate Halloween each year and it is just two weeks away. This year, classroom teachers may choose to continue to do many Halloween activities but families can NOT send in any candy or treats to the school to be shared with the class. The school will provide a treat for all students this year. If students wish, they can still dress up and, weather permitting, we will have a socially distanced costume parade around the outside of the school. Some classes may take the opportunity to walk to Middlechurch home to do an outdoor parade for residents.

As we work together to keep our students, families and community safe, we appreciate your ongoing support.

David Ingram  
Administrators

Tanya Kohut