

Hello all,

Welcome November! Unusually wet / windy, but still with a nice mild temperature. Ensure footwear & jackets are wet-proof, and items like extra socks / change of pants may be helpful if your child is one of our many who plays in puddles.

local news:

- Many have likely heard our school grounds received some pretty rotten treatment on Halloween - vandalized picnic tables, paint on front gym door and debris left all over the grounds following fireworks / social gathering. Lots of broken bottle glass still remains.
- Our school received some undue negative social media presence following the poor choices of some youth. Because this was not a school-sanctioned event, we have no report to make, but we sure inherited a lot of emotions from those affected. If there is news to report, it will come from a reputable news source. In the absence of such, please avoid social media as it is full of personal perspectives, and not always the truth.

School news:

- Halloween costume parade was great - thank you for supporting your children to share their spirit with us.
- Congratulations to leadership for creating a fabulous photo studio space, and for hosting a fun bingo game for all.
- Gr 8/9 v-ball seasons are wrapping up – thank you to all the coaches, refs & drivers. Gr 6/7 seasons will conclude early in Dec.
- Outrageous vandalism in our school – we are having to be more militant with students about being out of class for no reason (at the Beaufort Building) – both male & female group washrooms have been heavily vandalised by foreign objects stuffed into toilets backing up the entire system, marker on the wall, lighters used on hand cleaners to burn plastic ... totally unnecessary. We are facing so much damage that washrooms and changerooms have been shut a couple times – we need a better solution!!
- Many classes participated in a community outreach project by writing Thank You cards to our Health Care workers for continuing to work during the pandemic. They did a lovely job.
- We are still collecting fees, forms and verification forms – please send them in asap. Nov 12 at latest.
- Students with medical needs – it is important that we have an updated doctor letter to describe how the epi pen or any essential medication given while at school is to be used. Contact our office staff if you need a copy of the letter to go to the doctor. If you do need medication administered while at school, it must arrive in the labeled bottle and be stored in the office.
- Grade 1 students each just received a beautiful book from TD bank. Thank you!!!
- Wheels on Wednesday continues – the ADST lead teacher jut brought some teeter totters and a ramp to keep things fun – join us – helmet essential.
- Many students are participating in the Legion Remembrance Day contest (poster, poem or literary work) – parent permission form is essential if they wish to compete

- please notice the counsellor's corner article posted to our webpage - this is written by our district's two outreach counsellors and they have great ideas to share - this month was about separation anxiety, or school refusal.

How do I (you, the parent) get information?

- Your teacher is always the first place to check as he/she spends the most time with your child - for all questions about learning or child happiness, your teacher is the first stop. Book an appointment to meet with your teacher or make a phone call. Skipping this step can create problems because the issue may not be understood or known.
- if the problem is not solved following that conversation and the required time to complete the work with people, consult with school administration. They could refer you to any of our other team members who may be able to help more (counsellor, learning support, outside agency ...). All problems are unique, and it is important that the main problem is fully explored. When another person's behaviour is the problem, it is important to remember that we can only control our own behaviour, but it is helpful to hear how another's actions affect your child so school staff can follow up. Quick sharing of this information is essential, so problems do not persist unaddressed.

How can my child get help when it is needed?

- Prompt reporting of unsafe or unkind treatment is essential - all children are taught to find the closest supervisor outside (all clearly marked with hi-vis vests at recess / lunch) to seek help. This is not "snitching", or "tattling" if the goal is to stop unkind treatment. When words like that are used, usually the offender is afraid of being caught. Sometimes threats will be used too - and that is not ok. It must be reported so no one else receives the same mistreatment. If people say nothing and do nothing, the problem remains unaddressed.
- Will I be told what happened to the other kid? No - that is private between the offender and his/her family. The goal is that the behaviour stops and safety returns.
- What if it is bullying? - Bullying is an improperly used word - bullying refers to an imbalance in power between two (manipulation, coercion, sometimes physical) . The bullying word is often mistakenly used when one person is disappointed, or if someone uses their hands to work through their disappointment or gain space away (still not ok). There is one more commonly mis-labeled behaviour, "mean" behaviour – some actions children bring to the playground, are just mean – and also need to be reported, because it is unnecessary. Lots of questions are required to find out what the root of the conflict is so it can be solved. Again, involve your teacher if you suspect that your child may have a bigger story to tell if he/she comes home miserable, frustrated, or sullen. Your teacher can network with other teachers too if the problem is from outside during break time. If it is bullying, and we learn about it through the expected process (teacher first), it is taken seriously and will be dealt with.

Personal technology use at school:

- is a privilege, not a right, and it is required that the owner adheres to the district technology policy for use. No technology should be used in classrooms without the teacher's permission. As well, no one is supervising use of it outside on break time so there is a huge expectation put upon children to use it respectfully or not at all. Many classes just say no.

Pro-Active communication helps

- stay in touch with your teacher
- ask your questions and be receptive to teacher questions too - we all want the best person in your student to show up each day for a day of learning

Covid news:

- There is "no news" unless your class receives a letter (none currently in circulation) - the tracker app only gives a part of the story, so please do not overreact.
- We remain in full use of covid protocols in the school - no adults should be on site unannounced (must book appointment, sign in and wait to be admitted to your meeting space)
- Masks remain in full use by all students - we are all tiring of the pandemic - please remind your child to take care of the mask if a disposable one is required or bring a cloth one from home
- Hand hygiene remains paramount to keep the seasonal cold / flu away
- Any person who feels unwell should stay home until well enough to return. we are not permitting students to have a "lay down" in the med rooms for obvious reasons.
- Traveling over the holidays ... be sure to check out the flight / quarantine requirements first so you are not surprised.

Conference Time 😊

- you will each hear from your teachers to offer you a conference time - all will look different, and that's OK. Some are offering parent / teacher meetings. Some are offering 3-way where the child is included too. be sure to ask your teacher for what the conference will look like. All will be running on a schedule, so please be mindful of your start time / end time . If you are meeting on site, remember our COVID protocols
- sign in at the office (if no exterior door), (no visitor tags needed on conference day), use hand sanitizer, wear a mask & wait outside the classroom until your time starts.
- remember the book fair is also happening in the Perseverance Building - children will be visiting with their classes early in the week so they can share suggestions with you. It is open during school hours each day.

Communicating Student Learning:

- Formerly known as report card, now is mostly continuous - will appear either as portfolios (paper-based or electronic) with samples of learning including teacher feedback, student voice and steps to improve. Quality posts take a lot of time and communicate a lot of information so if you have only a couple to look at to start, that is OK. The other way some teachers are communicating student learning is through a written structured term end report with a personalized comment for each subject and some ways to improve also shared. Teachers make the choice how they will communicate learning to you. If you have any questions, please ask your teacher.

Calendar updates:

Nov 6 – clocks back 1h at midnight – return to standard time – extra sleep 😊

Nov 10 – gr 6 & 9 immunizations (MMR & HPV option)

Nov 10 – Remembrance Day assembly 11am (virtual)

Nov 11 – Remembrance Day holiday – no school

Nov 16 – 19 – Book Fair in library

Nov 18 – Conference Day – no classes

Nov 23 – Plant & chocolate fundraising orders due

Dec 3 – end of term 1 – Only My Ed report people will receive a report soon. Portfolio people will receive a term summary in T2 because the conference is your T1 report.

Enjoy a positive autumn! Enjoy your “extra hour of sleep” this weekend 😊