



West St. Paul School

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David Ingram – Principal

Tanya Kohut – Vice Principal

Friday, November 20, 2020

Dear Parents,

Parent-Teacher conferences are always an exciting and happy time in schools. Typically, students would have had the opportunity to share their learning and accomplishments with parents and share their classroom spaces. Well...the COVID pandemic prevented parents from coming to the school this term but through videoconferencing and telephone calls, parents were updated on the progress of their learners. Parent and teacher communication remain a strong predictor of student success and parents are encouraged to keep an open dialogue with their child's teacher.

Our Middle Years students continue to participate in Technology, Art and Sport (TAS) sessions which includes activities such as sewing, woods, drafting, guitar, piano, sports, electronics, and fiddle. Our hockey session has been cancelled for next term because hockey arenas are now closed. Whenever our students attend TAS at other schools, the students enter and go straight to their class without mingling with students from the host school.

We know schools are great places for children to be. It is the best spot for kids physical and mental health as well as being the best spot to learn. We also know that across our province there has been very limited transmission of the COVID-19 virus in schools. Our school continues to be a very safe spot for kids. This is largely due to the teaching we do in school about hand washing and hand sanitizing, social and physical distancing, getting outside often and wearing a mask. The school is also being regularly sanitized, opening windows and ventilating the building with outside air. We have hired more staff. This month we have added two additional educational assistants to help kids learn and keep them safe. We are doing everything we can to keep our students safe.

We have added to our technology at West St. Paul School. As our Smart Boards wear out, we have been replacing them with Interactive Flat Panel TV screens. So far, we have added nine 65 and 75-inch IFP screens to our classrooms. These IFP TV screens have a much sharper image than a Smartboard and are expected to last between 10-15 years. Further, we have purchased about 60 new Chromebooks for student use. This has allowed us to double or triple the access our students have to technology at the school.

Please be sure to have your children dress for outdoor weather. Our classroom teachers, music and Phys. Ed. teachers are taking classes outside often and everyone needs to be dressed to be learning outside.

We continue to receive many beautifully written notes of thanks from many parents. These notes are very much appreciated and give a boost to our staff. There are challenges all around us and we are continuing to do all that we can to keep our students and staff safe. We appreciate the work parents are doing to reinforce all the new safety protocols we have learned. Together, we will work to keep our students, staff and community safe.

David Ingram
Administrators

Tanya Kohut