



## Principal's Message

October 2020 Newsletter

As a school community, it is safe to say that this past September has been unique in more ways than one. Despite the added precautions we are taking at school—masks, staggered entrances/exits, classroom set-ups, hand washing/sanitizing—we have brought a sense of “normal” to our students which I feel is very important. It has been wonderful to see our students back to school every day eager to learn, and spend time connecting with friends and adults. Our staff need to be commended for adjusting, and adapting to this “new normal”. The nature of classroom learning has changed in our spaces, and despite this huge shift our staff have worked proactively and collaboratively to ensure our spaces are as safe as they can be.

Over the first couple weeks of school, all classes were brought down to the gymnasium individually to go over some important reminders about school rules and bottom lines, as well as what we need to do as students and staff to help limit the spread of COVID-19. In a school setting, it truly is a team effort. We need all students, staff, and families following similar guidelines in order for us all to be safe. The main points of emphasis we stressed with our students were:

- **Physical distancing:** What does 2m look like? What does 1m look like? What are respiratory droplets? Why is it important to keep our distance, and how a non-medical mask can help when we can't keep that 2m distance of separation?
- **Hand Hygiene:** How long should we wash our hands? When is it important we wash our hands? What does hand sanitizer do? Why should we avoid touching our nose and mouth throughout the day? What is the proper way to cover a sneeze or cough?
- **Face masks:** What grades are mandated to wear masks? When can a face mask be taken off? Why are face masks so important when you can't stay 2m apart? How do you put on and take off a face mask safely?
- **Staying home when sick:** What are the common symptoms of COVID-19? When you have a symptom who should you tell? Why do sick people need to stay apart from other people who are not sick? Is COVID-19 easily passed from one person to the next?

I was impressed by the questions and overall knowledge level of our students when it comes to these safety guidelines. Our students have been overwhelming compliant when it comes what we are expecting from them. They understand why we are doing it. We still need to remind our students that on breaks—when the masks may come off if they are outside or eating—physical distancing is even more important.

I would like to welcome **Alison Marttila**—Resource Teacher, **Taylor Brad**—Guidance/Grade 8 Teacher, and **Corrine Gallant**—EA to Woodlands School. We are very excited to have them join our amazing team of caring adults.

We appreciate all of the support to date from our families. At times it has been a difficult adjustment to this “new normal” but we value your feedback and follow-up when it comes to our guidelines and expectations. If you have any questions or concerns going forward please connect with someone at the school.

Yours in education,

*Tim Lee*

**PAC executive for the 2020/2021**

**School Year is:**

**Lynnette Lindell, President**

**Tara-Lee Koss, Treasurer**

**Billie Jean Oliver, Secretary**

**A meeting will be planned, however, a specific date has not been set.**

**Once information/details have been confirmed a notice will go home to all families.**

**Thank you!**



**Fundraising:**

**Show & Save:** Information will be sent home within the next week...maybe two!

As we had much success with the Gift Cards and the Shelmerdine's fundraisers, we are organizing to do the same again this year! Please look for information to be coming home in the coming weeks.



**We are looking for energetic individuals who are willing to join our PAC group. We work together to raise funds for the continued development of our playground and assist the school in various events. For more information, how to join or volunteer, please contact Lynnette Lindell @204-782-9372 or you can email her at [lynnette@lansard.ca](mailto:lynnette@lansard.ca). Thank you!**



## ***Friendly Reminders***

The following items are a few things to note as we find our way through this “new normal”:

- If your child is displaying symptoms of COVID-19, or are sick please keep them home. Refer to the Shared Health website (<https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/>) for information on screening, testing, symptoms, etc.
- During this time it is important we have current and valid contact information (email address, phone, address) for all of our families. Please login to the Parent Portal to ensure your information is valid or contact Billie-Jean at the school.
- the canteen remains closed at this time.
- as students are eating in their classrooms, there is no access to a microwave. Please send lunches that do not require re-heating. Ensure that you send forks and spoons should your child need one.
- send water bottle everyday. Students are encouraged to take their water bottles home each day to ensure proper cleaning.
- The weather is getting colder. Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the unpredictable fall Manitoba weather.

## ***Progress Conversations***

- Our first round of Progress Conversations is scheduled for the evening of Thurs. October 29th.
- Due to the pandemic and the public health guidelines around public gathering, we are figuring out whether or not the traditional format of multiple family groups coming to the school over one evening is still possible.
- We are committed to giving parents an opportunity to meet with their child’s teacher(s) to discuss the start of the year, but we may need to look at alternate ways for that to happen.
- More information will be sent home to parents via email as we get closer to the date.



# October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Day 6 K	2 Day 1	3
4	5 Day 2 K  World Teachers' Day	6 Day 3	7 Day 4 K	8 Day 5	9 	10
11	12  Thanksgiving	13 Day 6 K	14 Day 1	15 Day 2 K	16 Day 3	17
18	19 Day 4 K	20 Day 5	21 Day 6 K  Early Dismissal	22 Day 1	23 	24
25	26 Day 2 K	27 Day 3	28 Day 4 K	29 Day 5  Progress Conversations 4:30 – 7:30	30 Day 6 K  Halloween Activities	31  Happy Halloween Halloween