



# SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

## MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE

Welcome back from the longest March break ever! We're so happy to have students back in the school buildings. We hope that you and your family have kept well during the school closures and over the summer and are energized and ready to tackle this new, *drastically different*, school year. There are a significant number of changes which have been implemented to promote safety and required health measures. Please be sure to go over them with your child(ren), as we will be doing the same, quite intensively, for the first couple of weeks. Many of these new "rules" or "protocols" aren't fun and put some serious restrictions on the children, but they are required by the Ministry of Education, Public Health and the SWLSB, and are non-negotiable. Please reinforce this with your children. These changes are not being done "to them", but rather "for them" and everyone's safety.

## WHAT IS TOO SICK TO COME TO SCHOOL?

As per the public health guidelines ([click here](#)), the symptoms related to Covid-19 in children are quite varied. We are required to track and report all absences to the ministry daily, so we need all details/symptoms that your child is exhibiting.

***Please note that if your child stays home with covid-related symptoms, you must complete the Parental Declaration Form and send it in upon their return, even if it turns out to NOT be Covid-19. The form is available on our website ([click here](#)).***

Click here for the self-assessment tool which should be used by parents to determine if their child can attend school. We will be using the same tool before calling you if your child is unwell:

<https://www.quebec.ca/sante/problemes-de-sante/a-z/coronavirus-2019/guide-auto-evaluation-symptomes-covid-19/>

## OUTDOOR RECESS AND LUNCH PERIODS

While students are outside, the Government regulations stipulate that they must remain with their homeroom group. Designated areas in the yard are established for each grade level. Each homeroom will be given coloured pinnies. We would like to extend a BIG thank you to the Governing Board for allocating PPO funds for the purchase of these pinnies so that the homeroom bubbles can be easily identified.

## NEW BASKETBALL COURT

Thanks to a grant from Saputo (connected to the Grand défi Pierre Lavoie in 2019) and the Graduates of 2020, we will be installing a basketball court in the school yard in the coming days. The Graduation Committee of last year's Grade 6 cohort donated some of their fundraising efforts to this basketball court since their graduation party was cancelled. We're looking forward getting it up and running!

## STUDENT ABSENCES

If your child is feeling unwell, you must call the school office to report the absence. You are now required to report all symptoms that your child may be experiencing, as we need to track all absences for public health. If the message you leave does not have sufficient information, we will be calling you for more information. **Please do NOT use Class Dojo to report an absence.** You must leave the message with the secretary in the office. You can call 24/7 and leave a message.

MAIN BUILDING: 450.680.3033 Ext 6915  
ANNEX BUILDING: 450.680.3034 Ext 6715

Please refer to the guides published by the Quebec Government for Covid-related symptoms and what to do if your child is sick. These documents were sent in a previous email and will soon be available on our school website.

### MASK HOLDERS/LANYARDS

The Governing Board also approved the use of PPO funds to purchase safety lanyards for any students who are wearing a mask. These lanyards have clips for the ear loops of the mask and a “break-away” feature that will ensure the lanyard comes apart if pressure is applied or it snags on something. One will be given to each cycle 3 student as well as any other students who requests one. If you would like one for your child, please ask their homeroom teacher. We would ask that you please identify the lanyard with your child’s name and wash it weekly.



### DAYCARE CLOSURE

Please note that our daycare will be exceptionally closed on the September 25 Pedagogical Day in order for our educators to complete their first aid recertification. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

### USE OF TRANSPORTATION

Please note that it is NOT possible for your child to occupy both a spot on the school bus AND in our Daycare. This year, you must choose transportation OR Daycare. Students have assigned spots within the buses, so changes are not possible due to the sanitary measures in place. For example, if your child attends daycare in the morning, you must pick them up after school, they cannot take the bus, unless there is available space. Priority will be given to children requiring transportation both ways. We understand this may be inconvenient, but everything has to be more controlled this year for everyone’s safety.

### BUS SAFETY

We have received an abnormally high volume of bus tickets this year. Please remind your children, as we have, that they are to remain seated in their assigned seat, for the duration of their ride. This is required for contact tracing purposes. By changing seats, not only is it unsafe but they are putting themselves at a higher risk to get sick.

**Cycle 3 students must wear their masks in the bus and will receive a ticket if they do not follow this rule.**



### EMERGENCY PLAN: SCHOOL CLOSURE

We are currently finalizing our Emergency Plan in the event that we need to close one or both buildings. Should this be the case, online/virtual learning will be mandatory for all students (attendance will be taken).

- Please inform your child’s homeroom teacher if you will require a device for your child to participate in online learning. It is important to note that the schedules of all students will run concurrently, so you will ideally need one device per child. **Deadline to request is September 15, 2020.**
- Like last year, you will receive a copy of your child’s schedule with the recurring Zoom links for each subject.
- Teachers will be using common platforms within each grade level. The SWLSB supports the use of Google Classroom, Mozaik and MS Teams and will provide training videos for these platforms. Some of our teachers have opted to use the new Class Dojo platform. At this time, no training videos are available.

*Please note that in the event of a school closure, only those who are deemed to have been in close proximity to the person with a confirmed case of Covid-19 will be contacted by Public Health. For confidentiality reasons, the administration will never disclose the grade level, class or name of any infected member of the St. Paul Community, staff or student.*

### SCHOOL PICTURE DAYS

Our school pictures will be taken on September 16 (Annex) and 17 (Main). Pictures will be taken outdoors (weather permitting). The photographer, Photogenia Studios, will be wearing PPE and following all safety protocols. This year, we will not be taking group/class pictures, but a mosaic of your children’s homeroom classmates will be provided at no charge.

