



SOUTH MARCH PUBLIC SCHOOL

HOME OF THE PROUD, POSITIVE, POWERFUL PENGUINS

FAMILY UPDATE - FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2022

Welcome to another great week at South March!



*****A reminder that it is important to continue following recommendations from Ottawa Public Health to reduce the spread of COVID-19. This includes daily [screening for symptoms of COVID-19](#), staying home when sick, using Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) as needed, and ensuring children and youth are up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines. In addition, wearing a mask continues to be recommended when in indoor spaces.

Good afternoon SMPS Families,

Another great week at SMPS. A reminder to families that the last day of school before the Winter Holidays is **Friday, December 23. Schools reopen on Monday, January 9, 2023.** A few updates below.

Have a great weekend!

Jeff

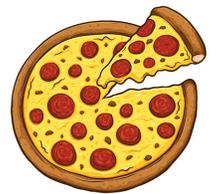
Severe Weather Protocol (see below - last page)

Over the last year we've had a few occasions when severe weather approached the SMPS neighbourhood at dismissal time - lightning strikes in the immediate area of the school. For safety reasons, we've delayed dismissal. To avoid confusion, during these rare occasions, we've created a protocol so that staff, students, and families know what to expect. In the development of this protocol school staff and School Council have been consulted and offered feedback. Please review the protocol and let me know if you have questions/feedback - jeff.gervais@ocdsb.ca

Pizza Day

Our first Pizza Day went very well - a big thank you to our School Council, parent volunteers, school staff, and our student lunch monitors for making the distribution run smoothly.

Just as a reminder to parents, we do not offer any keeping, exchanging, or transfer of the pizza slices. It's due to the large volume of pizza we have coming into the school with minimal volunteers, as well as health and safety concerns around handling and storage for leftover food. This information was provided in the ordering process and if you have any questions, you can contact schoolcouncilsmps@gmail.com.



REMINDER: Our next Pizza day is on Thursday, December 15th and there is No pizza day on Thursday, December 22 please ensure that you pack a lunch for your child.

Gym Club: If your child participates in the after school Gym Club, a reminder that there is **no gym club on Wednesday, December 21, 2022**

OCDSB BIBLIOTHÈQUE VIRTUELLE – 2022–2023: OCDSB Online FSL Resources:

Parents! There is a collection of online french resources for students K-12 - [CHECK IT OUT](#)



This week the **Global Explorers' Club** enjoyed Inaya's student presentation on the celebration of Holy. The kids were captivated by what she shared about this April tradition and the colourful photographs displayed. Our student audience had so many thoughtful questions, reflecting their enthusiasm and interest to learn more. Venturing to share experiences helps to bridge community connections among our students and our staff. We would like to extend our thanks to Inaya! With warmest thanks, T. Piché, M. Venner, & the Global Explorer Students

School Council

If there is ever a question about School Council, please reach out to the chair or co-chair of the council **Chair - Brooke:** smpscochair@gmail.com and **Co-chair - Christine:** smpscouncilchair@gmail.com



SOUTH MARCH PUBLIC SCHOOL

HOME OF THE PROUD, POSITIVE, POWERFUL PENGUINS

FAMILY UPDATE - MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2022

Welcome to another great week at South March!



SMPS Spirit Week December 19-23

Last week of cheer for the 2022 year!

Monday: Hat day. Wear a Santa/holiday hat, baseball cap, or other favourite hat.

Tuesday: Sweater Day. Wear your favourite sweater (including a decorative holiday sweater if you wish).

Wednesday: Red, White, and/or green day. Wear anything in these seasonal colours.

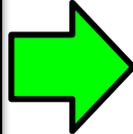
Thursday: Cosy bottoms day. Wear fleece, flannel, or any cosy pants to school.

Friday: SMPS spirit wear or blue and white.

SOUTH MARCH PS: SEVERE WEATHER PROTOCOL - IF A DELAY IS NEEDED AT DISMISSAL TIME (3:45PM)

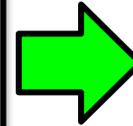
#1-Decision Process

In the case of severe and unsafe weather at dismissal time (3:45pm), P/VP will make the decision that dismissal will be delayed to ensure the safety of students and staff. Every situation will be different and the duration will depend on the weather event.



#2 -Communicate with Students/Staff

Over the school PA system a **"Shelter in Place - delayed dismissal"** will be called. Staff will know what this involves. Students can get ready for home (dressed and bags) and will return to the classroom and sit in their seats until further instructions are given.



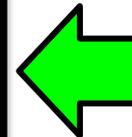
#3-Communicate with Families

We will communicate with families via email and Twitter to inform of a delayed (or potential delayed) dismissal. We will make our best effort to do this in a timely manner.



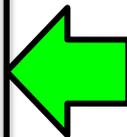
#4 -What about Parents/Guardians who are already on-site?

- We will not be able to sign out children as this will be operationally difficult and confusing
- We ask that you remain in your vehicle and wait out the storm
- If you walked to the school and require shelter we will open up the gymnasiums located at the back of the school and another gym access near the front of the school.
- Staff will guide you to shelter



#5 -When it is safe to dismiss...

- Parents/Guardians will be asked to congregate where you **normally pick up your child** - [CLICK HERE for map](#)
- Bus students will be organized inside the school and ready to board bus/vans
- Students in daycare will be released to Daycare staff (this may have been done sooner)
- All Primary and Junior Students who walk home or who are picked-up will be brought outside by their teacher to their REGULAR drop-off area.
- Walkers: Discuss with your child the plan in the case of a delayed dismissal - should they walk home or will you pick them up? **Please share with your child's teacher.**



#6 -Communication

- We will communicate to families via email/twitter that normal dismissal has resumed (unless the delay was only a few minutes.)
- A follow-up email will be sent later by the Principal to outline the reasons for the delayed dismissal