



# SOUTH MARCH PUBLIC SCHOOL

**Home of the PROUD, POSITIVE, POWERFUL Penguins**

**FAMILY UPDATE - MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2022**



Welcome to another great week at South March!

**ATTENTION: EACH DAY BEFORE SENDING YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:**

- Complete the SCREENING TOOL: [CLICK HERE](#)
- Initial the paper tracking form for each of your children

Use this OPH flowchart to understand [symptoms and isolation requirements](#)

IF YOU ARE NOT SURE IF YOU SHOULD SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL PLEASE [CALL THE MAIN OFFICE](#) (613-595-0543)  
OR [EMAIL](mailto:southmarchps@ocdsb.ca) [southmarchps@ocdsb.ca](mailto:southmarchps@ocdsb.ca)

Hello SMPS Families,

- It was an interesting first week back in-person with a significant snowfall resulting in a school closure and bus cancellations the next day but overall the transition back to in-person learning went really well. Student masks have been distributed and we were fortunate to have a few parent volunteers help with the sorting and preparation of individual rapid antigen test kits that we distributed Thursday afternoon to students. Thank you again to Lindsay Pozza, Andrea Cook and Christine Moulaison who volunteered their time.
- A reminder that Tuesday is our "Take Out Tuesday" event at Markie's Montreal Smoked Meat! If you can, consider ordering lunch or dinner. *More details are outlined in this newsletter.*
- Finally, I have been outside in the parking lot at the end of the day to observe parking and traffic flow, especially to monitor cars entering/exiting the parking lot. Thank you for your patience when exiting the parking lot.

Have a great week!

Jeff & SMPS staff

### **Daily Screening of your child:**

It is essential that students/parents and staff follow the [provincial COVID-19 screening tool](#) every morning to determine whether or not they can attend school in-person. You can also use this OPH flowchart to understand [symptoms and isolation requirements](#). If you are unsure about what to do, the office staff can help you. Please call the school 613-595-0543 or email at [southmarchps@ocdsb.ca](mailto:southmarchps@ocdsb.ca)

### **Kindergarten Information Night (virtual)**

Our virtual Kindergarten information night will be on **Wednesday, January 26 at 6:30pm** and families can join by accessing the Google Meet Link - [meet.google.com/mbz-fain-bet](https://meet.google.com/mbz-fain-bet). Have questions? Please complete the [Parent Questionnaire](#)

### **Kindergarten Registration**

Will your child be 4 years old by December 31, 2022? **Families can register for Kindergarten NOW - [CLICK HERE](#)**  
If you know of families with children who will go into kindergarten next year please let them know. If you have questions please call the school for more information.

### **School Photos:**

Our school photo date has been postponed by LifeTouch as a result of the new provincial restrictions. Monday, February 28 was the planned date. When I hear more about the rescheduled date I will share it with you.

### **WANTED! Crossing Guard for SMPS**

Our School Needs a New Crossing Guard! Work mornings or afternoons to help keep our kids safe on their way to and from school. Apply through the Ottawa Safety Council at [Crossing-Guard.ca](http://Crossing-Guard.ca)



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### **Important Dates:**

- ★ Cross Boundary Transfer requests for next school year: January 31 to February 11 2022
- ★ Middle French Immersion Registration Period: February 7 - February 11
- ★ Kindergarten registration - January 17 - January 24 and ongoing

### **From School Council - Take out Tuesday**

TUESDAY, January 25th is Take Out Tuesday and we will be ordering from Markie's Montreal Smoked Meat! All you need to do to help out is order from Markie's Montreal Smoked Meat on Tuesday, January 25th and our school will receive a portion of the proceeds! This is a great opportunity to support our penguins, support local business and have lunch or dinner made for you! Please make sure you order directly from the restaurant and mention it is for South March Public School when ordering! (Sadly, skip the dishes or uber eats orders will not count).



Contributions from this fundraiser will be going towards the Penguins Helping Penguins fund. This is a fund that can be accessed by our Principal to help out any penguin family that needs a little support during this difficult time (help with school supplies, lunches, food cards, or just some cheering up). We did some wonderful work last year and are hoping to spread even more joy this year! Families who would like to access this support can please contact Jeff Gervais. You may also support this campaign directly by making a donation (cash or cheque made out to SMPS School Council) and dropping it off to the main office.

### **Rapid Antigen Test**

On Thursday, January 20, your child was provided with two take-home rapid antigen screening kits. [Please refer to the picture to see what is coming home](#). The test kits were provided by the Government of Ontario, and are intended for use by any child that attends a publicly funded school, regardless of their vaccination status. **If your child is not at school on Thursday, homeroom teachers will provide a Rapid antigen test kit to your child on Monday, January 24.**

**The Rapid Antigen Tests have been provided proactively and are to be used when:**

- a student is [exhibiting symptoms](#) and is required to self isolate, or
- is a household contact of someone with symptoms and is required to self-isolate.
- Where an individual is [experiencing symptom\(s\)](#) and does not have access to a PCR test or RAT, the individual is presumed to have COVID-19 based on their symptoms.

### **When using the Antigen Test Kit use the following resources:**

- How to use Rapid Antigen Tests - [Manufacturer's Instructions](#).
- [Videos: Rapid antigen testing for asymptomatic students](#) (Available in multiple languages)
- Ottawa Public Health - [Frequently Asked Questions about Rapid Antigen Testing](#)

### **What to do after your test:**

- If the student receives two negative results on tests taken at least 24 hours apart they may return to attending school as usual. Even if your child tests negative, they should continue to adhere to all relevant public health guidance, such as guidance on gathering, distancing, and masking.
- A positive result on a rapid antigen screening test is considered a preliminary positive and your child should self-isolate in accordance with these [guidelines](#).



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## **Return to in-person - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW (shared last week)**

### **Masks and Mask Usage**

Schools will be distributing 3-ply cloth masks to students in schools beginning the week of January 17. Students in K-12 should wear a high quality mask that is well-fitted. In cold weather, masks worn outdoors can become damp or wet; families may wish to send an extra mask for outdoor play. For more information about mask wearing, guidelines, and recommendations, please visit Ottawa Public Health's [website](#). On Monday, every child will receive a 3-ply cloth mask. Masks are individually wrapped and we will send them home for you to see.

### **Daily Screening:**

- If your **child is ill** or **someone in your household is ill** with possible COVID - **Do not send your child to school**.
- It is mandatory that families screen their child **each morning** before sending them to school and follow the instructions provided on the provincial screener - <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>. Follow this online tool carefully.

### **Verifying that students have completed the Screening**

- Beginning on Tuesday, there will be a paper form that you will need to complete each morning indicating that you have completed the [Covid 19 Student Screening Tool](#)
- Each student will be provided with a paper copy of the screening tool in a plastic sheet protector. This will go back and forth to home/school. Parents are asked to "initial" each day that they have reviewed the online screening tool with your child. (larger image attached)

### **What if your child is ill at school?**

If your child shows symptoms while at school we will follow the guidelines from the [provincial screener](#) and have your child wait in our isolation room. Please be prepared to pick up your child if they exhibit symptoms while at school.

### **Student Attendance**

While we all recognize the value of in-person learning experiences for children and youth, we know that some families may not yet be ready to have children return to school in person. No matter the reason, ***If your child is away from school or if you require to drop-off late or pick-up early please email your child's teacher directly and/or CC to South March General mailbox [southmarchps@ocdsb.ca](mailto:southmarchps@ocdsb.ca)***. This will ensure both teaching staff and the office staff are aware of the absent, late or early pick-up. It is important to include the main office since teaching staff may not have time to check emails in the morning or throughout the day while they are reaching.

### **Learning Management System (LMS) - access to asynchronous learning "GOOGLE CLASSROOM"**

Regardless of the reason for the student's absence, students not attending school can continue to engage in learning materials **asynchronously** through their Google Classroom. Please understand that the teacher is engaged throughout the day with in-person learning and is not available to work directly with students who may be accessing the Google Classroom. Please provide time for teachers to set up their LMS during this transition back to in-person learning. Similarly, teachers are not always able to reply to emails on the same day as they are engaged in teaching throughout the day.

### **Staffing Shortages - Possibility of Class or School Closures**

Similar to other sectors in our community, schools may be impacted by staffing shortages. We will make every effort to keep classes and schools open, but if we cannot operate safely, a class or school may have to pivot to remote learning until we can arrange for appropriate coverage. If this happens, we will make every effort to advise parents the night before. **We encourage parents to have contingency plans in place and to monitor your email for updates**



# SOUTH MARCH PUBLIC SCHOOL

PARENT COUNCIL PRESENTS:



LET SMPS HELP  
WITH LUNCH or  
DINNER!

Take Out Tuesday!  
Tuesday, January 25th

SUPPORT SMPS!  
SUPPORT LOCAL!



<https://markiessmokedmeats.ca/>

(613) 592-1191

More than just Smoked Meat!  
Burgers, Coleslaw, Chicken, Salad, Poutine, Cake!

On Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>  
order from  
**Markie's Montreal Smoked Meat**  
and part of the proceeds will go  
back to SMPS, supporting  
*Penguins Helping Penguins!*

*Located near the school on Klondike  
(in the Shopper's Plaza)*

**PLEASE MENTION IT IS FOR  
SOUTH MARCH PUBLIC SCHOOL  
WHEN ORDERING!**

**PLEASE order directly with the restaurant -  
other delivery services will not count  
(skipthe dishes, Uber eats)**