



SOUTH MARCH PUBLIC SCHOOL

Family Update - Monday, November 23, 2020

Proud, Positive, Powerful Penguins

Welcome to another great week at South March!

Parents are required to screen their children daily for symptoms of COVID-19 **BEFORE SENDING THEM TO SCHOOL.** Use this [online tool](#) provided by Ottawa Public Health to **do daily screening.** We need to all work together, to ensure our school remains safe.

Good Morning! Sunday's forecast looks like snow and potentially messy weather. I would like to take this opportunity to share some information.

Transportation: Any decision to cancel transportation due to weather will be communicated by 6:15am Monday morning. **OCDSB and OCSB (English) schools will remain open.** Students who are dropped off must be picked up at the end of the day. For more information check the OSTA website: [Inclement Weather](#)

Staircase: In **ZONE #1** (Sandhill Rd drop-off/pick-up) you may have noticed that half the staircase has been chained off. This is to help with winter maintenance. *The staircase will remain open in the winter to support drop-off and pick up procedures.*



REMINDER: Drop-off/pick-up Zones

- The process for morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up remains the same in the winter. On inclement weather days your child will proceed to their normal pick-up/Drop-off Zone
- We do anticipate that more parents will drop-off /pick up their children by vehicle on inclement weather days. During drop-off (9:00 - 9:20) and pick-up (3:30 - 4:00) **THE SCHOOL PARKING LOT IS ONLY OPEN TO FAMILIES in Kindergarten and Grade 1 - as per the original plan.**
- There is no parking/drop-off or pick-up on Klondike Rd.
- **BUS/VANS:** If your child takes the bus/van and transportation is cancelled - Parents can pick up their children in the designated zones (see map)

→ **Kindergarten - Grade 1 (and older siblings): ZONE #2:** School Parking lots

→ **Grade 2 - Grade 6: ZONE #1 (Sandhill Rd)** park and meet your child at the top/bottom of the stairwell. **DO NOT PARK IN THE MAIN PARKING LOT**

Staff Updates

As you may know, our VP, Heather MacAskill has been on leave since last March. At the end of August, Barb Martinez, a retired Principal, was hired to replace Heather. Barb's last day of work will be on Monday, November 30th. I would like to thank Barb Martinez for her amazing support over the past few months and for being instrumental with the smooth start up here at South March PS!

I am very happy to announce that Meghan Schuler, our current LST, will be moving into the role of Acting-VP beginning on Tuesday December 1st. This will be a great transition as Meghan is already familiar with the students, staff, parents and the school facility.

Winter Break

You may have seen news reports that the Ontario government was reviewing whether to extend the winter break. The Education Minister confirmed that "an extended winter holiday is not necessary at this time." **OCDSB schools will have the last day of classes on December 18th and will re-open to students on January 4th, 2021**



Winter clothing/Indoor shoes

COVID has required us to review how we will manage jackets, boots, hats, mitts, etc at school this winter. The first step has been to look at ways to spread students out in the hallways when transitioning to/from the school yard. The second step is examining how we will reduce potential clutter and touch points by ensuring students' clothing/items are limited and neatly stored when not in use. [Here is what we will be doing - thank you for your help reinforcing these guidelines with your child\(ren\)](#)

- ★ Indoor shoes can remain at school. Shoes are stored inside a designated cubby or on the top rack of their designated space when not used... never on the floor
- ★ Students have/or will soon have a designated spot to hang their outside clothing
- ★ Students will use their school bags to store their hats/mitts during the day (and not on the floor)
- ★ Students need to continue to limit personal effects brought to class: Students are only to bring essentials to school (shoes, lunch bag and school work as needed). We need to reduce unnecessary items as we do not have a lot of space. No toys, games, extra materials, extra sweaters, etc
- ★ At the end of the day all items must be taken home. There cannot be anything left in the hallways, hooks etc *(with the exceptions of indoor shoes and change of clothing for kindergarten students)*



Virtual Book Fair

Our Virtual Book Fair continues until November 27. This is a great time to purchase books for Christmas. The school will receive 20% of the purchases and the money raised will be invested back into the school library collection. Check out the Promotional Video - [CLICK HERE](#). For more information check out the information attached to this update...If you have any questions please contact our library technician - megan.venner@ocdsb.ca



Progress Reports:

Progress Reports were made available on **Friday, November 20th** by accessing the OCDSB Parent Portal. If you do not know how to access the report card from the Parent Portal please review the instructions - <https://ocdsb.ca/cms/one.aspx?portalid=55478&pageid=32536398>

Elementary Parent-Teacher Interviews

Elementary Parent-Teacher Interviews will take place after school on **Thursday November 26th between 4:30pm - 7:30pm**. Teachers will conduct interviews by phone or Google Meet. Watch for and email with more information from your child's teacher to schedule an interview. Teachers have 2.5 hours available for interviews because of the reduced time for interviews this year. As a result **teachers will be unable to meet with all families on Thursday evening**. Our teachers remain committed to informing you about your child's progress throughout the year. While not all students will require an interview at this time, if you have any questions related to your child's progress after reading their progress report, you can contact your child's teacher for more information.

Some tips to help parents prepare:

- Spend some time in advance thinking about what you want to know about your child's performance;
- Write down your questions
- Talk to your child before the interview and find out what he or she enjoys most about school and if your child has any worries or concerns to address with the teacher.
- Learning is a partnership and we encourage you to continue to be involved in your child's education