



SOUTH MARCH PUBLIC SCHOOL

Family Update - Monday, October 12, 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.

WE NEED YOUR HELP !

It is very important that students arrive to school on time. **Please ensure that your child arrives at school by 9:10 a.m.**

- **Supervision on the yard ends and all exterior doors lock automatically at 9:15 a.m.**
- If you and/or your child arrive on school property at 9:15 a.m. the only access is via the main entrance.
- Parents/guardians will have to accompany their child to the main entrance and ring the doorbell camera to sign them in.

Our Next School Council Meeting/Elections:

- Our next School Council meeting and Elections will be held on **Wednesday, October 14 at 7:00 p.m.** Elections will occur at 7:45 pm (Nominations are due by 7:30 p.m. on October 14)
- The meeting will be a virtual meeting using Google Meet and the invitation/link will be shared with the school community closer to the date of the meeting. Checkout the Instructions on how to use google meet is below - [A Guide to Google Meet -School Council.pdf](#)
- On Tuesday I will send a Google meet link to families to access.

QUESTIONS? In preparation for our first school council meeting on Wednesday, October 14, I would like to prepare a Principal report that will inform the school community and answer your questions. Please take the time to post your question/wonderings. **Please do so by Tuesday at 2:00pm.** Thank you in advance for your input! **To access the form go here: <https://forms.gle/NejEhoxyZjdQuPcD6>**

Elections - Nominations:

- If you or if you know someone who is interested in becoming a VOTING member of the South March PS School Council you can submit a self-nomination or nominate someone.
- Self- Nomination Form: [School Council Parent Self Nomination Form \(2\).pdf](#)
- Nomination Form: [School Council Parent Candidate Nomination Form \(1\).pdf](#)
- Complete the nomination form and send it to the school council chair at smpscouncilchair@gmail.com before **October 14 at 7:30 p.m.**



Here is Mr Jason who is part of the Kinder Kindness Crew. Mr Jason is replacing Mr Cody while on paternity leave! A big thank you to our Custodial team at SMPS for keeping our school very clean!

Collecting Student Belongings - *LAST CALL*

We still have some student belongings/items in storage that were not picked up last June when we had our student belonging pickup days. We would like to provide one last opportunity for you to collect your child's belongings (if applicable) If this applies to you please submit your request by **the end of the day MOnDay** using this google form - <https://forms.gle/25NQUnkrkWQDDWkG9>. We will do our best to find the items. We will then contact you by email or phone to arrange pickup. If you have questions please contact our Vice-Principal at barbara.martinez@ocdsb.ca

COVID-19 Screening Tool for School - *UPDATED*

- At the school level, determining if students have COVID symptoms is a difficult and complex situation and OCDSB will continue to follow the [OPH screening tool](#) (*that has now been updated*) as well as the [school decision guide](#) (*that has not been updated and there may be a few changes coming*)
- There is also a new [Attestation for Return to School/Childcare for Students Following Illness](#) that we will be using moving forward

Below is a summary of the COVID-19 Quick Decision Screening Guide

If any ONE of the following symptoms occur, your child should NOT attend school today and should get tested for COVID-19 as soon as possible.

- Fever (temperature 37.8°C/100.0°F or higher);
- Chills
- Cough (more than usual if chronic cough) including croup (barking cough, making a whistling noise when breathing) not related to other known causes or conditions; (for example, asthma, reactive airway
- Shortness of breath (dyspnea, out of breath, unable to breathe deeply, wheeze, that is worse than usual if chronically short of breath) not related to other known causes or conditions (for example, asthma)
- Decrease or loss of smell or taste (new olfactory or taste disorder) not related to other known causes or conditions, (for example, nasal polyps, allergies, neurological disorders);

If any ONE of the following symptoms presents, your child should stay home for at least 24 hours from when the symptom started. If TWO or more symptoms are present, your child should NOT attend school today and should get tested for COVID-19 as soon as possible.

- Sore throat (painful swallowing or difficulty swallowing) not related to other known causes or conditions;
- Stuffy nose and/or runny nose,(nasal congestion and/or rhinorrhoea) not related to other known causes or conditions;
- Headache that is new and persistent, unusual, unexplained, or long-lasting not related to other known causes or conditions
- Fatigue, lethargy, muscle aches or malaise (general feeling of being unwell, lack of energy, extreme tiredness, poor feeding in infants) that is unusual or unexplained, not related to other known causes or conditions (for example, depression, insomnia, thyroid dysfunction, anemia);
- Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea, not related to other known causes or conditions. If vomiting and/or diarrhea are present, your child should stay home for at least 48 hours from when the symptom started.

Adapted from the OPH Covid Screening Tool, this is a quick decision guide only. Please consult OttawaPublicHealth.ca for complete details and the most up to date information.

Social Networking and Online Safety Webinar for Students

There will be a session for grades 4 to 6 on Wednesday, October 14th, at 7:30 p.m. The OCDSB will also be livestreaming the session on our YouTube channel. This will allow for all families to join once the maximum capacity for the Zoom webinar is met. Students in both In-Person Learning and Remote Learning are welcome to attend.

- Please click the link below to join the Zoom webinar:
<https://ocdsb.zoom.us/j/95558780476?pwd=eUpJSFNGazZsa1dSRk56dEMrdDh2Zz09>
- Once we have reached capacity, you will be able to join using the streaming link below. Livestream Link:
<https://youtu.be/bLBS99jMU9A>



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FYI: Last stage of consultation on the High Performance Athletic Program

The OCDSB is collecting feedback about the High Performance Athletic (HPA) program offered in High School. Staff, students and parents have until October 16th to complete the survey. The survey link can be located at:

https://ocdsb.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8lgtDLlxv824FJH

FYI: Parent Involvement Committee - Membership Campaign

We are currently seeking applications for membership to the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC). Interested parents should use the online application form to apply. **Submissions are due no later than 4:00 pm on Friday 30 October 2020.**

What is the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)?

The PIC is an advisory committee to the Board, similar to a school council, but at the Board level. The Ministry of Education describes the role of the PIC as follows: PICs are an important advisory body that operate as a direct link between parents and a board's director of education and its trustees. Where school councils focus on the local school and community, Parent Involvement Committees (PICs) participate at the board level and focus on things that affect more than one school. PICs and school councils encourage parent involvement in their children's learning in support of student achievement and well-being.

Parent Involvement Committees build parent engagement by:

- providing boards with advice on parent engagement and how to communicate with parents;
- developing strategies and initiatives to help boards engage more parents in their children's learning at home and at school;
- sharing information with, and supporting the work of, school councils within the boards.

If you have any questions please contact Nicole Guthrie, Manager of Board Services, at nicole.guthrie@ocdsb.ca

Have you seen our Family Handbook? [CHECK IT OUT: SMPS Family Handbook 2020-2021](#)