



# SOUTH MARCH PUBLIC SCHOOL

Family Update - Monday, October 26, 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.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We would like to hold a Spirit Day on **Friday, October 30th**. We would like to offer students some modified Halloween activities while keeping with the necessary COVID protocols. As with all school Spirit Days, **this is an optional activity and families may choose whether or not their child participates.**

**If you choose to have your child participate here are the guidelines to follow...The overall goal this year is to keep things simple!**

- Students may choose whether to wear a costume, or a combination of orange and black clothing, or their regular clothing.
- In keeping with COVID protocols, we are asking that students wear only their **usual COVID-related masks**
- Wear a **SIMPLE costume - no Halloween masks, no make-up, no props/accessories** - so that we can reduce touch points, students will not feel any increased need to touch their faces or to remove their COVID masks to check how they look.
- Daily lessons will continue, and students will have their regular outdoor physical education and recesses, **so durability should be a consideration when selecting a costume.**
- Students will remain with their own class throughout the day - there will not be any gatherings such as assemblies or whole school parades.
- If choosing to wear a costume, **students should arrive at school in their costume because we cannot have extended gatherings in the washroom for changing into and out of costumes.**
- As usual, **no weapons and no replica weapons are permitted**
- In keeping with our allergy-safe policy of not sharing food, parents are reminded that they should only send food for their own child(ren).
  - **Do not send candy, food or other non-food items for distribution in the class**
  - Parents could send a fun lunch for your child filled with orange, black, and green foods, send a clementine orange with a jack-o-lantern face drawn with sharpie on the peel, or a napkin with a halloween drawing on it...



## **Off Property Permission Form:**

To create a few more outdoor learning / physical education options we would like to access the two parks that are adjacent to the school property. **[Juanita Snelgrove Park \(directly behind the school\) & Brookshire Park \(across the street \(Klondike Rd\) in front of the school.](#)**

- Access would be anytime throughout the 2020-2021 school year during school hours and supervised by staff.
- To be able to do this we need you to provide permission for your child. **Please complete the online permission form for each of your children - [Form 122 -- Trip Participation](#)**
- If you have technical difficulties completing the form please contact [Heather.Nichols@ocdsb.ca](mailto:Heather.Nichols@ocdsb.ca)

## Extra Shoes, Mitts, and Hats - **UPDATES**

- **Indoor shoes/rain boots:** with the changing weather, students can bring a change of shoes to school however,
  - a. they need to be able to tie them/put them on independently
  - b. shoes must be taken home each day
- Please note there is currently no requirement that students have a pair of indoor shoes. If they are wearing a good quality outdoor shoe that they can also wear inside your child can continue to do this.
- **Hats/Mitts:** These items must be stored inside your child's school bag during the day when not in use so that we can reduce clutter/touch points inside the school. We appreciate your help with explaining to your child where to put their hats and mitts when not in use (for example, a dedicated pocket in their school bag)



## Individual Education Plans (IEP):

Families with students who have an IEP will receive a copy on **Monday, October 26th**. We will send paper copies home in a sealed envelope. **THIS YEAR, THERE IS NO REQUIREMENT TO SIGN AND RETURN THE IEP TO SCHOOL.** If you have questions about the IEP please contact with your child's homeroom teacher and/or our LST [Meghan.Schuler@ocdsb.ca](mailto:Meghan.Schuler@ocdsb.ca)

## Progress Reports:

Teachers will begin to prepare Progress Reports soon that will be available for parents to access via the parent portal on November 20th. The process of retrieving the progress reports will be shared with you later in November. **Paper copies of the Progress report will not be sent home.** The purpose of the progress report is to provide you with a quick update on your child's progress.

## Parent/Teacher interviews in November:

There will be parent-teacher interviews in November. I do not have any information about this yet. Once we know the dates and format I will share the details with you.



## School Council Meeting

The next meeting is on **Tuesday, November 10th at 7:00pm** using GOOGLE MEET. The link will be sent out a few days before. All parents/Guardians welcome. If you have questions about the council please contact [smpscouncilchair@gmail.com](mailto:smpscouncilchair@gmail.com)