



SOUTH MARCH PUBLIC SCHOOL

Family Update - Sunday, October 4, 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.

COVID-19 Screening Tool for School

You may have heard that the Province has changed the criteria for individuals who may need a COVID test. This is what I know at this time:

- 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.
- At home please use the new OPH [online tool](#) to help determine if your child should stay home from school and get tested for COVID. If you are unsure I encourage you to call the school and we will help you out
- *Schools are still waiting for new guidelines to follow (from the OCDSB and OPH). For now we will use the information that is available to us and work through this together.*

Arriving to School/Leaving School

- **MORNING:** Please ensure that your child arrives at school by **9:10 a.m.** If students arrive onto school property at this time they have adequate time to enter their designated doorway and access their classroom.
- **END OF DAY:** We will continue to dismiss students starting at **3:35 p.m.** This process has been working very well and thank you to everyone for using the designated ZONES for drop-off/pick-up. Drop-off/Pick-up zones - [CLICK HERE](#)

Zone #1 (Sandhill Rd) - IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE

- When dropping off/picking up your child(ren) off on Sandhill Rd and you are parking across the street from the sidewalk, please walk your child across the road to ensure they cross safely onto the sidewalk and school property.
- If possible, please park on the sidewalk side of the road to avoid having to cross the street.
- Also, supervision staff will not be supervising the street. Please walk to the stairwell (and ideally proceed down the stairs) when picking up your child(ren)
- Thank you for ensuring our penguins arrive and leave SMPS safely!



Preventing COVID: It is important that we continually support and educate our children on how to keep safe and prevent the spread of COVID. I am sharing this resource with you for your reference.

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/sch/09/covid-19-ipac-school-children.pdf?la=en>

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](#)

School Council Structure: The School Council has at least 5 elected members on the executive. The positions held by the executive include: **Chair, Vice or Co-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, and Members at large**

*****Any parent/guardian can attend South March School Council meetings - you do not need to be a voting member to attend!**

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, save to your computer and send it via email to the school council chair at smpsCouncilChair@gmail.com before **October 14 at 7:30 p.m.**

Revised School Council Election Procedure

There is a revised school council election procedure that families with students attending in-person and virtual school should be aware of. For the 2020-2021 school year OCV parents are allowed to be non-voting members, or where insufficient in-school parent candidates have put themselves forward for established school council positions continue to be allowed to be Voting or Executive member of the school council at their children's home school. Please see the information below and the revised procedure - [Revised PR 509 SCO - School Council Elections, Constitution And By-Laws.pdf](#)

Fire Drills

This week we will have our first fire drill. Due to COVID restrictions we will not be evacuating the whole school at the same time, rather we will practice evaluating the school in smaller zones. **Our goal is to have our first fire drill on Tuesday.**

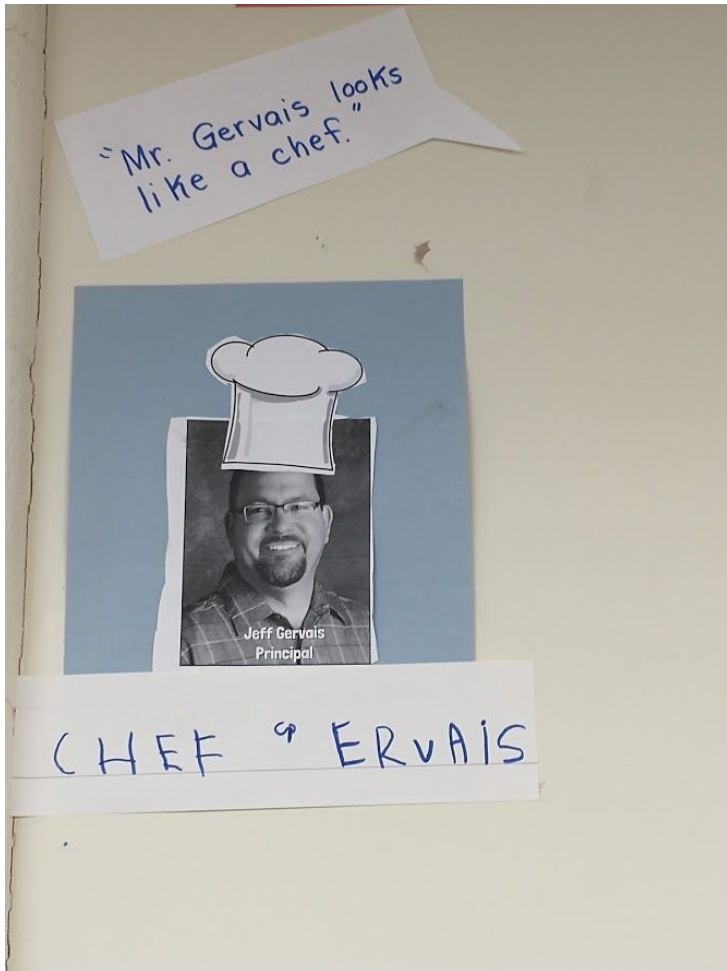


Have you completed these forms yet?

- **Use of Technology Form**
- **Media Consent Form**
- **Plan of Care For Students With Life Threatening Medical Conditions Form (if applicable)**
- **Contact Information Verification forms** were sent home last week (paper copy). Please review and send any changes back to the school so that we have your most recent information on file.

School Photos

In keeping with current COVID protocols for physical distancing and preserving access to schools for staff and students only, OCDSB elementary schools will not be offering school photographs for the time being.



Apparently in Kindergarten, students think I look like a chef...I am not sure what characteristics make me look like a chef??? I will need to investigate this more :)

Student Accident Insurance

Creating a caring and safe environment for our students is our top priority. Unfortunately, despite all reasonable precautions being taken, accidents can still happen. Some injuries may result in medical, dental or other expenses that are not covered by provincial health care or employer group plans. As a parent/guardian, you become responsible for these expenses. Student accident insurance is available for purchase, on a voluntary basis, through Reliable Life Insurance Company. Parents may apply online at www.insuremykids.com or forms may be downloaded at www.binks.ca. The OCDSB encourages all parents/guardians to consider purchasing this insurance. The accident insurance coverage options range from \$17.00/year to \$33.00/year. This coverage is for the entire calendar year and also applies to accidents that occur outside of school hours. If you have any questions, please call Binks Insurance Brokers directly at 613-226-1350.

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