



St. Francis Newsletter

October 27, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Good day to all our parents! The newsletter has lots of information at your fingertips.

St. Francis students and staff participated in a COVID-friendly **Terry Fox Run** on Monday, September 28. Students walked/ran for 26 minutes to represent the kilometres that Terry Fox ran daily 40 years ago. He had hoped to raise \$1.00 for each Canadian. He was unable to complete his run across Canada but his legacy continues. Thank you to the wonderful donations of the St. Francis families and staff, resulting in a donation of \$315.45 to the Terry Fox Foundation.

First Communication: The First Communication was completed for the first time in our data system and was posted on the [Parent Portal](#) on October 21. If you have not been able to get into the portal to see your child's First Communication, please call the office for support (819)826-3737 extension 11801.

Halloween arrives at the end of the week. Each class will be doing something special on this day. We encourage the students to dress up in costumes. We ask that a costume does not cover the eyes of the child and that no child brings in anything related to weaponry. Due to the Anastasia Law no one is permitted to have play knives, guns or anything related to a weapon. We look forward to many little ghosts and goblins at school on Friday, October 30.

Books to Belly... ONLINE! Free online Storytime & Cooking activity for St. Francis families

We're pleased to share with you a fun online activity to enjoy with your child, offered by Literacy in Action to families in the St. Francis community. During the 1-hour workshop, you and your child will enjoy a virtual story-time session and then cook a recipe inspired by the story. Workshops will be on Thursdays from 6pm – 7pm on ZOOM* starting on **November 5th** and runs for 5 weeks. All ingredients and supplies are provided and will be delivered to you ahead of time. Spaces are limited! Reserve your spot today by calling Literacy in Action at 819-346-7009.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS: Online Reading Buddies for Kindergarten families



We are looking for volunteers to buddy up with a Kindergarten family from St. Francis, ADS or Drummondville Elementary and read a story to them in English once a week over the ZOOM platform. Reading sessions will be on Wednesdays or Thursdays in the late afternoon or early evening (according to your availability). Support and training is provided, including how to use the online platform! Contact Siu-Min or Geneviève for more information or to sign up (819-826-3702 ext. 24026 or richmondclc@etsb.qc.ca). The Volunteer Orientation session will take place on November 4th at 6:30pm over ZOOM. Kindergarten families will receive a letter soon to sign up.

\$500 to TAKE COMMUNITY ACTION: Community microgrants now available

A poster for 'OUR VITAL COMMUNITY MICROGRANTS' with a background image of a bridge. It features a yellow circle with '\$500 TO TAKE ACTION FOR OUR COMMUNITY' and a list of eligibility criteria. The text includes: 'MICRO-SUBVENTIONS POUR LA VITALITÉ COMMUNAUTAIRE D'EXPRESSION ANGLAISE', 'MORE INFO: <http://richmondhigh.etsb.qc.ca/community>', 'WHO & WHAT IS ELIGIBLE:', 'projects or activities that support the health & well-being of the English-speaking community', 'open to citizens, community groups, schools and community organizations', 'benefits citizens of the MRC Val-Saint-François and/or the MRC des Sources', 'DEADLINE TO APPLY: November 15, 2020*', and '*Applications will be considered on a weekly basis as they are received'.

If you had \$500 to make a positive change in your community, what would you do? \$500 microgrants are now available to individuals or organizations wishing to undertake a project or activity that supports the health & well-being of the English-speaking communities in the MRC Val-Saint-François and MRC des Sources. Projects can also receive the support of a CLC Community Development Agent. If you have an idea but need some help putting it into action, contact us we would love to help! For more info, visit <http://richmondhigh.etsb.qc.ca/community/community-vitality-partners/> or contact Siu-Min (richmondclc@etsb.qc.ca) or Geneviève (adsclc@etsb.qc.ca).

Parent-Teacher Interview Date: On Thursday, November 19 we will be holding a virtual parent-teacher interview evening. A letter will be sent home next week. Please select a time block when you are most accessible to meet with your child(ren)'s teacher(s) via Zoom. It will be a great way to increase comfort levels for all of us using this tool. The teachers look forward to meeting you online on November 19th. Please save the date.

The Sursaut Dance Company will be at St. Francis on November 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26. This event is partially funded by a ministry grant and by the annual Cheese fundraiser that is presently taking place at St. Francis. The Artist in the School event has been granted approval by the ministry and the artists will be following all hygiene protocols. At each workshop the students will be invited into the world of dance, of movement and of choreographic creation. We look forward to working with the Sursaut Dance Company.

Arrival and departure from school: It is extremely important that you send in a note or email the school the morning that there is a change in the manner in which your child is being picked up or dropped off. Last minute requests are very stressful and make it difficult to reach all staff involved. We thank you in advance for your prompt and well timed communication.

Please note that if you are dropping off your children at school, it should not be before **8:35 am**. Our teachers are not on duty until this time. The bell rings at **8:43 am**. If you have a time constraint in the morning that requires an earlier drop off, we do have a Daycare that opens at 7:00 am.

As well, the school day ends at 3:20 pm. As we have many more children being picked up by car at the end of the day, we ask that you get into the line-up on a first come-first serve basis, on Lorne in the parking area beyond the row of large trees. As well, it is very crowded and can become dangerous if cars choose to park in the no parking zone. The buses are loaded first then cars are waved into the horseshoe in front of the school. Your child will be positioned on a blue dot waiting until the cars stop, then your child will be sent to your car. Your help to ensure a safe pick up is very much appreciated.

Parking on Lorne Street: Please respect the parking signs on the street in front of the school. Residents **MUST** be able to enter and exit their driveways at all times.

Parents who are walking to the school to meet their child are asked to wait near Door 1, ensuring that you are wearing a facemask and respecting the 2 metre

distance from other parents. Students who are walking home with or without a parent are dismissed at 3:18 pm before the buses arrive to reduce congestion in the school yard.

The **DAYCARE** is an active and caring environment thanks to our Daycare Educators, Valerie Guenette, Sarah Oakley and Tammy Provis. Due to COVID -19, Planning Days are only available to those students who are registered on a regular basis at Daycare. The next planning day is November 20th. If you have any questions related to our Daycare, please email: stfdaycare@edu.etsb.qc.ca.

Visitors are not permitted on the school buses: Bus space and COVID-19 restrictions prevent your child from make arrangements to take a bus home to a friend's house. Bus transportation is to and from school and home only.

School Fees: You can now pay online. The Consumable Fee Form was posted on the portal the first week of October. The deadline to pay your consumable fees is November 27, 2020. Call the school to arrange a payment plan if it is difficult to pay by this date.

COVID – 19 Contingency Plan

COVID -19: If your child receives a positive COVID-19 result, kindly inform your child's school on weekdays @ (819) 826-3737 extension 11801.

If your child receives a positive test result on a weekend, please contact the school board directly at 1-833-381-1196.

This allows us time to close classrooms, and investigate close contact on the bus. By informing us, you help us to make the appropriate follow up. Please note that all cases are managed in a confidential manner.

In the event of a COVID-19 Shutdown (a class or the whole school) the following chart is the expected amount of instruction provided virtually per week. If we go into shutdown, the ministry have prescribed a set of hours for synchronous and asynchronous instruction. Synchronized instruction is online learning with a teacher. We will be using Zoom to do this. Asynchronous is offline time where students are working independently on school work assigned by the teacher.

Minimal requirements for online instruction:

	Number of teaching hours per week (synchronous)	Number of autonomous work hours per week (asynchronous)	Number of hours of teacher availability per day
Preschool	11.5 - group activities	2	N/A
Cycle 1	10.5	3	2.5
Cycle 2	13	5	2
Cycle 3	13	5	2
Sec 1 to 3	15	7.5	5 (per week)
Sec 4 to 5	15	7.5	5 (per week)

At shutdown, your child's teacher will send home via email the scheduled time per day for your child's virtual class, independent work, as well as office hours (where applicable). The schedule you will receive has been designed so that different grade levels meet at different hours, as we know in some locations band width could be problematic.

If we receive notification that shutdown is deemed necessary, students will be sent home with their technological device (where applicable), all their personal possessions, passwords for on line sites being used by the class, workbooks in anticipation of going to virtual learning within 24 hours. Teachers and students will be practicing Zoom lessons on line over the next few weeks to help increase the comfort level in the event of a shutdown. To help prepare, please click here for the [virtual class norm list](#). Please review these with your child.

If you experience technological difficulties, the following link will take you to ETSB contact information and tools that can help solve the problem: <https://sites.google.com/edu.etsb.qc.ca/ict>

Perfection Gourmet Cheese Fundraiser: The annual cheese fundraiser is a great way to help cover the cost of events at school such as Geordie Productions (February 24 @ 1:00 pm) and the Artist in the School Project which takes place this November (information on The Sursaut Dance Company is provided above). The Perfection Cheese orders are due on line by November 4. An error was detected

with some of the product codes and an email was sent with corrections. We look forward to seeing you between 5:00 and 8:00 pm on December 3rd to pick up your cheese orders.

Fire Drills and Lock Downs: At the beginning of a school year it is important to practice fire drills and lockdowns. We have held the required three fire drills. In mid-November we will be practicing a school lockdown.

Unpredictable Weather: As the weather is fluctuating from warm to cool, rainy, or snowy, please ensure your children are prepared for what Mother Nature has to offer, such as mitts, a hat, a fall coat, a rain coat, splash pants, and/or a scarf.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **October 8:** Perfection Cheese & Gourmet Products Fundraiser was launched
- **October 21:** First Communication was posted onto the parent portal
- **November 4:** Perfection Cheese Fundraiser on line orders due today
- **November 5:** Governing Board meeting via Zoom @ 6:00 pm; Books to Belly(virtual) 6:00 pm
- **November 11:** Remembrance Day (in class activity)
- **November 15:** Our Community Microgrants application deadline
- **November 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26:** The Sursaut Dance Workshops for all students
- **November 19:** Virtual Parent-Teacher interviews via Zoom between 3:45 – 9:00 pm
- **November 20:** Planning Day; Daycare open to all students in regular attendance.
- **November 27:** School Consumable Fee and Supervision Payment deadline
- **December 3: Perfection Cheese Delivery (pick up at school 5:00 – 8:00 pm)**
- **December 4:** Planning Day
- **December 22:** Last day of classes before the December Break
- **January 5:** Planning Day
- **January 6:** First School Day in 2021
- **January 22, 2021:** Term 1 Report Card
- **February 24 @ 1:00 pm:** Geordie Productions presents “ “When Stars Come Together” (virtually or in person depending on the status of the pandemic)

Sincerely,

Louise Retchless, Principal