

March Newsletter
March 15, 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope that everyone had an enjoyable March break. It was a little cold on many of the days but we did have a warmer February than usual. I hope you took advantage of the offer to use the cross-country ski area over the break.

It was a step in the right direction to receive the announcement that we were going back into an orange zone. There are some new protocols that go with this but thankfully our little ones in grade 1-4 won't have to wear a mask in class, as was originally stated before the holiday. We have to hope the COVID numbers stay down and the vaccination roll out goes smoothly, so that we can experience less sanitation protocols by the spring. Please note that Public Health is changing some protocols over the next two weeks. The official changes are sent out to all families through the Communication Department at the Eastern Townships School Board.

The latest changes have to do with extra-curricular sports. Our PE teacher will be providing a schedule for outdoor sports' activities over the recess blocks three days a week. Beginning on March 26, a sport's activity can include a double bubble (members of two class groups). However, only a maximum of 8 participants plus a coach may participate together indoors, and 12 participants plus a coach, if playing outdoors. To maximize the number of participants we will continue to have students participate within their class bubbles, and when both groups are permitted without limited numbers, we will open up the games to include competition between classes. We are hoping this will be soon.

Registration Process: Thank you all for registering your child in a timely manner permitting us to be able to plan ahead for next year. If you have a kindergarten-aged child who has not yet been registered, please make an appointment with the school secretary at (819) 826-3737. At this time our Kindergarten age-four year old program is full.

Gaga Ball Pit:

We are looking forward to the month of April when the snow is melted and the installation of the Gaga Ball Pit can begin. Google it to see what it will look like. It will be a nice addition to the choice of activities to participate in at recess, lunch, during PE classes and at special events.

LOCAL Exam Schedule: The Term Three end of grade 6 exam period for your child will be local exams. All provincial exams have been canceled for this year only. We will provide you with the dates of the local exams in the next few weeks. Please ensure that your child is at school during these time periods unless he/she is unwell.

Please note that each term is weighted differently this year. Term 1 is worth 35% and Term 2 will be worth 65%. There are only two terms this year rather than three.

Extra Academic Support: The Ministry of Education has provided some funding for academic support. This support is being offered after school on Mondays or Wednesdays. A letter will be sent home once all support services are in place. These tutoring sessions will take place for approximately eight weeks.

CLC News:

STORYTIME FOR CHILDREN WITH REBECCA TAYLOR:

Discover some Irish Magic in a free online Storytime session for children presented by Rebecca Taylor. This activity will be held on Saturday, March 20th at 2pm as part of the Richmond St. Patrick’s Society Irish Heritage Festival. Storytime is aimed at children ages 5+ but littler ones are welcomed as well. To join, please fill out this form and the Zoom link will be emailed to you instantly: <https://48s.short.gy/storytime>

SNOWSHOEING AT THE CENTRE DE SKI DE FOND DE RICHMOND-MELBOURNE:

All through the month of March, free snowshoe day passes and discounted cross-country ski passes will be available to all families from Richmond, Melbourne, Cleveland, Ulverton, Kingsbury as well as families with children attending St. Francis who live outside of these municipalities. This offer, which also includes free equipment rental, is courtesy of a partnership between Richmond et ses jeunes and the Centre de Ski de fond de Richmond-Melbourne and is valid once per family anytime during the month of March. To take advantage, call 819-826-3869 up to 48 hours in advance to register and ask for the Richmond et ses jeunes offer. Limited places available.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH TO SENIORS:

The Tea & Talk seniors outreach activity is hosting an online “un-birthday” party through Zoom on Tuesday, March 30th at 2pm. English-speaking seniors from the Richmond and surrounding communities are invited to sign up and receive a gift bag, a link to the online meet-up and personalized support to connect to the Zoom online platform if they are not familiar with the technology. RSVP: Alice at (819) 826-5488 or by email to richmondclc@etsb.qc.ca Please share this invitation with the seniors in your network!

For questions on any of these activities, please contact our CLC Community Development Agent, Siu-Min Jim by email at jims@etsb.qc.ca or call (819) 437-4727.

COVID -19 Protocols:

We must all continue to practice the sanitary measures that include washing or sanitizing our hands, wearing a mask and maintaining a 2 metre distance. If your child has one of the symptoms on the list that was distributed on March 11, please keep him/her home and take the necessary steps as outlined on the Public Health document.

Inconsistent Weather Patterns: In the last week we have seen -16 degrees to as high as +16. Not only are we all COVID – fatigued but we are all ready for the spring to arrive. Today, March 15, it is really cold. The next few days are becoming progressively warmer, but back to below 0 by Friday. It is important to have the students organized with the necessary clothing to ensure that they are ready for what Mother Nature has to offer. The majority of students like to slide on the little hills. As well, they like to play games on the playground. There is wet snow or water puddles to contend with. We ask that the students are ready with:

Rubber boots (preferable) or winter boots
Slush pants (preferable) or snow pants
Windbreaker (more suited to the temperature) or snowsuit
Hats/mitts

Our supervisors are permitting students to wear their jacket unzipped but not dropped on the wet ground. Hoodies alone are not an option at this time. If the temperature warms up over the day, it is suggested that students wear a T shirt with a windbreaker, to not overheat.

Please note that students who forget their slush/winter pants will remain on the pavement. Slush pants will be needed for potentially three more weeks.

Wishing you all a “Happy St. Patrick’s Day”!

Louise Retchless, Principal

Upcoming Events:

March 15: PPO Zoom meeting @ 6:00 pm

March 17: St. Patrick’s Day

March 26: Planning Day

April 8: Governing Board @ 6:30 pm

April 2, 5: Easter Holiday

April 6: Planning Day