

May 14, 2021

Dear Parents,

The Eastern Townships has once again been categorized as a Red Zone. We have all been hoping for the COVID restrictions to diminish, so that we would be able to enjoy an end of year that was more like it used to be. Unfortunately, we have received a message from the Public Health that we must adhere to the health measures for a little longer. There is hope that by the summer, restrictions will be reduced.

St. Francis continues the Le Grand Defi Pierre Lavoie Energy Cube Challenge for the month of May: This year the Pierre Lavoie organization, due to the Public Health measures, is not officially running the energy cube event. We are part of a grant entitled a l'ecole on Bouge, and as a school we are encouraging all our students throughout the month of May to fill in the energy cubes at home for each 15 minutes they are participating in a physical activity. Mrs. Bingham sent home the energy cube tracking sheets and will be collecting them at the end of May to see if we can exceed 50,000 cubes as a school community. We can do it, every one!

On **Monday, May 17** the St. Francis school community is wearing **PURPLE** in support of the many initiatives that are being undertaken on “The International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia & Biphobia”. As part of our Sexuality Education course, students have been covering age-appropriate topics related to identity and individual differences regarding relationships. We hope your child will join us by wearing purple on Monday.

May 17 – 21: I wish to thank Miss Scoble, who will be offering all homeroom classes an “Introduction to Square Dancing” within their class bubbles over the week. Miss Scoble is a member of the 4-H club and has been involved with local square dancing in our community for a number of years

Wednesday, May 19: Due to the scheduled Professional Strike on Wednesday, all students are to work from home. The Kindergarten and Cycle 1 students will work on an academic package. The Cycle 2 and 3 students will be following Virtual lessons via Zoom. Your child’s teacher will confirm the time of these sessions. This is unfortunately beyond our control.

May 20, 25, 31: Kindergarten & Grade 1 have been awarded an Artist Inspire Grant and will be welcoming M. Geremia Lorenzo Lodi via Zoom to provide a musical percussion activity for our students within their class bubbles. Siu-Min Jim, our CLC administrator, secured this grant for the school. We are very appreciative.

May 21: Please note that this has been converted to a regular school day to replace one of the snow days that we had during the winter.

May 25 and May 27: Mme Marylie Thibeault will be providing a Yoga Activity outside for all students within their class bubbles on these two dates. This is part of a grant to work on wellness, relaxation and mental health for our staff and students. Could you please send **in a towel** with your child to use? Thank you!

June 17: On this date the Centre D'Art is offering an outdoor music concert for our students within their class bubbles. We are hopeful that our region's COVID case numbers keep going down and that this event can take place. It will be a lovely event.

Local exams replace ministry exams in Grade 6 this year:

Please note that it is important that students are in attendance at school on the days when the local exams are being held. If your child is staying home due to COVID symptoms or any other reason, please contact the school to give a justified reason. The school can be contacted by phone (819) 826-3737 x. 11801 or email sfes-secretary@etsb.qc.ca

April 19-29, 2021: FSL local grade 6 exam (completed)

May 10 – 21, 2021: ELA local grade 6 exam (in process)

May 31 – June 11, 2021: Math local grade 6 exam

Appropriate Dress Code:

As a reminder regarding what is viewed as appropriate clothing for school the Guidelines & Expectations state:

Students are asked not to wear clothing:

- that depict violent/sexual language or images
- that contains images or language depicting drugs or alcohol (or illegal items or activity).
- that contain hate speech, profanity or pornography
- that has images or language that creates a hostile or intimidating environment
- that intentionally exposes the abdomen (a glance of an abdomen during movement is not an exposed abdomen)
- that intentionally reveals undergarments (a glance of a waistband or strap during movement is not a revealed undergarment and wearing spaghetti straps is permitted if no undergarments are showing)
- Hats/hoodies are permitted in the hallways when entering or leaving the school (for recess, arrival, and dismissal). Hats must be placed into the locker before entering class and are not to be worn during class time or while eating at the cafeteria table.

Thank you for helping your child to make suitable clothing choices for school!

Bicycles at School: Children are very welcome to ride their bikes to school. It is important that your child gets off the bike at the edge of the school property and walks it to the bike rack. The bike is to remain in the bike rack until dismissal at the end of the day. Please note that the school is not responsible for lost or damaged bikes. For safety reasons, we highly recommend that your child place a lock on the bike. As well, the children should be wearing a bike helmet.

CLC News:

Our community partner, Les Tabliers en folie and the new food bank Solidarité Richmond are currently distributing a survey to find out about the food assistance needs in the Richmond region. The survey is available in French and in English, and is completely anonymous.

ENGLISH: <https://fr.surveymonkey.com/r/VFXNSCV>

FRENCH: <https://fr.surveymonkey.com/r/V3LGD8C>

Christian Vachon Foundation:

The link was sent home a week ago. If you are facing financial challenges at this time, I recommend that you apply for the CVF support. If accepted, the foundation provides funds to cover 2-3 meals per week, will cover the cost of the consumable fees for workbooks or on line programs, and some other needs. They do not cover supervision costs. The link is open until July 2, 2021.

Sincerely,

Louise Retchless, Principal

IMPORTANT MAY-JUNE DATES

MAY

- 3 – 28: St Francis Energy Cube Challenge
- 10-21 Grade 6 local ELA exam
- 17 LBGT Awareness Day – wear purple
- 17 – 21 Introduction to Square Dancing Activity by class bubble (offered by Miss Scoble)
- 18 Emergency Governing Board meeting via Zoom 6:30 pm (Budget)
- 19 Virtual Schooling due to Professional Strike Day
- 20 Artist Inspire Virtual Activity for kindergarten & grade 1
- 21 This is a regular school day
- 24 Queen Victoria Holiday (No School – Daycare is closed)
- 25 Special Yoga Activity for each class; Artist Inspire Virtual Activity for kindergarten & grade 1
- 27 Special Yoga Activity for each class
- 31 Artist Inspire Virtual Activity for kindergarten & grade 1
- 31 – June 11 Grade 6 local math exam

JUNE

- 1 Governing Board Meeting via Zoom @ 6:30 pm
- 4 Planning Day; Welcome to Kindergarten for new K5 students (Picnic Event by invitation)
- 17 Centre D'Art Richmond Musical Interlude (TBD)
- 22 Grade 6 Drive-by Graduation (details to follow soon)
- 23 Last Day of Classes; A virtual assembly will be organized
- 25 Planning Day
- 28 Planning Day; Welcome to Kindergarten K4 (Picnic Event AM)