

Dear Parkdale Family,

Welcome Back to another school year. The teachers and staff at Parkdale have returned to the building and will welcome *all* students back on **Tuesday, September 7th**. We are all excited to have students back in our hallways, filling them with energy and enthusiasm for learning.

Covid Guidelines

The Public Schools Branch has created a resource on their website to provide an overview of the COVID-19 protocols for the start of the year. You can find it at

https://edu.princeedwardisland.ca/psb/parents_students/covid-19-resources/

There are a few areas I would like to highlight. The first is regarding screening for symptoms. It is essential that students and parents screen for symptoms on a daily basis. You can **use this screening tool every morning** to decide if your child should attend school:

https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/student_prescreening_checklist_eng_0.pdf.

The second area I would like to highlight is masking. The following **masking requirements will be in place for the start of the school year**:

- Masks are required for staff, students and visitors, regardless of vaccination status, when in common areas and when transitioning through the school building. Masks may be removed when seated in classrooms or meeting areas;
- Masks are required for staff when working with Grades K-6 when physical distancing is not possible, regardless of vaccination status;
- Masks are required for staff who work with students in grades K-12 who are at higher risk of severe illness and outcomes from COVID-19 when physical distancing is not possible, regardless of vaccine status;
- Masks are recommended inside all locations of the school for staff, students and visitors who are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine and who are not fully vaccinated; and
- Masks will be required for staff and students in all grades on school buses. (Bus drivers may remove masks when seated, facing forward or driving the bus.)

Please talk with your child before school to help them understand what is expected for masking when at school. If your child is unable to wear a mask, please contact us to discuss.

Finally, if there is ever a confirmed case of COVID-19 connected with our school, public health will work with us to do contact tracing and inform anyone who may have been exposed. It is important that we have your current contact information. **Please check that your phone number(s) and emails are up-to-date in the system.** You can do this using the information sheets that are sent home with your child during the first week of school. This information will also help us contact you should we have a mid-day school closure, such as a storm closure.

Bussing With regard to bussing for your child(ren) it is very important that you log on to the PSB Bus Planner at psbbusing.princeedwardisland.ca and look up the bussing prior to next Tuesday. Even though your child may be following the same routine as last year, there are changes to bus numbers (**Bus 35 is now Bus 119 and Bus 188 is now Bus 123**), drop off and pick up locations, as well as times.

PLEASE NOTE: If there is a change in your child's before or after school routine from last year, you need to email Jackie at jmlund@edu.pe.ca or call the school prior to Friday, September 3rd in order for us to make the necessary changes. If we don't hear from you, we will assume the routine is the same. Thank you to those parents who have already communicated changes. It makes our first day a little less hectic.

School Supplies If you haven't paid your child's school supply fee you may still stop by the school and pay the \$45 or send it with your child on the first day. If you are purchasing the supplies please ensure you have the list that was sent home with your child's report card.

PEI School Food Program The new online ordering platform, *Bon Appétit* can be accessed at peischoolfood.org and is now OPEN for ACCOUNT REGISTRATION!

Hotlunches will be set up in the next week and information will be sent home with your child when we are ready to start our regular lunch program.

Breakfast Program will begin in the next couple of weeks. There is no need to sign up, as all children are welcome as needed.

Meet the Teacher

This year we are hosting another virtual "Meet the Teacher Night" on September 22. Your child's teacher will provide additional details for you to tune in.

Communication

Positive communication between home and school is very important to us here at Parkdale Elementary and we will be using the new Power School Program to send out email updates. Please make sure all contact information is up to date when the student information form comes home and that these forms are returned promptly to the classroom teacher. Our Website will also have contact information for the school and teacher sites.

Follow along on:

<https://edu.princeedwardisland.ca/parkdale/>

Teachers will also be in regular contact updating you on the engaging lesson plans your child is taking part in. Finally, the Parkdale Home and School Association also has a Facebook page that they will use to share regular updates.

I am honoured to be part of the Parkdale Elementary Team as principal this year. I look forward to working in a community where teachers, parents, and students care for each other, build positive relationships and support strong academic growth.

Once again, welcome back! Let's make 2021-2022 a wonderful year!

Kristen Moore