



## John MacNeil Elementary

Welcome Back! We are all very excited to start the 2021-2022 school year. Please make sure we have a current email address that you check on a regular basis. This email address will be used for newsletters, alerts, etc. This will help us save paper and gives us a way to send home regular and urgent notifications in a timely manner. Please note that staff have up to two business days to respond to emails. Please call the main office for something requiring immediate attention.

As always, one of our primary concerns is the safety of our students and staff. To ensure safety, we have several procedures we want to make you aware of:

- There is **absolutely no driving or parking** for unauthorized vehicles on school grounds. Use the cul-de-sac at the end of the street to let students off and pick them up. Do not leave your car unattended.
- Children are not permitted to open doors for anyone.
- Please ensure we have a valid working phone number and email so we are able to contact you when needed.
- Anyone coming to the school must ring the bell and wait for an answer. There is restricted access for all non-essential adults to the building, this includes parents /guardians
- Students will enter and exit through their classroom doors each day. The main office doors are for emergency or appointment entrance only.
- Please do not wear scented products in and around the school. Many children and adults have strong reactions to the heavy scents in perfumes, deodorants, hair sprays, latex products and other cosmetic products.
- Pets are not permitted on school property. (Service Dogs permitted)
- Smoking or vaping is not permitted on school property.
- Proper forms are required for the administration of any medications. These medications must be in their original prescription bottle from the pharmacy.
- Please ensure we have current custody or court documents if applicable.
- Cell Phones - Students are not allowed to have cell phones out during class time, unless directed by their teacher or at recess and Lunch. Using them during class is disruptive. Students are not allowed to take pictures and post to social media as this is against our privacy policy.

### Water bottles

We now have bottle filling stations instead of fountains. All students need to bring a water bottle each day.

### Masks

At the present time all students must wear masks at all times inside the school. They are able to take them off when they are outside at recess and lunch and while they are eating lunch. All students have to wear masks when they are on a bus.

### Bell Times

Students can enter the building between **8:20** and **8:40** each morning. Teachers will be waiting at their classroom doors to welcome students in. Please ensure your child is on time to limit disruptions and give your child the best opportunity to learn without missing important daily start up routines.

Lunch will be from 11:40 to 12:40. If you need to pick up your child for lunch or need them to walk home please send a note that morning or call/email the office. Students are not allowed to leave the school to go get lunch at a store unless there is a note from home. Lunch monitors supervise at lunch, **not** teachers and there is **NO ACCESS TO A MICROWAVE**. Students are required to follow the code of conduct.

All students are dismissed at **2:45**. **It is unacceptable to pick up your child early every day**. This disrupts not only your child's day but every child in the class. The last 15-20 mins of the day are very important. Please arrive at 2:45 to pick up your child and please be patient as they are coming out of the school. If you absolutely need to pick up your child early for an appointment, please send a note in the morning with your child or email the teacher or the office. **If you are not able to be here to pick up your child at 2:45 you need to make arrangements.**

### **Ice Cream Social and Curriculum Night**

We will not be having Curriculum Night this year as per Covid -19 protocols. Teachers will be reaching out to parents to introduce themselves and answer questions regarding the curriculum. As restrictions change we may be able to have something in October.

### **Toys at school**

Please do not allow students to bring toys, dolls, cars, fidget spinners, cards or other with them to school. If a child loses them we are not responsible for them. It is always safer to leave toys from home at home.

### **Attendance**

When your child will not be in school, call us at 902-464-2488 or email Miss Robyne at rgorman@hrce.ca. You can leave a message 24 hours a day. It is the parent's responsibility to let the school know if their child will not be attending. If we do not hear from you, we will call regarding your child's absence.

It's important to send notes in the morning if you are picking up your child early so we can have them ready for you. If an emergency happens, please give the school a call and we will get your child ready so you are not waiting.

### **Breakfast Program**

Our Breakfast Program days will be **Tuesday, Thursday and Friday**. Our first day will be Tues. Sept 14<sup>th</sup>. Breakfast will be available in the classrooms at 8:20 and students have until the bell rings at 8:40 to finish their breakfast. Students need to follow behavior expectations.

### **Milk Program**

There will be no milk program this year. The safety protocols put in place do not allow us to offer this program to the students. There will be water coolers available if a student needs a drink. Please remember to also send drinks with your child every day. This could change as the year goes on.

### **Head Lice**

Please make sure that you frequently check your child's head for lice. Head lice can happen to everyone but if you are proactive and have open conversations then it will be much easier to take care of. If you do find lice or nits in your child's hair please let us know. If there is anything we can do to help you we are more than happy to.

## **Important Dates**

- Sept 24 - Professional Development Day - No school for students
- Sept 29 - Orange Shirt Day in recognition of Residential School survivors
- Sept 30 - Day for Truth and Reconciliation - No school
- Oct 1 - Picture Day
- Oct 11 - Thanksgiving Day - No school

