

STAMPEDER EXPRESS

Smith Public School—Fall Newsletter October 2021

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Principal: M. Bridges Vice-Principal: J. Poirier

Secretaries: N. Capozzolo, M. Clark

Head Custodian: D. McPherson

Message From The Principal and Vice-Principal

In our continuing commitment to motivate our students to achieve academically, as well as develop as good citizens, we have reviewed major and minor rules of the school, reinforced student safety and Covid-19 procedures, talked about student celebrations and activities, and reinforced teamwork. We have a tremendous group of students this year! Our population is currently at 350 students with approximately 340 in-person learners and 10 remote learners each day. The positive school climate is a testimony to the strong efforts of the staff to implement successful learning programs. A special welcome to all of our new students and staff. You are now a Stampeders and part of our school family.



We continue to be very proud administrators at this school! A special thank you to all of the parents, students and wonderful staff of Smith for making this a great place to work. Our school prides itself on our inclusive nature, where we want to offer something for everyone. We have had technology upgrades, facility upgrades, and academic programming advances, to name but a few things. We will continue our charitable initiatives, character education program, and student celebrations. Thanks for donating \$1750 to the Terry Fox Foundation. Mrs. Poirier and Mr. Bridges will be wrapped in toilet paper on October 1. Smith School has everything we need to be one of the best schools in Canada! Things will eventually get back to normal and we will begin our clubs, sports, special assemblies and intramurals when we are able to.

Thanksgiving Holiday
October 11

Upcoming P.D Days
November 19

Upcoming School Events

School Photos	Oct. 13
Halloween Activities	Oct. 29
Remembrance Day	Nov. 11
Progress Reports Home	Nov. 18
Stampeders Pride Day	Nov. 26

Celebrations and Connections

To you our awesome parents and students, for a very smooth start to the school year! We could not have accomplished so much already without your support. We've got this!

**Thanks for your generous donations.
We raised \$1750 for the Terry Fox Foundation.**



Safety At Smith P.S./Covid-19 Protocols

Safety is one of our top priorities. If our students and staff have a safe and comfortable atmosphere, then everyone can achieve to their potential as a learner. With this in mind, we wish to share with our community what safety steps we have completed and what steps we have in place as part of our regular process:

- ✚ All staff wear vests while out on supervision.
- ✚ We use walkie-talkies outside for efficient communication.
- ✚ All staff wear name badges for identification purposes.
- ✚ We have more than the recommended supervision outside for a school our size.
- ✚ We have and will continue to review all of our emergency, safety and medication procedures. We have also updated our first aid area.
- ✚ All staff will be trained two times this year on the proper use of Epipens.
- ✚ Medication at our school is secured and administering of medication is carefully tracked.
- ✚ We have all of our fire drills and our lock down drills planned in so far this school year.
- ✚ We have two formal emergency binders to use in the event of an evacuation of the school.
- ✚ Our Covid-19 main safety measures are: handwashing, mask wearing, social distancing, designated play areas and homeroom cohorts.

Please see below, all of our Covid-19 safety measures:

- We have designated play areas outside for each homeroom cohort class.
- Students in grades 1-8 and all staff wear a mask while inside the school, other than when eating and drinking; JK/SK students—strongly suggested by our local public health to wear a mask.
- All classes line up outside and wait to be walked into the school in a staggered manner by their teacher.
- We are using all of our entrances and exits to spread out homeroom cohorts.
- We dismiss students at the end of the day in a staggered manner.
- We have grades 4-8 outside while JK-Grade 3 are eating. We then reverse this for the second part of each break time.
- We discuss handwashing and use of sanitizers each day.
- We discuss washroom use---one at a time and need permission at all times.
- Social distancing---trying to keep two meters distance where possible.
- We discuss moving in the hallways—follow the arrows!
- We discuss fountain use---students can only use the water filling spout.
- We discuss the homeroom family “cohort” and what that means—they can be together but still handwashing, masking, and social distancing.
- We modified the homeroom class environment—seating, movement, social distancing, using your own seat and desk/table area only, no touching others, wiping laptops after use and washing hands/sanitizing after sharing materials in your cohort.
- We discuss that a “good” handwashing is better than sanitizer use—don’t always have to rely on sanitizer.
- We are limiting access to the school to just students, staff, and DSBN personnel.

**Check out our school website for more
information about Covid-19 safety protocols and
parent screening at www.smith.dsbn.org.**

Picking Up Your Children/ “Kiss and Drop” Area

Once again this school year, for safety and security of our students, when picking up or dropping off your child please use the school “buzzer” and then we will walk your child to the door, right to you. We want to thank everyone in advance for following this important Covid-19 safety measure. Our school “kiss and drop” parking area near the walkway between portable 4 and 5, is working very well again this year for parents driving their children to and from school.

Stampeder Pride Spirit Day—November 26

We invite all of our students and staff to show their Stampeder Pride on November 26. The following activities will be happening:

- Random prizes handed out to students to thank them for their teamwork!
- Everyone wearing red and black clothing—our new clothing will be in before this date.



Medications/Nut Free Environment

We have reviewed and updated all of our school emergency and safety procedures. To date we have educated staff and students about children in the school with possible life-threatening allergies and have put in place our crisis response protocols. We hope we do not have to exercise these procedures but are prepared for all emergency scenarios. **A reminder that our school is a “Peanut and Nut Free Environment”.**

We also wish to remind our families that all medications (prescription or non-prescription) need to be housed at our main office for security and safety reasons.



Healthy Foods and Drinks

We would like to encourage our students to remember that good nutritional habits are essential to a healthy mind and body. With this mind, we ask students not to consume pop or other high caffeine and high sugar related drinks while at school. We also ask students to bring healthy snacks to school to consume at their nutritional breaks. This will allow them to maximize their learning by giving their brain what it needs as fuel! Students are encouraged to drink lots of water during the day.

School Council

Our School Council met on Tuesday, September 28. Minutes of the meeting are posted on our school’s website. Smith P.S. has always had an outstanding School Council. Consider joining our team this year. All meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. Our next meeting is Tuesday, November 16. It will be another virtual meeting.

Thank you to Larry Teatero, one of our parents, for being our School Council chairperson this year.



Halloween Activities---October 29

We will send home information about Halloween activities as soon as public health and our school board send out the Covid-19 protocols.

Upcoming Dates

Thanksgiving Day Holiday	October 11
School Clothing Orders Due	October 12
Photo Day	October 13
Class Reviews Day #2	October 14
Fire Drill #3	October 15
IEPs Done	October 15
IEPs Home	October 19
Lockdown Drill	Oct. 20 (10:00 a.m.)
DSBN Take Me Outside Day	October 20
Halloween Activities	October 29
Reports Due To The Office	November 8
Remembrance Day Ceremonies	November 11
School Parent Council	November 16
Progress Reports Go Home	November 18
P.D. Day (no school for students)	November 19
Grade 7 and 8 Students—Outdoor Education Center	Nov. 22, 23, and 24

Terry Fox Photos

