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# September Newsletter Saint Mary's Elementary School

Phone: 902-421-6749

Safe Arrival: 1-800-582-6940

Website: <https://smr.hrce.ca>

Principal: K. Longard

Admin Assistant: W. Carter

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## In This Newsletter

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- Curriculum Night
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## Up-Coming Dates

- Provincial Holiday - Mon. Sept 19th (No Classes)
- School Advisory Council (SAC) meeting on Wed. Sept. 21st @ 5:00 pm.
- Curriculum Night - Wed. Sept.21st from 6:00-7:30 pm.
- Picture Day - Fri. Sept. 23rd.
- Truth and Reconciliation Day - Fri. Sept 30th (No Classes).

A message from Mrs. Longard...

We had a very positive start to our school year. It has been so nice to see our returning students as well as our new ones coming in with big smiles on their faces. Staff are continuing to get to know and build relationships with their students and will be sharing about their learning as was indicated in their initial communications with you.

Thank you so much for all of your help with the transition back to school. We are looking forward to a great year!

## Daily COVID-19 Checklist

To help keep our community healthy, we need to stay home when we are sick. You can check the documents below to determine when your child can return to school after an illness.

[COVID-19 Daily Checklist](#)

[Preventing COVID-19 Spread in Child and Youth Settings](#)

## Reminders

- Do not send nut or peanut products to school.
- Students are not to arrive prior to 8:45 am as there is no supervision prior to that time.
- Please send water bottles to school with your child.
- Keep checking our school website for updates.

## **COVID-19 Reminders, Protocols and Precautions**

Our school is as safe as our community and therefore it is important to continue to follow our layered approach to a healthy school. Masks and the use of hand sanitizer remain optional and will continue to be provided by the school. If your child is unwell, they should remain at home until their symptoms no longer persist.

## **Emergency Drills**

The start of a new school year requires us to practice being safe while at school. One way we do this is to practice exiting the building in case of a fire. School staff will be discussing this in their classrooms, at age-appropriate levels, this week. We will also be doing our first whole-school fire drill. Another way we practice being safe at school is by participating in what we call Lockdown and Hold and Secure Drills. Look for a separate message with more information regarding this in the coming days.

## **Head Lice**

Please ensure that you are checking your child's head frequently for lice. If you find any live lice, or nits, students can return to school once they have been treated.

## **Safe Arrival**

If your child is going to be late or absent, please remember to call our attendance line at 1-833-582-6940.

## **School Advisory Council**

Our next SAC meeting will be held in person, here at the school, on Wednesday, September 21st at 5:00 pm. If you wish to attend, please email Mrs. Longard ([KLongard@hrce.ca](mailto:KLongard@hrce.ca)) to let her know.

### **Curriculum Night**

We are pleased to announce that we will be having an in-person curriculum night on Wednesday, September 21st from 6:00-7:30 pm. This will be a drop-in event which gives you an opportunity to come to school, meet your child's teacher, see their classroom and find out what they will be learning this year. If you wish to discuss any other concerns with your child's teacher, please set up a separate meeting time with them.

You will enter the school through the same door that your child does. We look forward to seeing you on the 21st! In the event that you are unable to attend, please let your child's teacher know and they will send you some relevant information.

### **Picture Day**

Picture Day will take place on Friday, September 23rd. Pictures will begin in the morning, with each class taking their turn. Information about ordering will come home with your child on that day.

### **Breakfast Program**

Having a solid breakfast in the morning before school is very important for your child's learning. Breakfast items will be available for every child who wishes, beginning on Monday, September 19th. Items will be brought to your child's classroom each morning.

## Inclement Weather and School Cancellations

In the event of school cancellation due to inclement weather and other exceptional circumstances, the decision to cancel school is made as close to 6 am as possible. Here are some ways you can find out:

- HRCE Website at [www.hrce.ca](http://www.hrce.ca)
- Follow HRCE on Twitter at [Twitter.com/HRCE\\_NS](https://twitter.com/HRCE_NS)
- Call the information line at 902-464-4636
- Listen to the radio (all local radio stations)
- Sign up to receive text messages from the HRCE

At times schools may be cancelled by “Family of Schools”. **We are in the Citadel High family of schools.** In the event school is cancelled during the school day, the decision is usually made by 11 am. The school will contact all families to confirm procedures to release your children. Please ensure your child knows what to do in case of early closure and ensure that your phone numbers and email addresses are up-to-date so we can contact you. Students are not released until we have made contact with a parent/guardian or designate as you identified on the registration forms sent home in September.

If school is cancelled during the day, we will dismiss students as per their parent/guardian instruction at 11:30. If you can avoid it, do not come to pick your child up early as this will result in a number of parents/guardians in close contact. Parents, guardians and caregivers are requested to wait outside their regular dismissal door at 11:30 for their children. All students who need to wait for a later pick-up will be supervised until they are picked up.

On days when conditions exist that it is not safe to open schools at the regularly scheduled time but it is predicted that conditions will improve, a 2-hour delayed opening may be considered. In this situation, students cannot arrive before 10:45 and classes will begin at 10:55. Lunch and dismissal times will not be affected.

## What's Been Happening in Classrooms?

Students in 2/3 have been practicing representing numbers.

