



# ÉCOLE ROBERT H. SMITH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

OCTOBER OCTOBRE 2023

## ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE

It has been a great start to the school year. Aside from having to make some temporary adjustments due to the construction in the P hallway, students are well into their routines and there is lots of learning taking place. Teachers have also been getting into their routines and doing some learning, through their PLC (Professional Learning Committee) meetings, focusing on assessment and targeted instruction to meet the needs of diverse learners. We are excited to report that this year we've felt a significant positive change in atmosphere, with a palpable feeling of joy in the building.

The Parent Council AGM was held on September 28<sup>th</sup> with the election of the new Parent Council executive. Congratulations to Saul Benjamin, Chair, Tara O'Connor, Vice-Chair, Liz Vieira, Treasurer and Mark Hanson, Secretary. We look forward to working with you this year. The first Parent Council Meeting is set for Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm, in the school library. All parents are invited. Please watch for more information in the near future.

As part of our work towards reconciliation, students and teachers have been exploring the four questions from the work of Senator Murray Sinclair: Who am I? What are my gifts? Where do I come from? Where am I going? Our goal is to create an understanding of belonging, diversity and community and to embrace the importance of the "Every Child Matters" message. It was also an opportunity to talk about the importance of inclusion, acceptance, diversity, treaty-making and the seven teachings. The month culminated with an assembly, followed by a community walk allowing students to observe the community and reflect on how we can care for it. When we know and are proud of our identities, we can all move towards restoring relationships and work towards reconciliation. This month-long journey was a start of this recognition and work that will continue throughout the year.

October brings thoughts of Halloween and it is always an exciting time for our students. Teachers will soon decide what sort of festivities may take place in their classrooms. Activities will vary from class to class and teachers will share more information as the day approaches. We can, however, let you know that the Parent Council is planning a Halloween Dance for the evening of October 27<sup>th</sup>. They are just in the beginning stages of putting together a committee to plan the event and will be looking for volunteers to support this annual event. Please watch for more information in the coming days.

Please feel free to reach out to the staff here if you ever have questions, concerns or wonderings. Please first contact your child's teacher, as they know your child best, and our admin team is always happy to help as well.

Just a reminder there are no classes on Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> as well as Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup> for Thanksgiving.

All the best as we move into the fall,

Adam Dyck,

Principal

Sarah Arnold,

Vice Principal





## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS: Mr. Donato**

### **OCTOBER 2023 PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS**

Throughout the month of September, physical education learning has focused on safety and routines both inside and outside. Our grade 1 to 3 students have worked to develop transport skills (running, jumping, skipping, hopping, and galloping) through a variety of games and activities. Our grade 4 to 6 students have worked to build the manipulative skills required within the game of soccer. These skills are being built through a variety of games and skill-building activities.

### **FALL RUNNING CLUB**

The final running club session of the fall will take place on October 5th. We have had approximately 70 grade 4 to 6 students attend running club throughout September. Running club will resume in the spring, when students will have the option to train for the Winnipeg School Division "Fit Run" and various Manitoba Marathon events. A big thank you to all of our staff and parent volunteers who helped to supervise our runners each morning! Congratulations runners!

### **TERRY FOX RUN 2023**

Thank you to all of the families who were able to support the Terry Fox Foundation through our annual Terry Fox Run. To date, we have raised over \$1200 through online and cash donations. If you would still like to contribute to our Terry Fox run, donations can be made online at [schools.terryfox.ca/RobertHSmith](https://schools.terryfox.ca/RobertHSmith). Thank you for your support!

### **INTRAMURAL PROGRAMMING**

Lunchtime intramural programming will begin in October. The schedule for intramurals is as follows:

- Day 2 - Rotating schedule for grades 1 to 3
- Day 4 - Grade 4 Intramurals
- Day 5 - Grade 5 Intramurals
- Day 6 - Grade 6 Intramurals

Activities will vary based on grade level. Grades 4 to 6 students will see a variety of low-organized games but will also have the chance to play more organized sports, or modified versions of a sport. Generally, grade 1 to 3 intramurals will be activity stations.

### **GRADE 6 PHYSICAL EDUCATION LEADERS**

Our grade 6 physical education leaders play a critical role in helping to provide extracurricular programming for our younger students. Grade 6 students who chose to become a physical education leader will have a training session on October 12th at 12:00 pm. Here we will discuss their role and responsibilities as physical education leaders. If students are not able to attend this training session at lunch, please arrange an alternate time with Mr. Donato.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION CALENDAR**

All extracurricular activities related to physical education can be found on the physical education calendar: <https://goo.gl/Mqd42K>.



## Hello from the Music Room!

This first month has been busy getting the year going, starting clubs, and opening up recess jam times. Students have been playing a number of instruments of their choice as well as building some groups skills on ukulele, piano, and drums.

Grades 4-6 are starting to work on their entries for the CBC Music Class Challenge. Students have also started working in small groups and on individual goals. We have begun discussing BIG goals vs small goals for our musical learning.

Morning recess is open jam time for grades 5 and 6 every day where students can come down and try new instruments, work on their parts, or show friends what they have been working on. Afternoon recess is open to grade 4s. Some students have already been down forming groups to perform for the school on Halloween.

A music mentorship is in the works! We will have older students mentoring our young students in the music room. This creates community, gives leadership opportunities to older students, and gives students a sense of empowerment when they are able to share their gifts with others.

We had a student group help lead the song Máhsi ts' enjwę by Leelah Gilday that the whole school learned this month for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The song is in Dene Kede and is a counting song. You can read more about it here: <https://www.cbc.ca/music/events/canadian-music-class-challenge/leela-gilday-canadian-music-class-challenge-2023-1.6939014>.

Planning is ongoing for upcoming performances for all grades with more info to come next month. Some grade 5s and 6s who choose will have a chance to perform on Halloween. Students who are interested can see Mr. Ossachuk for more details. This will be the second opportunity to give students some more chances to perform throughout the year. This will also help to tighten up our timeline at the end of the year for Street Fest 2024!

I am always encouraging students to bring their ideas for songs that they love that they want to learn. Some of the favourite artists mentioned so far this year have included: Imagine Dragons, Backstreet Boys, and Weezer!

If you have questions, concerns, or want to help out with any lunch hour clubs please feel free to email me at [jossachuk@wsd1.org](mailto:jossachuk@wsd1.org).

Take care,

Mr. Ossachuk,  
K-6 Modern Band

### Lunch Club Schedule:

Day 1: Grade 4-6 Single String Tab Club  
Day 2: Grade 4-6 Drum Beats Club  
Day 3: Grade 4-6 Piano Comping/ Singing Club  
Day 4: Grade 4-6 Bass Club  
Day 5: Grade 3 Drum Beats Club  
Day 6: No Club

# Dropping Students Off and Picking Students Up

The morning and afternoon routines of dropping students off and picking them up from school has created some safety concerns for our students. We hope to mitigate these concerns with your support.

## Morning Drop-Off and Afternoon Pick-Up:

### Ash Street:

- If you are stopping on the street without parking to drop off or pick up your children, please use the Stop, Drop and Go Zone on **Ash St. heading northbound.**
- When you arrive at the Stop, Drop and Go Zone, please turn your hazard lights on to indicate you are dropping off a child and pull to the side of the street. Have your child/children exit on the curbside.
- Please do not use the Stop, Drop and Go Zone if heading southbound on Ash St. We would like to discourage southbound traffic on Ash St. as much as possible, but should you find yourself heading southbound on Ash St. please pull over to park and ensure your child is safely able to cross the street.

### Oak Street:

- Please do not stop to drop off or pick up your children on Oak St. as this is our school bus zone.
- If you need drop off or pick up your children on Oak St. please enter Oak St. from the Grosvenor intersection, park your vehicle in the direction of parked traffic and walk your child across the street.
- Please avoid using the staff parking lot and alley as a turn-around spot. Again, backing up in these spots creates a dangerous situation for young children crossing the street.

### Staff Parking Lot

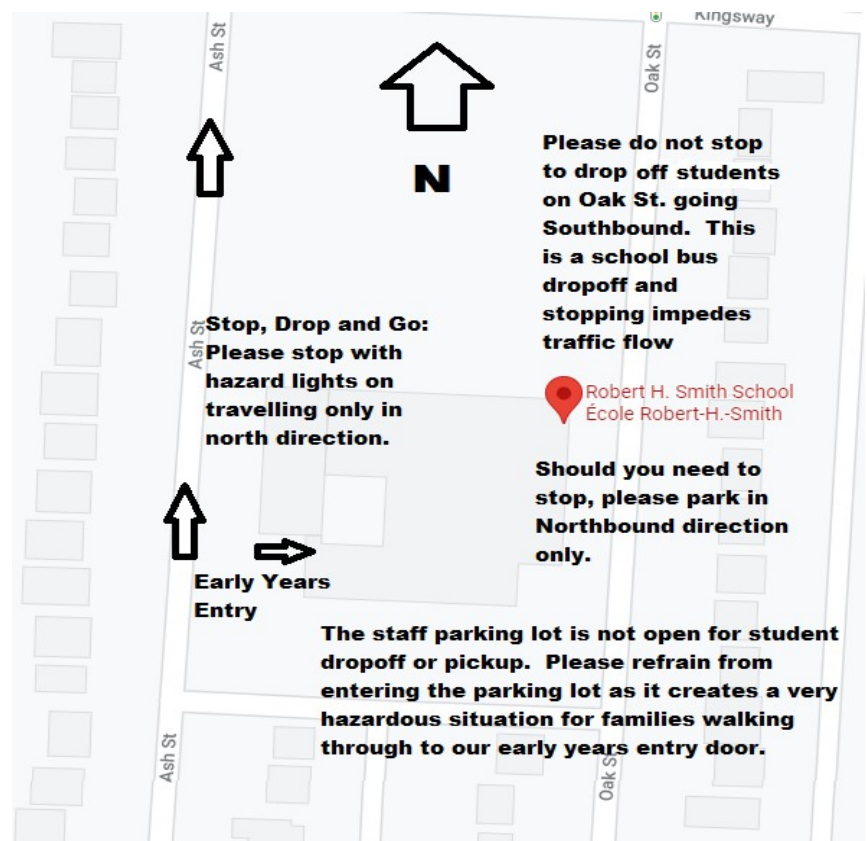
- The staff parking lot is not to be used for student drop off or pick up. Many families walk through the parking lot to access the early years entry door and having vehicles pull in and back out creates a very dangerous situation.

We thank you for your cooperation and your continued support in keeping our students safe in and around the school.

### Did you know...

That we collect pop tabs at Robert H. Smith?

You can drop them off at the school office.





## **PARENT COUNCIL NEWS:**

Dear RHS Parent Community:

At last night's Parent Council Annual General Meeting -- our AGM for 2023-2024 -- your new Executive Officer Team was elected:

- Saul Hillel Benjamin, Chair
- Tara O'Connor, Vice-Chair
- Liz Vieira, Treasurer
- Mark Hanson, Secretary

Additionally, we are delighted to have the team-building skills of several others from our RHS Parent Council community who will represent RHS on key Winnipeg School Division team-building priorities:

- Mercedes Garcia, French Immersion
- Danielle Matthisen, Inclusion
- Saul Benjamin, South District Advisory

Please put on your 2023-2024 calendars the schedule of this year's Parent Council 6 to 8 pm meetings. Our hope is to see as many of you as possible. Every voice counts!

- \* October 10th
- \* November 7th
- \* December 5th
- \* January 16th
- \* February 6th
- \* March 5th
- \* April 9th
- \* May 7th
- \* June 4th

For now, let me highlight our first major school-wide project: October 27th's Halloween Party & Dance! We'll need lots of parent volunteers. More news ahead!

Best regards,  
Saul

P.S. Don't hesitate to reach out directly, if you'd like.  
Mobile: (204) 805 0972





# BE THE INSPIRATION

Winnipeg School Division  
**is hiring:**

- School clerks
- Educational Assistants
- 5th Class Power Engineers
- Bus Drivers














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[winnipeg.ca/careers](https://winnipeg.ca/careers)



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

# OCTOBER/OCTOBRE 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
1	2 Day 2	3 Day 3 Provincial Election  Non-Instructional Day School Closed 	4 Day 4 am: Grds. 5&6 Soccer Tournament @ River Heights Field 	5 Day 5 Final Fall Running Club 8:00am 	6 Day 6	7	
8	9 <b>THANKSGIVING DAY</b> L'ACTION DE GRACE 	10 Day 1 6pm Parent Council Meeting in the Library 	11 Day 2 Gr. 6 Immunizations in the Library	12 Day 3 Bus Ridership 	13 Day 4	14	
15	16 Day 5	17 Day 6  <b>Kindergarten Hearing Screening</b>	18 Day 1	19 Day 2 Mad Science #1 (Grds. 3-5) 	20 Day 3 Non-Instructional Day MTS PD Day School Closed 	21	
22	23 Day 4	24 Day 5	25 Day 6	26 Day 1 Mad Science #2 (Grds. 3-5) 	27 Day 2 6-8:30pm PC Halloween Party & Family Dance 	28	
29	30 Day 3	31 Day 4 HALLOWEEN 	LOOKING AHEAD IN NOVEMBER				
		6th		Picture Re-Takes (AM ONLY)			
		17th		Conferences - Classes Closed			