



# PRINCESS MARGARET SCHOOL

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Principal: Mrs. S. KostECKi • Vice Principal: Mr. F. Reeves

September 8, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope that you had an enjoyable and restful summer. Summer likely looked a bit different this year but I hope everyone made the most of our great weather and local activities. I am excited about the school year that is ahead. I am eager to continue building upon all the great things that are underway at our fine school. Additionally, I would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm Princess Margaret welcome to all our new students and their families - we are so excited to have you join our school and community.

I am looking forward to working with you and your children this school year. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I believe that open, honest and respectful communication is the key to sustained positive relationships and ensuring the best possible education for your children at Princess Margaret School. I can be reached by phone at the school or by email at [skostECKi@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:skostECKi@retsd.mb.ca)

Our current situation implores us all to put safety, health and wellness first in order for learning to occur. Our staff has spent a great deal of time rethinking and redesigning almost every aspect of the school day so that our environment can be as safe as possible and we can welcome our students back to school. We have missed you dearly!

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new part time clerk, Dulce Small. Mrs. Small will join our office staff in mid September. We may have some other minor staffing adjustments that will be finalized as school starts.

Our first newsletter will be published on Friday October 2, 2020. **Newsletters will be published the first Friday of October, December, February, April and June** (if there is no school on that particular Friday, the newsletter will be ready for the day before). **Newsletters will be posted on the school web site. Parents will receive a reminder email from the school indicating that the newsletter has been posted online. All correspondence from the school will go home with the youngest child in the family when applicable.**

**The main source of communication regarding school information and events is our school web site and the school calendar. At times, other methods (email reminder, communication folder, notes home, etc.) may be used to communicate with parents. Please use the school web site and school calendar as the main source of school information. Many school forms are also posted on our school web site if you need to print additional forms for your family.**

Please ensure that you have read our [PM Welcoming Students Back 2020-2021 Parent and Community Information.pdf](#). This plan includes specific information about the procedures that will be in place for our students and staff as we return to school. This document is a living document and will be updated throughout the year.

All our Teachers have school web pages that can be accessed through our Princess Margaret School home page on the internet. Each web page provides contact and program information for parents. These web

pages are designed as a tool to communicate with you as parents. To access web pages please go to our school home page at <http://retsd.mb.ca/school/pm/Pages/default.aspx> and click on contact us, then click on staff directory, then select the Teacher's individual web site. Also, all of our Teachers will be using Teams as a common platform this year.

I would like to remind you of some important upcoming dates in September 2020 and October 2020.

- **September 15** - Our traditional Open House will not be possible this year. We know how important it is to connect with our families and let them know about our classrooms, our programming and our school environment. All of our teaching staff will be in contact with families regarding how they will be sharing classroom information with you. We will be using a variety of methods including written information, pictures and short videos.
- **September 21** - We will have our school pictures taken. Put your smile on! (Students in Kindergarten even day will have their picture taken on November 2).
- **October 2** - Our school newsletter will be published.
- **October 12** - Thanksgiving Day - No School.
- **October 23** - Professional Development Day - No classes for students.

Please be aware of the expectations regarding picking students up from school. Please talk with your child regarding your end of day routine (outside meeting place on the sidewalk area, walking/biking home, pick up person, bus, etc.).

**Please ensure that you are familiar with our staggered dismissal that is new this year. Students who are meeting a parent or caregiver after school will be dismissed at 3:15 pm. Students who are walking or biking home independently will be dismissed at 3:20 pm. Bus students will be dismissed at 3:25 pm. We will monitor our dismissal times closely to ensure that we have allotted sufficient time for physical distancing and we will make adjustments as needed. Parents are asked to wait off the school grounds on the sidewalk areas at the end of the day. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work with new divisional and provincial guidelines.**

When parents or guardians need to talk with a staff member, we kindly ask that you call the school or email the staff member directly. Appointments can be made for you to meet with staff members as needed as well.

If your family routine changes during the course of the school day please call the school office **well before dismissal time** to get a message to your child. Children should not be using the phone during the school day to make after school arrangements unless there is an emergency.

Please be aware that we have several students with life threatening allergies. The most common life threatening allergy is to peanuts and nuts. We ask that all families do not send items with peanuts or nut products to school. **Your child's classroom may have students who have other specific allergies which you will receive information about in a letter from the school in the near future. Your child's classroom will have an allergy sign posted by the door indicating specific foods that should not be brought to school.** Please help us keep our school environment as safe as possible for all students by not sending specified food items for designated classes.

Our Lord's Prayer Program is currently paused due to gathering restrictions. We will be in contact with our school community when the group is able to start again.

We are very pleased that the YMCA/YWCA Before and After School Program will be continuing to operate within our school this year. For information regarding this program please call 431-999-1100.

I want to remind everyone that our school safety patrols are out once again helping make sure students and families are safe crossing the streets around our school. While our patrols get back into routine, please be extra patient and careful when dropping off or picking up your child from school. Please review the reminders listed below.

### **School Zone Safety Tips for the Community**

Whether we drive, cycle or walk, we all play a part in making our neighborhoods safer by practicing proper road behaviours.

**As a parent or guardian, you are a role model for your children through your actions behind the wheel.**

Be cautious and avoid:

- Double parking or stopping on crosswalks, which can block pedestrians' visibility.
- Stopping on the opposite side of the street, requiring children to cross through traffic.
- Driving up alongside, or blocking, a school bus to keep children from missing it.
- Stopping in moving traffic, requiring children to rush out.

To help maximize safety:

- Comply with the speed limit in school zones and signal your intentions.
- Watch for School Safety Patrols at intersections and crosswalks.
- Choose a designated pick-up and drop-off spot near the school that is safe and easily accessible for your child.
- Form a carpool to reduce the number of cars in school zones.
- When you see a stopped school bus with flashing red lights, you must stop, regardless of the direction you are travelling.
- Do not move until the red lights stop flashing and the bus begins to move or risk a fine and losing demerit points.
- Refrain from stopping in No Stopping Zones.

Once again, I am so pleased to be working with the Princess Margaret School community and I am looking forward to the 2020 - 2021 school year.

Yours truly,

Sherri KostECKi  
Principal