

April 29, 2020

Dear Parents,



With the announcement on Monday from the Premier of Quebec that elementary schools will be open starting May 11, there have been numerous questions asked by parents, staff and administrators. The full details of the plan for the return have not been presented to schools from the Ministry, and all questions are not answered as of yet. With that understanding, we would like to ensure that you have all the information currently available and request that you read this letter thoroughly.

Included with this email is a link for a parent survey related to the reopening of Wakefield School on May 11th, 2020. Previous communication has outlined that attendance is optional and that parents must provide one week of notice prior to their child's return to school. **All parents are asked to complete the Parent Survey by Monday, May 4th at 8:00 am so that we can plan accordingly for the reopening.**

INFORMATION CURRENTLY KNOWN:

STAFF

Not all staff members will be returning to school, as any staff who has a compromised immune system, is pregnant, is breastfeeding, is exhibiting Covid-19 symptoms, or is over the age of 60 is not allowed to return for safety reasons. This includes teachers, support staff, office staff, and bus drivers.

If your child is returning to school, their homeroom teacher may or may not be there and your child may have another teacher. Adjustments to the daily schedule will also be made in order to adhere to the recommendations from Public Health which asks us to limit the number of teachers interacting with a group of students.

CLASSES/CLASSROOMS

In classrooms, staff and students need to follow the 2m social distancing rules and each group of students will be kept separate from the other groups; there will be no changing of classes. The maximum number of students that can be in the room is 15. Your child may be in a different classroom and may be with other students not in their homeroom if we need to balance groups. We will try to keep grade levels together as much as possible.

The group of students will be in the same classroom all day and will not have access to other school spaces (i.e. gymnasium, library, MPR, computer lab).

Learning resources, physical education equipment, laptops, iPads, and manipulatives will not be used in order to limit the spread of germs. Students will only be able to use their own supplies and no sharing will be allowed.

HALLWAYS

We will need to develop a plan to move students and staff through the space while adhering to the 2 m distancing regulations, likely arrows indicating directions of movement and where to stand and wait.

BATHROOMS

Bathroom use will provide a number of challenges in adhering to the 2m distancing rules. The plan for this had not yet been finalized; we will do so next week when we are back to school.

HOT LUNCHES/SNACKS

There will be no hot lunch services or snacks/food provided by the school, as per the Public Health directives. Students coming to school will need to bring their own lunch and snacks, as well as their own water bottle (as we still need to let the water run for 60 seconds before drinking at school – water fountains are still off limits).

PARENTS IN BUILDING

Parents and visitors are not allowed in the school building, as per Public Health Directives. We will be working on a system for drop-off and pick-up of students at the end of the school day, as well as for the school daycare. More information will come shortly regarding the procedures for these transition times.

To minimize interactions, students are required to arrive to school on time and should stay at school for the entire school day.

PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

As per Public Health Directives, students will not wear masks at school. Staff will be able to choose to wear masks at school.

HAND WASHING AND SANITIZER

We will ask students to wash hands or use hand sanitizer at school often and routines will be clearly established. Students will use the products from school, and are not permitted to bring their own (Public Health).

BRINGING ITEMS TO SCHOOL

Students should come to school with items limited to (as per Public Health) a lunch bag and water bottle. Students will only have one pair of shoes at school that they will use indoor and outdoor. Agendas are not to be sent to school and communication must be done by email or to the office by phone. There will be no homework or learning materials sent home.

RECESSES

Students will go outside during the day, but recess times will be adjusted as different groups will go out at different times so that there are no large gatherings. Students will not be allowed to use the play structure or share any equipment (balls, etc.). More details of recesses will be planned, as we receive further directives. As well, we will remain on school property as there are still restrictions in the village.

TRANSPORTATION

Public Health recommends that parents transport their child to school. If you are unable to transport your child to school, you can request bus transportation. The School Board does not guarantee bus service at this time due to a shortage of staff, but is working hard to be able to provide this service to those that need it. Only 12 students are allowed per bus (as per Public Health), allowing for spacing.

STUDENTS WITH COMPROMISED IMMUNE SYSTEM, OR LIVING WITH SOMEONE WITH COMPROMISED SYSTEM

Students who have a compromised system or live with someone with a compromised system are to stay at home and not return to school (Directive from Public Health), as per the exemptions as listed in “STAFF” section above.

TECHNOLOGY AT HOME

The details of providing students with technology for home learning has not yet been given from the Ministry.

LEARNING IN THE CLASSROOM, LEARNING FROM HOME

Teachers will still support learning activities at home and students will receive the weekly learning packages. If your child remains home for their learning, there may be a change of teacher providing the weekly check-ins and support.

No new concepts will be taught either at school, or virtually; as per the Minister of Education Directives. All material will be a review of concepts previously taught and fun educational activities.

Students will be evaluated based on terms 1 and 2, there will be no evaluations, tests or exams at school or at home. We are still unsure what the report card will look like or promotion to the next grade.

PICKING UP MATERIALS FROM SCHOOL

The school will organize a plan for the parents of students who are remaining at home to pick up all of your child’s materials from school. This will be by appointment, to respect the Public Health Directives. More information will come next week.

DAYCARE

Daycare staff could also be different for your child should they be returning to the program. Again, they will be following all of the same protocol as is followed during the school day, with limited access to areas of the school, possibly different educators and groupings and a different routine. We will be determining pick- up routines as well that will abide by Public Health directives.

SENDING MY CHILD TO SCHOOL OR KEEPING AT HOME

It is a parental decision to send your child to school, or to keep them at home unless your child has compromised system, or lives with someone who does. Each family has a unique situation, so please choose what is most appropriate for you and your family.

Our hard-working staff will be able to provide learning and social connections both at school, and at home.

ALL PARENTS are asked to complete the brief survey by May 4th at 8:00 am to communicate to the school whether your child will or will not attend school beginning May 11th, 2020. In this survey you

will be asked to indicate whether you need transportation and if your child will participate in daycare (they must be registered previously registered).

CAN I DECIDE TO SEND MY CHILD TO SCHOOL LATER DURING THE MONTH OF MAY OR JUNE?

If you are not sending your child on May 11th and wish to send them later, you will need to notify the school one week in advance in writing at: wakefield@wqsb.qc.ca so that we can adequately prepare (as per Ministry Directive). One week notice is mandatory and no exceptions will be made.

PART- TIME SCHOOLING is not permitted, as per Directives. Students must attend for 5 days a week when they sign up.

Sincerely,

Julie Fram Greig

Principal

Wakefield Elementary School