**September 11, 2020 Friday Flash**

Quote of the Week:

**All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence.**

**— Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Dear RH McGregor Families,

The staff here at RH have been working very hard to get things ready for next week.  We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work out the many details requiring our attention.  Looking forward to seeing you next week!  Below are the start dates for each grade.

Tuesday, September 15:  SK and Grade 5

Wednesday, September 16:  JK, Grades 1 and 4

Thursday, September 17:  Grades 2 and 3

1.  **September Realignment and Class Sizes**

Schools were required to reorganize based on updated staffing allocations in response to parent surveys indicating in-class or remote learning.  Fortunately for RH McGregor, our staff increased by .5 teaching staff.  This reorganization resulted in students being moved around and possibly receiving a new classroom teacher/room number.  The office staff is sending emails out to all parents with an update on classroom assignments (room number and teacher).  Please be patient as we work through this very large task.  If you do not hear from us by 2 p.m. on Monday, September 14th, please give us a call.

Below are average class sizes for each grade (as of September 2020):

JK/SK:   22 - 25 students, one class of 13 with no ECE

Grade 1 - 3:  16 - 20 students

Grades 4 - 5:  18 - 25 students

2.  **Classroom Set-Up, Recess and Lunch, Enhanced Cleaning**

The teachers and ECEs have been working hard to set up the classrooms to enhance physical distancing as well as creating individual "student kits" so to limit the sharing of materials, even within a cohort.  We have staggered recesses and lunch and have established zones in our schoolyard for classes while they are outside.  Our goal is to maximize the opportunities for outdoor learning and taking a break from wearing a mask.  Although our yard is quite big, we have a large number of students returning and this will take some coordination.  We have also received additional caretaking hours to assist with enhanced cleaning and cleaning between the daycare/school transitions.

3.  **Masks**

Please see the link below which explains the TDSB rules with respect to masks and face coverings:

[https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Return-to-School/Health-and-Safety/Mask-and-Face-Covering-Requirements-For-TDSB-Students-and-Staff](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/cibNiy5IRJvmrihxcZAhsQ~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRhPOc7P0R5aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cudGRzYi5vbi5jYS9SZXR1cm4tdG8tU2Nob29sL0hlYWx0aC1hbmQtU2FmZXR5L01hc2stYW5kLUZhY2UtQ292ZXJpbmctUmVxdWlyZW1lbnRzLUZvci1URFNCLVN0dWRlbnRzLWFuZC1TdGFmZlcHc2Nob29sbUIKAEa7s1tfbEzLmFIWaGVhdGhlcmtvZWJlbEB5YWhvby5jYVgEAAAAAg~~)

Some parents have asked about the storing of masks while outside.  Some families are using fanny packs.  We will leave this decision to individual families to determine what works best for you and your child.

4.  **Most Recent Letters to Parents from the TDSB and TPH, Self Assessment Prior Before Coming to School**

Please see the letter attached, sent to parents last night containing important updates from the TDSB and Toronto Public Health:

[September 10 - Parent Letter](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/yK226UBvsCuLnMPZKLQPrQ~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRhPOc7P0R0aHR0cHM6Ly9tc2cuc2Nob29sbWVzc2VuZ2VyLmNhL20vP3M9eFhRcUxCTjM3UUkmbWFsPTNlOGM1ZDk1ZTcwMmFjYjBjNGVjZDE5MmUxOGU2MTM1OTc3ZmYwMTIwNmNhZjJkYTU0YTI3MDljNzUxMGUzN2NXB3NjaG9vbG1CCgBGu7NbX2xMy5hSFmhlYXRoZXJrb2ViZWxAeWFob28uY2FYBAAAAAI~)

[September 9 - Toronto Public Health Letter](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/udCK44FONwGZviRkQklXBA~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRhPOc7P0R0aHR0cHM6Ly9tc2cuc2Nob29sbWVzc2VuZ2VyLmNhL20vP3M9eFhRcUxCTjM3UUkmbWFsPWM4MWE5ZjNlZTdmYTVhOTNmZWI5ZjAzMjlmMjhkZDRjMjM0YjNkNzliYzlmMDQ4NjcyZGNhNDM1YWRjNTMyNDFXB3NjaG9vbG1CCgBGu7NbX2xMy5hSFmhlYXRoZXJrb2ViZWxAeWFob28uY2FYBAAAAAI~)

Please note the section on Daily Health Screening in the TDSB parent letter:

The most important thing families can do to help mitigate the transmission of COVID-19, is to screen their children daily for any COVID-19 symptoms and keep them home from school if they are sick or have had close contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19. All staff and visitors will also be required to screen themselves before entering a TDSB building. Once staff and students arrive at school, they will enter through the designated doors with a screening station to verify their self-assessment. Learn more about the self-assessment and verification process at [www.tdsb.on.ca/healthscreening](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/xj8a6rsEmggWrjR9lJLLww~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRhPOc7P0QlaHR0cDovL3d3dy50ZHNiLm9uLmNhL2hlYWx0aHNjcmVlbmluZ1cHc2Nob29sbUIKAEa7s1tfbEzLmFIWaGVhdGhlcmtvZWJlbEB5YWhvby5jYVgEAAAAAg~~).

A self-assessment for students can be verified two ways:

• A parent/guardian signing the TDSB Student Health Pass daily and the student showing it to staff at the entry door.

• A parent/guardian completing the assessment on the TDSB Health Screening App, which generates a QR code that a student can scan at the entry door (if they have a mobile device) or the student can present their name to a screener who can verify their entry status.

5.  **Entry/Exit Doors/Line Up Areas**

A map will be shared on Monday with the entry/exit door for your child's classroom number.  We will also have signage indicating where your child should stand in line at entry/exit.  More information to come on Monday.

6.  **TDSB Play Structures - Open!**

**After consulting with Toronto Public Health, all TDSB play structures will be open to students during the school day (one cohort at a time) and continue to be open to the public outside of school hours. As always, everyone who uses the play structures should practice hand hygiene before and after use.**

7.  **Ventilation/Air Circulation**

Below is information shared in the September 4th Friday Flash.  I would also like to share RH McGregor had 2 new boilers and a new Building Automation System (BAS) installed over the summer.  Air filters have been changed and the BAS controls have been set for fan times to operate from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily, allowing for maximum air flow/exchange.

The TDSB has been working over the summer to review building ventilation and filtration systems and is implementing a number of strategies to improve ventilation in our schools and increase the volume of fresh air to the maximum extent possible. These strategies include:

•             Schedule HVAC systems to start 2 hours prior to the school day, to flush the school with fresh air.

•             Ensure that exhaust fans are running and keep them running for additional time at the end of the school day.

•             Ensure clean filters are installed prior to the start of the school year and inspect regularly to ensure they don’t become clogged, or hinder airflow.

•             Increase frequency of filter changes from 4 times per year to 6 times per year to maintain performance.

•             Ensure that HVAC exhaust grills are clean and that air supply grills are not blocked or closed off.

•             Follow recommended maintenance measures for air handling systems including inspection and replacement of filters.

•             If mechanical ventilation is not available, open windows to provide outdoor air.