

March 11, 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope you had a lovely March break and that you were able to get outside and have some time to appreciate nature with your family. With the exception of a couple of “chilly” days, we really can’t complain about the weather that we had.

Please take note of the following information items:

**Appropriate Dress:** Speaking of weather...we are now at that time of year where it can be cold and snowy one day and sunny and wet, the next. Please make sure that your children come prepared. Raincoats and rubber boots on rainy days and hats, mittens and warm boots on colder days are essential. The children are outside for 2- 20-minute recess periods and a 50-minute lunch hour. It is much more enjoyable if they are dressed accordingly.

**Eye Examinations:** Great news! Did you know that your child can have a free eye examination with an optometrist until they are 18 years old? In fact, the recommendation is that these examinations take place every year, as vision problems can occur rapidly and can affect a child’s learning and education in general. In addition, you can also receive a reimbursement of \$250 from the RAMQ to help cover the cost of glasses for children who need them. For more information on this program, please check out the following link.

<http://www.ramq.gouv.qc.ca/fr/citoyens/programmes-aide/Pages/lunettes-verres-enfants.aspx>

**Pre-K at L.E.S.:** More exciting news! We will be having a pre-K class at L.E.S. next year. If you have a child who will be 4 years of age by September 30, 2021, they are eligible to attend. Pre-K is a full day program with a qualified teacher and technician. If you would like to have more information, please contact us. We are hoping to have 2 classes so if you are planning to come in and register or know someone who is, please call us as soon as possible to make an appointment to do so. We are already beginning to look at our staffing needs for next year!

**Skating Oval:** We are thrilled to have a skating oval at L.E.S. for our students and the students of St. Antoine to use. We are also very happy to see that it is being well used by the community outside of school hours and on holidays. We have had some issues with people coming to use the oval during school hours and this has created some problems. We are asking your help in getting the word out that the oval is on school property and that it is off limits to the public between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Many people think that the property is owned by the City of Sherbrooke, but it is not. In order to ensure our students’ safety, we cannot allow anyone other than students and school staff on the playground during the day.

**Parking Lot:** Finally, we have been able to secure some parking spots in our parking lot for visitors during the school day. This area has been designed in a way that you can park, your child can exit the car and use a walkway to go directly to the playground without having to circulate where the cars are moving, and the staff is parking. PLEASE, for the safety of your children, do not park anywhere other than these spots. We do not want children running

through the parking lot and being injured. If you arrive and there is nowhere to park, please park on Academy Street. Thank you for your understanding.

**COVID-19:** We are very happy to currently be in the orange zone, as opposed to the red zone that we were in prior to the March break. Because the situation can change quickly, and directives can change often, please be diligent about checking emails that are sent to you from the school board regarding Covid protocols etc. and please respect these protocols. At L.E.S. we have been going above and beyond what has been asked of us by public health and we have been lucky in that we have had no cases of Covid so far. We are proud of the students for how well they have handled a very difficult situation and we are thankful for the support and understanding that we have received from parents.

**LES Art Contest:** Did you know that L.E.S. held an art contest? We were happy to have over 120 participants who submitted beautiful pieces of art that are displayed outside our cafeteria. The winners will be announced on Friday and don't forget to check out the L.E.S. website for pictures that will be posted shortly after. Thank you to Mrs. Gandey for organizing this and to those who submitted their artwork.

**Tutoring Program:** As you may have heard recently in the news, the government has allocated an amount to schools to provide extra support to students who as a result of Covid, may be struggling academically. If you feel that your child could use this support, please notify their teacher in writing by **Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>**. This support can take place online (outside of school hours) or at school. Once we know how many requests we have, we will organize a schedule and notify you.

**Registration:** We are already in the process of organizing for the 2021-2022 school year and it is extremely important that we know how many students we will have so we can plan for the number of groupings and staff that will be needed. If you have not gone online (parent portal) and registered your child, please do so immediately. Thank you for your understanding in this important matter. Time is of the essence.

**School Fees:** If you have not yet paid your school fees, please contact the school to make arrangements to do so. We are very open to setting up payment plans, as we understand that these are difficult times financially for many. Please call or write us as soon as possible!! Unfortunately, all unpaid fees are sent to collection at the end of the school year unless there is an alternate plan that has been agreed upon.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Dawn Irving, Principal

