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## **October 6, 2020 - Principal's Message, Mrs. Kathy McTaggart**

Hello everyone,

I wanted to follow up from the letter you received Sunday evening in regards to a positive covid case at Ponoka Secondary Campus.

First I would like to reassure you that the school is doing everything we can to help the health authorities have the information they need to do their contact tracing. We spent Sunday making sure that we personally contacted everyone who we knew was a close contact. All the close contacts are now being asked to get tested and isolate for 14 days. All of those individuals will also have Alberta Health Services or First Nations & Inuit Health Authority follow up with them.

We did have many students missing on Monday and I understand how scary this situation can be for families and how nervous you may be to send your children to school.

Like all of you, I have my own children in the building going to school here. Hearing about a confirmed case of Covid 19 in the school is scary. I am comforted though in knowing all the measures that are in place to make sure our kids are safe. The cohorts, the sanitizing, the masks, the extra cleaning...all of this makes me feel better. I am also nervous when my children go into the grocery store or a friends house or a swimming pool but I am letting them do these things because it is good for them and we need to find a balance in our family that works for us. Each Ponoka Secondary family needs to find their own balance and they all may look a little bit different and that's ok.

Like all of you, I will feel a lot better if/when I find out that the 1 case identified here has not spread, then I will feel even more confidence in the measures Wolf Creek schools

have taken. In the meantime, I send healing thoughts to our covid+ individual and their family as they deal with this, I also encourage our families to continue to do their due diligence to slow the spread.

**If you have any of these symptoms you are legally required to isolate for at least 10 days from the start of your symptoms or until they resolve, whichever is longer:**

- Fever
- Cough (new cough or worsening chronic cough)
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing (new or worsening)
- Runny nose
- Sore throat

Students with these symptoms can return following the isolation period and once symptoms resolve, or if they have received a negative COVID-19 test result and symptoms have also resolved.

**If you have any of these other symptoms, stay home and minimize your contact with others until your symptoms resolve:**

- Chills
- Painful swallowing
- Stuffy nose
- Headache
- Muscle or joint aches
- Feeling unwell, fatigue or severe exhaustion
- Gastrointestinal symptoms (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or unexplained loss of appetite)
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Conjunctivitis, commonly known as pink eye

Students with these symptoms can return once symptoms have resolved.

We continue to ask that you carry out a daily health assessment for your children, also available on the school website. If they have any COVID-19 symptoms, they must stay home from school, and continued learning will be supported.

## **Update of Other Events**

**Fall Awards - PLEASE NOTE - DATE CHANGE!**

**Our Fall Awards and Athletic awards from the 2019-2020 school year is being rescheduled for Thursday October 22.** As a result of whole classes of students needing to isolate the school has decided to postpone 2 weeks so that we can properly celebrate all of our winners.

A separate email with the date change will be sent home to all the recipients of last year's awards.

### **Terry Fox Run**

Was a success, the entire student body was able to participate over the 2 days, 6 times and 3 routes. 😊 A grand total of \$1665.00 was raised for the Terry Fox foundation this year with Mrs. David's class raising the most money.

4 students from each grade won prizes for being the fastest runners in their grade.

### **Parent Teacher Interviews**

PT interviews are in progress; many parents have already been phoned and these will continue over the next couple weeks.

### **School Photos**

Remember, you can order school photos by going to the smart photography website: <http://smartorders.ca/> and enter the code sent home with your child on picture day. If you don't have your code, no problem, just give them a call (780) 944-0800. Photo retakes are scheduled for Wednesday October 21.

### **Grad 2020**

Will be happening at the school in a drive-up format this coming Friday at 1:30pm. It is by invitation only; please wish us a warm sunny day.

As always, if you have any questions throughout the year, please do not hesitate to contact us at: 403-783-4411

Sincerely,

*Kathy*