

Aberdeen Public School

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## Message from the Admin Team

February has been a busy month around Aberdeen. We have been back to in-person learning for approximately one month after the extended Winter break. During this time, we know many families in our community have been impacted by COVID-19. We appreciate your ongoing support of completing your child's daily screener and submitting the results in the portal each day. We recognize that the directions from the screener change often, and it can be confusing for parents to know what to do if their children have symptoms. If your child receives a red box result that says, "Do not go to school", please read the details provided to know how long they need to stay home and if other siblings/family members need to isolate too. If you are unsure, please give us a call at the school and we can walk you through the process. We strive to follow the most current protocols in place by the MLHU.

The Minister of Education is now requiring all schools to submit daily absentee rates. If our absenteeism reaches 30% or greater, you will receive an email letting you know. **This notification does not mean that the school is closed.** Instead, it is informing you that we have a higher than normal number of staff and students away for that day. It is important to remember that these absences may be due to a variety of reasons. We do encourage our students to attend school regularly if they are feeling well. Regular, on-time attendance is beneficial for their learning.

Our board has also recently experienced some school closures due to weather-related issues. In most cases, even when school buses are not running, we will most likely be open. Our school is designated as a "walking" school, so therefore we often remain open even in bad weather. If you receive messaging from the school board, please read it carefully to see if we are impacted by the closure or not.

We look forward to having the snow melt and, hopefully, warmer temperatures will be coming soon. We know that spring break is just around the corner!

## Staffing Updates

We have a few staffing changes to update you on. First of all, we wish to congratulate Mrs. Lutchin on the recent birth of her daughter. Her baby arrived a bit earlier than expected but both mother and daughter are doing well. We welcome Ms. Fradgley who will be teaching the grade 1 class for the rest of the year while Ms. Lutchin is on leave.



Mrs. Hughson is also expecting a baby any day now. We wish her and her husband all the best. We are in the process of hiring a teacher to take over the 2/3 class for the rest of the year. We will provide an update to the families in the class once we have finalized the hiring for that position.

We have also had a change in our Speech and Language Pathologist. We welcome Ms. Armstrong who will be working in our building on Fridays supporting our students with their speech and language development.

### **Staffing Shortages**

As you may have heard on the news, we are experiencing a number of staffing shortages across the school board. This is very true for our school as well. We have been doing our best to keep things running as smoothly as possible throughout these challenging times. Many thanks to our wonderful staff who have come together on many occasions to help out and cover classes and duties so that we can continue to remain open for our students.

### **Report Cards and IEPs**

Report cards were sent home with all in-person students on Friday, February 18. They will be arriving by mail shortly for our students in virtual classes. If you have any questions about your child's report card, please reach out to their classroom teacher for more information.



Individual Education Plans (IEPs) are now available in the parent portal for term 2 for all students who are currently on an IEP. If you have any questions about your child's IEP, please reach out to our Learning Support Teachers, Ms. Kaur (Gr. 1-5/6) and Mrs. DeVooght (JK, SK, 6-8).

### **February 23- Pink Shirt Day**

Wednesday, February 23 is pink shirt day. This is a day where students are encouraged to wear pink to show their support of treating each other with kindness and respect. It is a way to be an upstander and say 'no' to bullying.



We encourage all students to wear pink on this day.

### **Breakfast Program**

This is just a reminder of our daily breakfast program that is available for all students between 8:30 and 8:55 a.m. Students can access the program through the back doors by the gym. All students are welcome. Come by to grab something to eat before starting your school day. We thank OSNP, President's Choice and many local businesses and donors for their support of this program.



### **Grade 3 CCAT Testing**

If you have a child in grade 3, you should have received a notification of the upcoming CCAT testing that is available. This testing is a Cognitive Abilities Test that helps us identify students who may be gifted in their learning and also provides helpful information to the school about your child's learning profile. Please be sure to return the notice to the school to indicate if you provide consent for your child to be part of this screening assessment.

### **School Devices**

We are now beginning to collect back all borrowed technology that has been used for at-home learning. If your child has a school device, please return the device and the cord to the school this week. We really need these Chromebooks and iPads back so that they can be used in our classrooms at school. We have a large number of devices out of the building right now which has made it difficult for in-school projects and assignments.



## LAARC

Aberdeen is part of the newly formed Downtown area LAARC (London Attendance Accommodation Review Committee). As part of this process, a proposal has been made to alter the boundaries of the Aberdeen and St. George's school areas, so that in September 2023 an additional 90 students currently attending St. George's would move to Aberdeen. This proposal has been submitted to help reduce large enrollment numbers at their school. Currently, Aberdeen is running under capacity. We are still looking for a few parent volunteers who would like to be a part of the committee for our school to help speak on behalf of the parents in our community. If you are interested or would like more information, please reach out to the principal, Mrs. Squire. The first meeting for this committee will be on Wednesday, March 2 at 6:00 p.m.

## Mental Health Resources for Parents and Families

We know that these past couple of years have been challenging for families. There have been many interruptions to learning for children. The pandemic has caused people to live in isolation and has led to many changes in our regular routines. The TVDSB has come up with resources and supports for parents and caregivers on mental health and well-being. Please check out their site at: <https://www.tvdsb.ca/en/students/mental-health-and-well-being-for-families.aspx>

### Upcoming Dates:

February 23- Pink Shirt Day

March 2- LAARC meeting for parents

March 4- PD Day (No school for students)

March 14-18- Spring Break



