We hope everyone had a wonderful March Break and is ready for back to school. Just a few reminders for Monday, March 21st:

## **Morning Entry:**

We are no longer required to cohort students. Starting on Monday, all primary classes will be lining up on the blacktop by class facing the basketball nets and field. Class 3A will be closest to the school, followed by 2A, 23A, 12A, and 1A. Teachers will be out to greet their students so that they are aware of their new line up locations. We will no longer be using the field area during morning entry.

Our classes on the second and third floor will not need to line up. When the bell goes at 8:40 am the doors will be opened and students can proceed to their classes using a free entry. The classes will continue to use the same doors that they have since September. When waiting for the bell, we ask these students to wait on the blacktop close to the doors that they use for entry so that we have space for our primary students to line up near the basketball nets.

# Masking

Throughout the week, the board continued to update the Ministry about its masking transition plan. Supporting staff and families during this phased approach and time of transition is our priority as a school. We are reminding all staff and students to wear a mask until April 1<sup>st</sup> and to exercise their choice by completing the mask exemption form process, if needed: Mask Exemption Form. If you have already completed a mask exemption form for your child you do not need to complete another one.

## **Nutrition Break**

We are no longer required to cohort students during nutrition break, which means students are able to play freely on either the blacktop or field area with friends in other classes. Prior to the break, each cohort was playing games within their designated area. Our plan moving forward is to continue to have our older students (PALS) outside with our primary students offering various organized activities on both the blacktop and field that students can join as they wish. Our primary classes have really struggled with self regulation since returning this fall and we have been working together to remind our students that our feet stay on the ground and our hands to ourselves.

When the bell rings to come inside our primary students will line up in the exact same locations that they use for morning entry. Our older students will freely enter using the same doors that they use for morning entry. The second and third floor students do not need to line up.

For the first 20 minutes of each break, our primary students go out and our older students stay in to eat. For the last 20 minutes of each break our primary students eat and our older students go out.

# **Daily Screening**

Daily on-site confirmation of screening for all students will no longer be required. Students should continue to self-screen every day using the <u>Covid Screening Tool</u>, however, there is no need to sign the agenda to verify daily screening.

#### **Visitors to School**

We want any visitors to our school to feel welcome and safe. We ask that when coming to the school you buzz the office and wait at the East 19<sup>th</sup> doors. One of our office administrators (Lisa/Kim) will come and greet you at the door. All visitors must check in at the office and wait there until they are invited to the location in the school where they will be for their visit.

# **Other Lifting Measures:**

- Students may be grouped and can share tables for instruction and for lunch in all classrooms and learning spaces.
- Distance and capacity signage is being removed.
- Water fountains will become operational over the coming weeks. We encourage all students to bring a water bottle daily that can be filled up at our hydration station.
- Planning for educational excursions and grade 8 commencement will begin. More information will be shared in the coming weeks.

We appreciate that changes in public health measure that have been in place for many months may create feelings of anxiety and stress within our school community. Our staff are here to support and at anytime please don't hesitate to reach out. Don't forget that tomorrow, Monday March 21<sup>st</sup>, is fun socks day. Wear your fun socks and earn points for your house colours.



Thank You
Joanne Hall & Dianne Barlow
Principal & Vice Principal