



# Traditions Elementary

## School Newsletter

### December, 2020



### Message from the Admin Team:

Seasons Greeting All! It is a typical beginning to a December school newsletter to remark on how quickly fall has passed. That is particularly profound this year. Despite many differences this fall, it is still true that time goes by quickly when all are positively engaged. Even though we cannot conduct some of our traditional seasonal activities at school this year, classroom teachers are planning different seasonal activities in the classroom and look forward to sharing those with parents on SeeSaw.

We continue to be thankful to parents for being attentive to their child's daily wellness/health and fitness to attend school. We also appreciate parent responsiveness to occasions where we require an unwell child to go home. I know some of you will be concerned about Saskatchewan's rising COVID-19 cases and what that means for your kids at school. The government's most recent announcement means that **masks are now required for all students and staff, at all times inside the building.** Masks are *not* required when kids are outside, when social distancing can be maintained. We've found that most kids are fine to just keep them on outside also – it's easier to play and have fun when you don't have to worry so much about how close to someone you are. Supervisors will monitor this on the playground and help students figure out what works for them. We know that this may be a bit of a challenge for our younger students and we will approach these next few weeks as an opportunity to learn how to build stamina.

The other recent change you may have heard about is that the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) is no longer able to do contact tracing for students when someone in a school tests positive. If public health determined there was a positive case of COVID-19 at our school, all of the students in that class would be considered close contacts and would be asked to self-isolate for a period of 14 days from when the initial contact occurred. Our teachers are prepared to pivot to online learning should this occur.

Your Administrative Team:  
Mr. Greg Tebay & Mr. Daniel Howie



### Upcoming Events:

Dec 7 – 7 p.m. – SCC AGM & Elections – Zoom Mtg

Dec 18 – Dress Christmassy!!

Dec 21 – Jan 1 – Christmas Break

Jan 4 – Classes Resume

Jan 29 – Prep Day – no classes

### Temporary Distance Learning

On Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, PSSD families received a letter from Director Lori Jeschke. It outlined that with an increase in families choosing to keep their children home for an undetermined amount of time we are considering diverse ways to support students and their learning. To date, we have been fortunate in our school and community to have most students attending school regularly but understand that could change quickly. Any parents who may be seeking a longer term distance education option for the second half of the school year, should contact Greg Tebay, Principal following the Christmas break to discuss options.

### See A Need, Fill A Need

An important piece of the Christmas season is considering how we might help those less fortunate. This is particularly important this year as some families are particularly impacted by the pandemic. Traditions Elementary is happy to partner with the Warman Food Bank again this year to support their work on Christmas Food Hampers. Classroom teachers will accept coin/cash donations between December 7 and 16<sup>th</sup>. Donations will be used to purchase grocery gift cards at local retailers and will be distributed to families in need by the Warman Food Bank.

### OURSchool Survey – Grade 4 and 5

Grade 4 and 5 students at Traditions Elementary will be participating in an online school perception survey for students called the OurSCHOOL Student Survey. The survey is conducted annually to measure student engagement, increase student involvement & sense of belonging at school. Survey measures include such topics as behaviours and attitudes linked to student success, emotional and social well-being and physical health. For more information about the OurSCHOOL Student Survey, please visit The Learning Bar's website: [www.thelearningbar.com](http://www.thelearningbar.com) If you have questions or would like to request more information about our upcoming implementation of the OurSCHOOL Student Survey, please contact Greg Tebay, Principal.

### Cold Weather Busing Reminder

Except for the blizzard on November 8 we have been blessed with nice weather through November and the outlook for the next few weeks looks favourable. We know that things will take a turn for the colder eventually. A few reminders/updates about cold weather policies - In accordance with Prairie Spirit School Division Busing Policy #805, should the temperature be - 40 degrees with wind chill, or if road conditions are considered dangerous, buses will not run. In that situation, it will be posted on the PSSD website [www.spiritsd.ca](http://www.spiritsd.ca) by 7:00 a.m. If any or all

buses do not run, parents need to know that urban bus students will not receive a phone call. Buses not operating in the morning may run at the end of the school day if temperatures are above -40 degrees and road conditions are safe. Please make it a habit to check the Prairie Spirit School Division's website daily ([www.spiritsd.ca](http://www.spiritsd.ca)) for Bus Cancellations. You can also check your MyStop app to see if your child's bus is running.

### Thank You Outgoing SCC Members

Our School Community Council will be holding its Annual General Meeting and Elections on Monday, December 7, at 7:00 PM. Our Council meetings continue to be held virtually. Please contact Greg Tebay, TES Principal if you are interested in attending the meetings. We want to take an opportunity to thank outgoing members of the Council for their leadership and contributions to our school and students. Thank you to Jillian Batting, Ashlie Beutler and Cyndee Boos!

### Parking Reminders

Please do not park in the turnabout at the west end of Traditions Boulevard. School buses are not able to turn around when vehicles are in this area which causes delays and safety issues. The cross walks on Traditions Boulevard are marked by signs in the middle of the street. We ask for your cooperation in not parking in front of the crosswalks so that pedestrians can safely access them.

## We Welcome Miss Von Grad to TES!!

Hello! My name is Miss Kyla VonGrad and I am so excited to be teaching grade three at Traditions Elementary School this year. I recently convocated from the University of Saskatchewan in December 2019. Simultaneously, while I was finishing up my degree I also worked at Roadways Literacy Studio and became certified in literacy support and intervention. After finishing up my degree, I was offered a job in Martensville and have been absolutely loving teaching! When I am not at Traditions Elementary School, I am in Martensville teaching literacy support for grades one to four. I was very excited to get back into the classroom this year in order to make connections with my new students, staff and families.

My fiancé, Matthew, and I live in Martensville with our dog named Scamp. Growing up on a farm, Matthew and I love spending time outside biking, quadding, snowmobiling, gardening, and boating. With COVID shutting everything down, it kept us close to home. I started my very first garden, dabbled in canning, and we spent time at my family's cabin at Emerald Lake. In my free time, I enjoy dancing, doing esthetics, reading, baking, watching movies and cuddling with Scamp.

