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August 24, 2020

Dear Prairie Spirit families:

Earlier this month, the Premier announced that the new start date for the school year would be **Tuesday, September 8**. The Prairie Spirit school year [calendar](#) has been updated to reflect this new start date.

Please note Prairie Spirit has made a change to our return to school plans. With the approval of the Ministry of Education and our local Medical Health Officer, Prairie Spirit schools will be implementing a **“soft start”** for the week of September 8 - 11.

Our schools will be dividing their student population into two cohorts or groups:

- The first cohort will attend school on **Tuesday, September 8 and Thursday, September 10**.
- The second cohort will attend on **Wednesday, September 9 and Friday, September 11**.

Starting with smaller groups of students will give our students and staff the opportunity to:

- practice new routines in classrooms, hallways, playgrounds and buses
- establish patterns of movement within the school
- provide opportunities to acknowledge and support a variety of emotions

Each school will determine locally what their “soft start” will look like. Schools will communicate the cohort information to families with a commitment to keep family members within the same cohort.

All students will attend school starting on **Monday, September 14**.

Each Prairie Spirit school will post their return to school plan on their school website and share their plan with their families on Wednesday, August 26. Please contact your local school if you have questions about the return to school.

Prairie Spirit calendar

Week of August 24:

Teacher preparation time and school-level planning

Wednesday, August 26:

Prairie Spirit schools will post their return to school plans and share with families

Week of August 31:

Teacher preparation time and school-level planning

Week of September 7:

- Monday, September 7 – Labour Day (*statutory holiday*)
- Tuesday, September 8 - Friday, September 11 - **“soft start”** in cohort groups

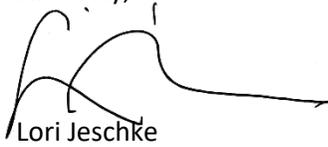
Week of September 14:

All students attend school

We will continue to communicate with our families in Prairie Spirit School Division at least once a week. In addition, you will be receiving regular updates from your school.

We are working hard to create a safe and smooth transition back to school and we will do that with care and creativity – together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lori Jeschke'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Lori Jeschke
Director of Education