



August 4th, 2020

Dear École Warman Elementary School Families,

Happy Summer Everyone!! We don't want to take away any of your "fun in the sun" but do want to make sure that we take a few moments to communicate with our families and students of École Warman Elementary School as our re-entry into school this fall will not be so far away. We know there are lots of things to do and want to keep you "in the loop" so you can also feel prepared while enjoying your summer vacations as well.

First of all, I would like to thank our wonderful staff for welcoming me in with open arms this past spring as the Principal of École Warman Elementary School (É.W.E.S.)!! We were able to spend some quality time together (virtually) this spring and throughout the summer in many ways discussing, planning, reflecting and learning together in preparation to welcome our students this fall. I could not feel luckier to become a part of such a warm, welcoming and dedicated staff of teachers, EAs, caretakers and administrative assistants and look forward to getting to meet all of our students shortly!! I also cannot thank our Vice Principal, Mrs. Lacoursiere enough for her commitment, teamwork and open arms in beginning our administrative journey together!!

I have had the privilege of spending the majority of my educational career within Prairie Spirit School Division as a Teacher and Administrator starting out prior to amalgamation in Saskatoon East School Division in Allan, Saskatchewan. After our first child was born, I made the difficult decision to transfer to be closer to home and was able to spend many wonderful years teaching in Langham, SK during which time our second child was born. After completing my Masters' Degree in Educational Administration, I accepted a position in Hepburn, SK as Vice Principal and had the opportunity to teach and learn alongside the caring professionals in the K-12 school and community. When Prairie Spirit announced that we were opening a brand new, K-5 joint-use/P3 school in Warman, SK, I was offered a Vice Principalship at Traditions Elementary School. There, I spent three exciting years growing our school and building our Dual-Track French Immersion/English school community. That brings me to this year, when I was offered the Principalship at Warman Elementary School (now École Warman Elementary School) where, together, we will welcome students from Pre-K- Grade 5 in both English and French (dual-track) streams. Wow!! I am so excited, so humbled and feel so blessed to have the opportunity to get to know your child, your family and for our staff to continue to support learning as we grow and learn together. I am so happy to continue my journey in education in supportive and innovative community of Warman as we are (as our motto says) "Growing Together".

We know the upcoming school year still holds many "unknown details" of re-entry into our schools. As you can imagine, we want to communicate any/all information that we can to families to reduce the "unknowns" which we know helps create a sense of calm for ourselves and our students. That said, we know that you can also understand that there are not a lot of things that we are able to put down as certainties right now, as things seem to change daily with the current COVID-19 Pandemic situation locally and globally. What we *do* know for sure is that we are committed to safety, security, communication, relationships and ultimately, student learning. We are flexible and diligent in our planning

and preparations and do not operate as an “island” but as a team following and relying on the professionals that surround us including the Ministry of Health and our School Division who are all working tirelessly to ensure we are prepared and supported as we come back this fall. Yes, things may look different, sound different, and feel different for us ...but we are continuing to look forward, to take things slow, and to trust in the good work of the “*whole*”. One thing that will never change is our commitment as educators to your children, to student learning, and to caring for one another.

Throughout the year, we will be using several platforms to communicate with you (email, website, digital portfolios, you tube, phone calls, etc.) That said, we will be primarily updating you via school email and website for fall re-entry information until teachers have established their connections to Seesaw so that we can all maintain consistency. Please ensure your email address is up-to-date with the school (wes@spiritsd.ca) and check the website (<https://blogs.spiritsd.ca/wes/>) for updates periodically.

We know that some families would like to purchase *school supplies*, but due to the nature of restrictions to schools, we wanted to ensure that whatever lists are posted were created knowing what students will actually be needing this year (to the best of our ability). We have now posted supply lists on our school website. These lists include supplies that students will need for the whole year. One measure we will be following is keeping student supplies separate versus communal this year. For this reason, supply lists will include a *clear plastic, wipeable tub with a lid* to keep supplies separate, yet readily available to students. Please note... Classroom teachers will be in touch with families in late August listing what items are needed for the first days of school. Please only send these particular items to begin as you can imagine space will be limited. Another addition to our supply lists this year will be *Health Canada Approved Hand Sanitizer*. All schools will have access to hand sanitizer for the whole school to use but we also recommend students have their own individual bottle as well. More communication regarding this and how it will be managed with our youngest students will come from classroom teachers at a later date.

One other thing that we want to communicate at this time is that we, in consultation with our amazing SCC will not be holding our annual “*Meet the Staff BBQ*” at the beginning of the school year. We continue to discuss and plan for ways that students and families will not only get to “Meet the Teacher” while following safety measures, but also ways in which we can introduce the whole staff and work on (re)-creating our sense of school community even if/when we are not yet able to gather as a large group/ serve food, etc. We will continue to work diligently with our school division and SCC to ensure that while safety measures are being adhered to, the “*can...if...*” *philosophy* of what we *can do, safely* if we follow certain guidelines helps us to plan and innovate in these times.

So...what’s next? Well, it is still summer holidays (for staff and students)...so get out in that sunshine and enjoy 😊 Our school division is intending to send out information via email/survey at the beginning of August to all school families so keep an eye out for that. In addition, our teachers will be in touch with you when they return to work in the last week of August and will send out important information, seeking information from you to help us support your child and your family and even putting together a short video tour of their classroom and any other areas or features that they would like to show their students before their arrival on September 1st. Until then, take care and stay safe!!

Yours in Learning,
Your Administrative Team,
Danielle Olson (Principal) and Nicole Lacoursiere (Vice Principal)