



# COUGAR NEWS



October 1, 2020

No. 2

Clavet School

## **ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE**

October

I have been encouraged over the last month by the way that students and staff have adjusted to the COVID rules in place for a safe learning environment for all. Although we are still reminding students about the need to keep their masks on when they are unable to exercise physical distancing, we have not yet had to discipline students for this. Students requiring mask breaks throughout the day are working with their teachers to achieve them, and many of them are going outside for those breaks. With 22 acres, we have lots of room for students to spread out, physically distance and get a mask break. However, if students are playing an activity outside during a break where they are not able to physically distance, they are still expected to wear their masks. Please note, for those parents who are dropping off and picking up your children, if you are unable to maintain a physical distance of at least 2 metres from the other students at the school, you are required to wear a mask.

Please note that if a student is sent home or stays home due to the presence of COVID symptoms, families are expected to call 811 for further guidance. Students are expected to remain at home until they are symptom free for 48 hours before returning to school. If a student displays COVID symptoms, but has not tested positive, their sibling are not required to self-isolate and may attend school. With all of these types of questions, we are relying on the advice of the Saskatchewan Health Authority and parents are encouraged to call 811 for clarification.

We have been fortunate thus far to not have any active cases with individuals in the school. We recognize that this is thanks to the conscientious efforts of the community to control community transmission rates. We appreciate that families are following the school division's directive to not enter the school building at this time.

Please note, in the case of a positive COVID case in the school, the following steps will be taken:

- We will work closely with Public Health staff to ensure necessary measures are in place to protect all students and staff.
- The Health Authority will identify the cohort. (They will not name the individual as this is private health information.)
- If your child was in the cohort, you will receive a letter with that information.
- Due to the safeguards we have in place, not all individuals in the classroom/cohort are considered close contacts. For a definition of close contacts, please see the following link ([Close Contacts](#)).
- Public Health will lead this work with our staff and students. Public Health will conduct contact tracing.
- Public Health will contact parents/guardians of students and any staff/visitors/volunteers who may have been in close contact with the case and provide direction.

- If you do not hear from them, Public Health feels your child has not been exposed because of the measures that are in place.
- We remind everyone entering schools to monitor for any signs or symptoms of COVID-19. Refer to the provincial government's Self-Assessment Checklist before attending school each day.
- If you/your child has any symptoms of COVID-19, please call HealthLine at 811 and remain at home. If medical attention is required, please call ahead to your health care provider. If it is an emergency requiring urgent attention, call 911.

#### Caretaking

- We have stringent protocols in place to minimize the possibility of transmission of this infection.
- Our caretaking staff are following the procedures for cleaning and sanitizing.

#### Return to School

- Individuals who have had a positive case of COVID-19 may return to school once cleared by Public Health.

Although we are hopeful that we will not need to follow these steps, we thought it important for you to be forewarned of the process that we would follow, under the guidance of Public Health.

Thank you for your ongoing support and the diligence you encourage in your children to follow the rules and expectations of the Health Region, the School Division, and the school to keep everyone safe.

## REMINDERS

**Parents K-12 Absentee Reminder**— Please remember to call the office when your child is absent from **any** class. All absentees from class need to be cleared at the office by a parent. Thank-you!



### **SCHOOL FEES**

Please complete form and pay fees to the classroom teacher. Student fees are due by October 15<sup>th</sup>.

**SCHOOL PICTURES:** Order forms will be sent home from the homeroom teacher sometime next week.

**PSSD – Guiding Principles for Physical Activities:** Prairie Spirit School Division has release physical activity guidelines to help keep students safe and encourage students to be physically active. Please use this [link](#).

**2019-2020 YEARBOOK:** orders are due. Forms are on the website.



## REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY

Due to the current conditions we will not have the annual Remembrance Day Ceremony this year.



### Winter Clothing Drive



Have coats, mitts, hats, or boots that your family is done with? We're happy to take them off your hands for you. We'll have collection bins ready for drop offs beginning Monday, October 5th. We'll have bins throughout the school as well as one in front of the building so that you can access it without needing to enter the school. We'll be accepting donations until October 31<sup>st</sup>. Any donations that aren't directly used in our community will be donated to a worthy cause. Thanks for your support!

## COUGAR NEWS

### Online 10/20/30 Music Credit options through Spirit eLearning school

The Music Ed team are excited to be a part of Spirit eLearning School and are offering an all new online **music credit** class starting on October 22nd for students in grade 9-12. This class will take place as a timetabled option, in the mornings, where students will work for a complete credit per term. We are using the Hexi model of 6 weeks per course, however, there is an opportunity to meet the needs of students in a synchronous and asynchronous format. Students from **any** part of the division are welcome to sign up. In addition to daily large group topics, discussions and activities, students can pick from the following areas of specialization:

- Band
- Choral
- Jazz
- General Music
- Garage Band
- Guitar



For more information, please contact Will Martin, Kendra Worman or Peggy Mattila-Bains  
To register, please contact Peggy Mattila-Bains @ [peggy.mattila@spiritsd.ca](mailto:peggy.mattila@spiritsd.ca)

## DATES TO NOTE

<b>OCT. 1&amp;2</b>	<b>ELEMENTARY STANDARDS MEET</b>
<b>OCT. 5</b>	<b>TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY</b>
<b>OCT. 6</b>	<b>BLOCK 1 7-12 PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS</b>
<b>OCT. 12</b>	<b>THANKSGIVING DAY – NO CLASSES</b>
<b>OCT. 21</b>	<b>GR 1-6 PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS</b>
<b>OCT. 22</b>	<b>GR 1-6 PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS</b>
<b>OCT. 23</b>	<b>DAY IN LIEU – NO CLASSES</b>
<b>OCT. 26</b>	<b>PREPARATION TIME – NO CLASSES</b>
<b>OCT. 26</b>	<b>PROVINCIAL ELECTION</b>

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Come Skate with us!



Registration is now open!  
Parent & Tot  
CanSkate  
StarSkate  
Fall School  
Visit our website for more  
information  
[clavetskatingclub.com](http://clavetskatingclub.com)



- \*\*Parent & Tot and CanSkate begins November 2, 2020
- \*\*Covid safety protocols will be in place

## **SPARE BUS DRIVERS NEEDED!**

**Spare Bus Drivers are needed in your school community.**

A Prairie Spirit Bus Driver:

- Receives free training; licensing fees covered
- Could take their young child along on route
- Enjoys daily contact with students
- Supports the local community



For more information about this flexible opportunity, please contact the Prairie Spirit Bus Garage at (306) 374-2496 or go to [spiritsd.ca/careers](http://spiritsd.ca/careers)

**PRAIRIE SPIRIT  
SCHOOL DIVISION**





## Grad 2020 Legacy Tree Project



2020 was a difficult year for our graduating class. They lost the last three and a half months of the school year to socialize with their classmates and engage in a number of traditional activities to mark the end of their time at Clavet School. This included the absence of a traditional graduation ceremony. We appreciate the efforts of the grad parents to produce a grad video that replicated many of the traditions of a typical Clavet graduation, but we wanted to mark the historic pandemic during which they graduated with a lasting legacy. Immediately east of the old rink tarmac we planted 43 trees (one for each graduate) in three concentric circles, planted at least 2 metres apart.

We would like to thank Lindsay Jackson for originally presenting the idea to us. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Robin Adair from About Crest for the donation of his time and advice on final plans for the project, and the donation of equipment and labour to complete the finished product. We would also like to thank Patti Montgomery from Mother Earth Greenhouses for sourcing the trees for us at cost. Thanks are also due to Travis Peters for rototilling the area and to the Clavet Volunteer Fire Department for the controlled burn of the huge pile of dead potentillas that Mr. Schmidt and Mr. Matisz removed from the area.

The trees selected for the project were primarily fruit-bearing trees with some evergreens selected for year-round appeal. We're confident that this project will continue to support the Clavet School community as the trees mature, bear fruit and contribute to our healthy eating program; as well as contributing to our science program. Mr. Oleksyn has a group of students working on a bench for the middle of the fruit orchard and Mr. Lundquist will help us with an irrigation system that will be installed in the spring. We will be installing a plaque on the bench so that students for years to come will be aware of the impact of the pandemic on the world and on our students.

Thanks to everyone involved for helping to turn a challenging experience into positive legacy. I encourage you drop by and take a look at it if you are in the area.



Hello Clavet and area families:

In Clavet School, we have classroom libraries for our students in Grades 1 to 12. These libraries are specifically designed for our students to be able to browse and have readily on hand many different levels of reading books about topics of interest to them, in the classroom. Our teachers spend their time wisely and choose books that will work for each grade level and they know what is popular with the kids. The students have designated quiet reading time, every day for 20 minutes and sometimes they finish projects or their work early. These are the times when classroom libraries are awesome to have. We need to be able to provide a wide variety of books from different genres, covering interests and reading levels to keep all of our students engaged in reading. Lifelong learning and a love of reading are goals of our school.

Hardcover, soft cover, short reads and chapter books are purchased by donations from our community members. We have usually raised funds for our classroom libraries through our Fall Supper which has been a very popular event. This year we cannot hold our Fall Supper as per usual. The School Community Council (SCC) is working with the staff to find a way we can raise funds for the purchase of more books.

We came up with Virtual Book Readings done by our community members. We are asking parents to read a book, or an excerpt from a novel, as they record or video themselves for the students to watch later. The video is uploaded to YouTube as an unlisted video. The video is then shared with the staff to be shown to their class. The kids watch it and learn about a new book while enjoying a different voice doing the reading. It is virtual reading time with an adult from our community.

The SCC fully supports this initiative because it involves parent engagement in a different way during these times. We have had one mom step up to read a book for Grade 1 and 2s. The students loved it! It is a win win for all. The more parents we can get doing a virtual video of a book or part of book will result in more funding and books being purchased for our classroom libraries. You are helping your kids!

The teachers are invited to have a wish list of books that they would like to have in their classroom for students. Student input is welcome as well. This is very good for our school as kids engage in learning how to love reading, they have new material for reading, our SCC is engaging with parents and the parents get to be involved in a different way which is fun and exciting. The kids love this!!

We invite all parents, grandparents, older siblings or anyone who wishes to get involved to connect by email with your child's homeroom teacher and begin the process of choosing a book.

If there are any other fantastic ideas out there at this particular time that you have on how parents can engage with our school, please let an SCC member know, or send an email to Mr. Matisz. Thank you for your dedication and efforts in helping to build our classroom libraries stronger and better.

Clavet School SCC



# Home & School

Working Together for School Success

## CONNECTION<sup>®</sup>

October 2020



Sponsored by your School Community Council

### SHORT NOTES

#### Spot respect

Ask your youngster to write the word "R-E-S-P-E-C-T" across the top of a sheet of paper, with a column for each letter. Post the paper on the fridge, and let everyone write examples of respect that start with those letters. ("Return borrowed items in good condition." "Express thanks for favors.") Put a tally mark by each one someone does or notices this week.

#### Sprinkle in similes

Your child can use similes—comparisons with *like* or *as*—to write vivid descriptions. Try this: Pick something (say, the wind), and take turns describing it with a simile. Your youngster might say, "The wind tickled my ear like a whisper." Or you could say, "The wind howled as loudly as a wolf."

### DID YOU KNOW?

The last speech sounds children typically master include *ch*, *sh*, and *th*. By age 8, your youngster should pronounce all sounds correctly in the beginning (*ch*ese), middle (*se*ashell), or end (*with*) of a word. If you're concerned about his speech, contact his teacher. She may suggest an evaluation by the school speech therapist.

#### Worth quoting

"Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can." *Arthur Ashe*

### JUST FOR FUN

**Q:** What's one question you can never answer with "Yes"?

**A:** What does n-o spell?



## Homework success

Which homework assignment should your youngster tackle first? How can she make sure she follows the directions? Suggest these strategies that will help her do her best at homework time.

#### Start smart

Before your child digs into the day's homework, have her rank her assignments from easiest to hardest. She may want to do the hardest work first while her mind is fresh. Or perhaps she'd prefer to get an easier assignment out of the way first to give her a sense of accomplishment.

#### Read the instructions

Paying careful attention to directions can help your youngster complete assignments correctly. For instance, the instructions might say to write explanations or draw pictures to show her thinking in solving math problems. Also, tell her that if she doesn't understand the directions, it's okay to ask for help. Offer to read them with her, or she could call a friend.



#### Take breaks

Short breaks will help your child stay focused. Between assignments or subjects, let her set a timer for 10 minutes. She can stretch, snuggle with the cat, or dance to music until the timer goes off, then get back to work.

#### Review work

As your youngster finishes each assignment, have her check it over before putting it away or sending it electronically. Is her name on her paper? Did she skip any parts? Do all answers make sense? Once she's satisfied, she should put her paper in her backpack or hit "send."♥

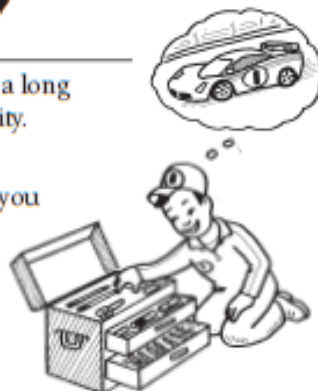
## Share expectations

How you tell your child what you expect will go a long way toward turning your expectations into his reality. Consider these three techniques.

**1. Show understanding.** You might say, "I know you want to play, but it's time to study for your test."

**2. Give choices.** Your youngster may do what's expected if he gets to decide when to do it. Ask him, "Do you plan to practice piano before or after dinner?"

**3. Look to the future.** Help your child tie your expectations to his goals. Does he want to become a race car mechanic? Try: "When you grow up, you'll need to be organized to know exactly where all your tools are."♥





## Count on courage

Children may believe that being brave means being fearless. But having courage really means taking action even when something feels scary—like learning to ride a bike or speaking up if something is wrong. Encourage your child's bravery with these tips.

**Recognize it.** Since courage often doesn't feel "brave" while it's happening, your youngster might not realize he is being brave. When he



shows courage, point it out to him. ("It was brave of you to meet the neighbor's dog. I know you're not comfortable around big dogs.") Or you could say, "It took a lot of courage to tell your friend to stop teasing that girl."

**Control feelings.** If your child is nervous or afraid, he may convince himself that something is too difficult. Help him develop ways to manage his feelings. He might take a few slow, deep breaths before he tries riding

his bike without training wheels. Or he can give himself a pep talk before speaking up for himself. ("I know it's wrong to share answers. I'm doing the right thing.")♥

### ACTIVITY CORNER

#### "I'm 3 x 3 years old!"

Age, shoe size, address ... your child's world is full of numbers. For a fun way to practice math facts, she can use those numbers to make up personalized math problems for everyone in your family.

Have each person write equations about herself or relatives. Your youngster might write " $2 + \text{my shoe size} + 1 = 7$ " (answer: size 4). And you could write " $676 - 284 = \text{our house number}$ " (answer: 392). More numbers to use in equations: age of our dog, Dad's birth year, number of people living in our home, year of grandparents' wedding.



Trade papers—can you solve each other's problems? Then, let your child display the math by drawing portraits of your family and writing the equations on each person's portrait.♥

#### OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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## Strengthen bonds with family traditions

Traditions build a sense of security by giving your youngster something to count on. Try these ideas.

### Talk about family traditions

Maybe you take a full-moon walk once a month or visit a pumpkin farm every October. Discussing these traditions will help your child recognize and treasure them as part of what makes your family special.

### Make adjustments

Accept that some traditions may not work this year, such as hosting a World Series watch party or attending a neighborhood potluck. Then look for ways to adapt them. Perhaps you'll eat peanuts and popcorn with your family while watching baseball or classic sports on TV.

*Tip:* If you have a blended family, start new traditions together—and be sure to keep old ones, too. You'll build stronger bonds and a sense of a family identity.♥



## Learning to brainstorm

**Q:** My son often has to brainstorm for school assignments, but instead of coming up with a lot of ideas, he gets stuck after one or two. How can he learn to generate more ideas on his own?

**A:** Brainstorming often stalls when kids spend too much time trying to think of "good" ideas. Remind your son that brainstorming has no wrong

answers, and a so-so idea might lead him to an ideal solution.

Practice brainstorming together. Each night, try to come up with a headline that describes your day, a new title for tonight's bedtime story, or a name for a stuffed animal. Your son can toss out the first idea, then take turns suggesting others until he has one he likes. Over time, he'll get more comfortable offering ideas without overthinking them.♥

