



# COUGAR NEWS



December 5, 2020

No.4

Clavet School

## **ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE**

It is easy to feel defeated by the explosive progression of COVID-19 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, and the world. However, when we look directly at how we are managing as a school, there are lots of things for which to be thankful.

We can of course be thankful that we have not had a recorded case of COVID at the school yet. Despite the transmission rates in the public, private, and sports worlds immediately surrounding us, we have not had a case in the school yet. This is of course thanks to all the individuals coming into the school doing their part to keep us safe. Although it feels as though we are being robbed of many enjoyable experiences this year, in our case, it is helping to keep our students and our community safe.

We can be thankful that we have not had a significant disruption to the delivery of our school program. Our grade 7-12 teachers have done a tremendous amount of work to restructure the approach of their programs to fit the block model of instruction that we are using. We know it has put pressures on our students and their families to keep up with the faster pace of delivery for the coursework, but it was the safest option we could come up with to minimize the cross-cohort contacts.

We can be thankful for the creativity that staff and students are displaying in how they address the barriers to regular programming. The most recent example of this that I can think of is the restricted gym time that we have during this block. Since the gym isn't available, we have classes using the balcony, open classrooms, and the outdoors to accomplish some innovative and engaging activities. That includes noodle drumming on five-gallon pails, seated aerobics, and snow fort building with the new set of shovels that Mr. Schmidt picked up.

As we adapt on a daily basis to the ever-changing landscape of 2020, we are also moving forward with our plans for the school renovation project, and the school greenhouse project. These are clear signs to me that we will get through this if we continue to work together, and there will be a brighter future ahead.

Thank you for continuing to encourage your children to support the school safety plan. If we concentrate on daily adherence to the expectations of mask wearing, hand sanitizing, physical distancing, and limiting our contacts, we can hopefully keep everyone in our community safe.

Thank you also for keeping your children home when they are not feeling well. I know it puts added pressure on your family when you need to keep them home long enough to be 48 hours symptom-free, but this is another safety measure that benefits the community in the long run.

This will be a strange Christmas for all of us. For me, Christmas has always been a time for family to get together. I look forward to our annual Christmas concert as the official start of the holiday season, but this year it will all look very different. I will try to take comfort in the hope that sacrifices made this holiday season will lead to a more traditional season next year. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and healthy holiday season.



## CONTACT INFORMATION



Please remember to keep your family contact information up to date especially as we are heading into the winter weather season. Parents of students' grades 7-12 can update through PowerSchool anytime. Please contact the office if you need assistance.

## REMINDERS FOR ALL BUSSED STUDENTS - (both in-town and rural)



- Students must be at their bus stop by the pre-determined pick up time. At each bus stop, bus drivers will wait for **two minutes** before continuing on their routes. Drivers cannot wait any longer without disrupting other pick up times along their routes.
- At the end of the day, the bus will leave the school **five minutes** after the bell. Students need to make their way directly to the bus.

**Thank you to parents and students for their cooperation!**

## REPORT CARDS FOR GRADES 7-12

We have noticed a significant increase in the number of students and parents who have been accessing progress information online using PowerSchool. We have also noticed a significant decrease in the number of students who are collecting their report cards. After a discussion with our School Community Council, we have decided to print only the final report card of the year. Parents and students will still be able to access marks and comments through PowerSchool on a continuous basis throughout the year and teachers will continue to input comments for the advertised reporting periods. If you have any questions about how to access PowerSchool, please contact Mrs. Cameron in office.

## COLD WEATHER GUIDELINES



Clavet has established the following temperatures as a guideline for winter recess times. We would like all students to be **dressed properly** (**jackets, ski- pants, toque, mitts, scarves, boots**) as we go outside as much as possible. Many students ask to go outside even when temperatures dip low. For this reason we have established the Polar Bear Club. Please note, the temperatures are based on Environment Canada for Saskatoon.

- 26 C, combined temperature/wind-chill
  - Outside recess
- 27 C to -39 C, combined temperature/wind-chill
  - All students dress up and run to shack and back
  - Polar Bear Club



- ❖ **Polar Bear Club – only those dressed properly will have the option to stay outside with teacher supervision.**

## Parent Virtual Book Reading Contest

Thank you to the SCC for coming up with this brilliant idea to continue to engage our parents in the reading program at the school. The school received a phone call from the provincial government recognizing this innovative project as an exemplar for continuing the learning in the COVID environment in which we are all operating. Thank you also to the parents who participated for taking a bit of a risk and submitting a video of themselves either reading a book or giving a book talk about a favourite book of theirs for the teacher to share with their class. We have had some staff absences over the past few days, so we still don't have the final numbers for the winning classrooms, but we wanted to make sure to share our appreciation of the efforts that a number of people have put into this project. Even though the contest has concluded, please feel free to continue to engage with your children's learning by submitting videos to your child's homeroom teacher.



## Christmas Concert



Due to the current provincial restrictions on large gatherings as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Clavet Composite School is unable to host our traditional Pre K - Grade 6 Christmas Concert. But to keep with the holiday spirit, plans are in place to pivot to have each Pre K - Grade 6 Homeroom Class prepare and pre-record a video and then share it only with their own individual homeroom classroom. This pre-recorded video could possibly include visual images of students in which their face may be clearly identifiable along with first and last names. A link to a Video Consent Form is included below so that you are able to give your consent. If you opt not to consent, your child will not be identifiable in the video. Each homeroom class teacher will also be sending out this link out so that everyone receives it.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf3AL0XK4QNWzW\\_eMAZJZDD3ZITRxOL7oYpNkv-egKDkPIxeQ/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf3AL0XK4QNWzW_eMAZJZDD3ZITRxOL7oYpNkv-egKDkPIxeQ/viewform?usp=sf_link)

## DATES TO NOTE

**DEC. 11**

**DEC. 18**

**DEC. 18**

**DEC.21-JAN. 1**

**JAN. 4**

**RED & GREEN DAY**

**FORMAL OR UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER DAY**

**LAST DAY OF CLASSES**

**CHRISTMAS BREAK – NO CLASSES**

**CLASSES RESUME**

We are now accepting applications for **SUBSTITUTE CARETAKING HELP**. In order to maintain our school building to the highest possible standard, we require substitute caretaking help in our school. If you are interested in working on a casual basis, please contact Brian Matisz, Principal at 306-933-1022 or Amy Sawyer, Operations Assistant at 306-683-2918, as soon as possible for more information. **Students**, parents and community members are welcome to apply.



# Home & School

## Working Together for School Success

### CONNECTION®

December 2020

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#### SHORT NOTES

##### Active listening Listening challenge!

Ask your youngster to listen while you describe a recent meal in detail: "For breakfast, I had a fried egg, toast with peach jam, a Gala apple, and black coffee." Then ask questions like "How was my egg cooked?" and "What kind of apple did I eat?" Now he can give you a listening challenge.

##### Keep germs away

When your child touches her face, she can transfer germs from her hands to her eyes, nose, and mouth. Help her touch it less often by keeping her hair trimmed and out of her eyes and having tissues available. If she wears face masks or glasses, make sure they fit properly so she's not constantly adjusting them.

##### Practice being polite

Role-play to help your child remember his manners. Take turns naming situations where politeness is called for (introducing people, receiving a gift). The other person acts out how to handle it politely. Your youngster might pat his dog on the head, look you in the eye, and say: "Dad, I'd like you to meet Domino."

##### Worth quoting

"It's easier to go down a hill than up it, but the view is much better at the top." Henry Ward Beecher

#### JUST FOR FUN

**Q:** Why does the Statue of Liberty stand in New York Harbor?

**A:** Because it can't sit down.



## Wordplay boosts vocabulary

A rich vocabulary gives your child the words she needs to express her thoughts and understand her schoolwork. Try these playful activities to help her learn new words.

##### Clever combinations

A *portmanteau* is a new word formed by blending two existing words (*jeans + leggings = jeggings*, *breakfast + lunch = brunch*). You and your youngster can make up portmanteaus for each other to guess. She might say, "What do you call a rainbow on a snowy day?" (A *snowbow*!) And you could ask, "What do you call a documentary that's comical?" (A *doccom*.)

##### Words within words

Pick a word (say, *monitor*) for each family member to write on her paper. Set a timer for 5 minutes, and list words you can make using letters in the word. A fun twist: You may use any letter multiple times within the same word, so *mirror* is allowed even though *monitor* has only one R. When time's up, read



your lists aloud. Did anyone learn a new word from someone else's list?

##### Synonym suns

Have your child draw a big sun on a sheet of paper and write a common word (say, *good*) in the center. Take turns adding a ray to the sun and writing a synonym (*excellent*, *great*). On your turns, try to choose words your youngster may not know, such as *stupendous*. When you can't think of more synonyms, start another sun with a new word. ♥

## Brighten someone's day

Sometimes the smallest gesture can make another person happy, especially in a difficult situation like the pandemic. Here are ways your youngster can add a little sunshine to others' lives:

- Let your child mail thank-you notes to your family's doctors and their staffs. He could also leave thank-yous for delivery-truck drivers, mail carriers, and trash and recycling workers.
- Suggest that your youngster host an online talent show. Relatives might sing or play musical instruments, dance, or do magic or card tricks for each other.
- Run errands for elderly neighbors. Your child could call to get their grocery list, then help you order the items or shop and deliver them. ♥





## How to handle cyberbullying

Many kids are spending more time using technology to do schoolwork and to socialize this year. That means more potential for cyberbullying. Share these strategies to help your youngster avoid it.

**Be informed.** Explain to your child that cyberbullying includes texting, chatting, or posting unkind or threatening messages. It's also cyberbullying to spread rumors, intimidate people, or share private information that would embarrass someone.



**React appropriately.** Does your youngster know what to do if he's cyberbullied? Talk frankly about tactics that help (telling an adult) and don't help (responding to the person doing the bullying). Together, learn how to take screenshots of texts or chats in case he needs proof of a cyberbullying incident.

**Provide guidance.** Set clear guidelines for your child's online behavior. For example, he shouldn't

send a message or photo to another child that he wouldn't want you or his teacher to see. It may be a good idea to point out that other kids and their parents can take screenshots, too.♥

## Signs of affection

Even when life gets hectic, remember to show your child on a daily basis that you love her. Simple words and actions like these will go a long way in making her feel loved and secure.

### Leave notes

Secretly leave a loving message in your youngster's "home office" or backpack. ("Have a great school day! Love, Dad.")



### Eat together

Plan special school-day breakfasts with your child. You'll connect before a busy day. Also, consider joining her for lunch on days when you're both home.

### Share photos

Look at old family photos with your youngster, or show her "on this day" pictures on social media or photo-sharing sites. Say what you loved about her then ("You were so little and cuddly") and what you love about her now ("I still love hugs from you—plus I love our interesting conversations").♥

### OUR PURPOSE

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

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## ACTIVITY CORNER

### Geography: Maps and more

Your youngster's day is filled with opportunities to explore geography. Here are three ideas.

**1. Food.** Ask your child to read stickers on fruits and vegetables you buy to find out where the food was grown. Together, look up the weather in those states or countries. She'll see what produce is grown in warmer or cooler temperatures.

**2. Mail.** Let your youngster check postmarks, find the locations on a map, and calculate how many miles the mail traveled to reach you.

**3. Time zones.** Plan a phone call with a relative who lives in a different time zone, and help your child look up the time there. Then, she could see what time it is in other places around the world.♥



## Q & A Doing well on tests

**Q:** My son struggled on his last two tests. How can I help him do better on future ones?

**A:** Test success begins with knowing the material. Have your child get in the habit of studying a little each evening rather than cramming the night before a test. Offer to help by quizzing him, or suggest that he make up—and take—his own quizzes.

On the morning of a test, remind your son to read the test directions

first and ask his teacher about anything he doesn't understand. You might recommend that he look over all the questions and start by tackling easier ones. That will give him some momentum and boost his confidence.

Finally, encourage your child to be the "boss" of his thoughts. If he thinks, "I can't do this," he can take a few deep breaths and instead think, "I studied hard and I will do my best."♥

