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February 17, 2022

Dear Prairie Spirit families:

I have enjoyed visiting each of our Prairie Spirit schools this fall and winter. It has been a privilege to hear many learning stories from the amazing staff and students in the Division. I love to see the energy and enthusiasm of students and staff learning together. The February break is a good chance to relax and recharge as the end of the school year is starting to come into view.

Masking

When we return from the February break on **Monday, February 28**, the current Public Health Order (PHO) regarding indoor masking will have ended. Please note: The PHO expiry date was revised to end on Sunday, February 27, to align with the return of school after the February break.

Prairie Spirit schools and offices will be “mask friendly” environments. Students and staff members will be supported in their personal decision regarding mask wearing. We encourage all parents to speak with their children about respecting the personal choices of others in this regard.

As you make your personal decisions, please note that the provincial government and the Saskatchewan Health Authority encourage individuals to continue to help reduce the transmission of COVID-19, including wearing the best mask, taking advantage of free rapid testing, regular handwashing, staying home when ill and getting vaccinated, including the third/booster dose as soon as eligible.

Illness at school

We encourage students and staff to continue to self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 and other illnesses. We expect students and staff members to stay home if they are unwell.

If a student comes to school and is obviously unwell, the school will contact the parents to come and pick them up. The student will stay in a separate space in the school until their parents arrive.

The Saskatchewan Health Authority urges extra precautions. It continues to be important to stay home when sick and especially during the first five days when most likely to be infectious to others. Students who have been ill should only return to school once their symptoms have resolved or are substantially improved.

Public Health continues to recommend individuals self-isolate for five days following a positive rapid antigen test. If symptoms persist after five days, individuals should remain at home until symptoms have improved for 48 hours.

Cleaning protocols

We continue to follow enhanced cleaning and disinfecting protocols at schools, including regular disinfecting of commonly touched surfaces and daily cleaning and disinfecting of all surfaces using the recommended disinfectant products and procedures.

Our ongoing commitment is to provide a safe learning environment for students and staff. We will continue to provide updates to families.

Enjoy the Family Day long weekend!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Bazylak". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping tail.

Darryl Bazylak
Director of Education