



December 14, 2021

Dear Families,

As the final days of our Advent journey lead us to the Christmas Break, we want to acknowledge everything that our students, families, and staff have done to help us keep our schools open and safe. We have worked very well together to protect the health and safety of all. As we move into the Christmas season, it is imperative that we all continue to follow public health and safety advice to protect our families and decrease the spread of COVID-19.

RETURN TO SCHOOL

Though we are very hopeful to resume face-to-face classes on January 5, 2022, as a pro-active strategy to be ready for whatever comes our way, we will be sending our students home with learning materials and personal belongings before the Christmas holiday. In the event that we must move to a remote learning strategy, we will be ready. If not, students will bring the materials back to school with them in January.

When our students return to school in January, there is a mandatory requirement for our schools to confirm that a COVID-19 self-screen has been completed. Your principal will provide the details on how this will be done in your child's school. Please ensure that you are completing this screen every day, which confirms that your child is healthy and able to attend school.

A reminder as well, that masking will continue to be a mandatory requirement for students and staff. Effective January 2022, all students Kindergarten to Grade 12 will be required to wear a mask at school, just as they must wear a mask on the bus.

RAPID ANTIGEN TEST KITS

We will also be sending home one Rapid Antigen Test kit with every student. The Government of Ontario has made this a priority, and secured the necessary resources to make this possible. There are video links available and written instructions available to help families participate in this voluntary screening/testing opportunity. A reminder that this strategy is only for asymptomatic people. If symptoms of COVID-19 appear, it is very important that you or your child attend a COVID-19 assessment center to be tested.

We will do our best over the holidays to keep our families informed using our telephone messenger system and posting updates to the Board website at www.ncdsb.on.ca.

May you be blessed with the gifts of hope, love, and happiness this holiday season. Merry Christmas!

Sincerely,
Tricia Stefanic Weltz
Director of Education