August 21st, 2020

**JANEVILLE SCHOOL’S RETURN TO SCHOOL**

**COMMUNICATION BULLETIN**

Hello Parents,

 As we move into the *“Return to School”* phase here are a few points of interest for you and, of course, there will be lots more information in the following days and weeks. We will attempt to keep you up to date and provide the latest information in a timely manner. There will be a link at the end of this memo that will lead you to the GNB website which will be updated on a regular basis.

**OPERATIONAL PLAN**

Every school is required to develop an operational plan that is unique to the school environment. This will be available for viewing by August 31, 2020. It will be posted on our website, Facebook page and sent to you via email using School Messenger.

**SCHEDULING**

As noted in the **Return to School Plan** for the province, there are limited numbers of students in Grades K-2 and 3-5. We will be using those numbers for our school and, as usual, will be having combined grade level classrooms. We will have a homeroom class for each of the following groupings: K-1, 2-3, and 4-5. Please note that each of these classrooms will be a ‘bubble’ and there will be no interaction between the students in these classrooms – Bus drop off, Recess time in the morning, and at lunch time will have designated play areas for each group.

As indicated in the provincial **Return to School Plan**, students and staff in K-5 classrooms are not expected to physically distance, however, we will be using an obvious “no touch” policy. All common areas such as hallways, washrooms and the cafeteria, students will be required to follow a strict 2m physical distancing procedure.

**START UP**

Even though we have a very small group, we have been encouraged to have a staggered entry for our students this year. This will give students in small groups time to learn about and practice new routines and safety guidelines. The schedule will be as follows:

Tuesday, September 8th: Kindergarten (1st 4 students), Grade 1, Grade 2, Grades 4 and 5 – will attend their first day of school for the 2020-2021 school year

Wednesday, September 9th: Grade 1, Grade 3, Grades 4 and 5 will attend school.

Thursday, September 10th: Kindergarten (2nd 4 students), Grades 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 will attend.

All students will attend school from Friday, September 11 on.

**OTHER BITS OF INFORMATION**

Please ensure that your child brings a clean facemask to school every day as all students in grades K-5 are encouraged to have a mask when they are outside their classroom bubble when physical distancing might be questionable (to and from bus, transitions to and from communal areas such as cafeteria, hallways and wash room). We will be operating using strict physical distancing protocols when outside classroom bubbles, however we want to limit the chance of transmission and masks will help us do so. Labelling the masks and carrying them in a labelled, ziplock-style baggie is also recommended.

On the school bus: Students in Grades K-5 will practice physical distancing and will sit by themselves on the bus unless they sit with a sibling (siblings may sit together).

**Water fountains may be closed** and will be replaced by bottle-filling stations. Students will be required to **bring a water bottle** with their name on it.

No parents will be permitted to enter the building at any time, unless contact has been made with the main office. For early pick-up, drop-off items, emergency, or appointments parents are asked to call the office (547-7440) and follow administration directions.

When an appointment is made, entry to the school is restricted to the main office area and at no time entry to the classroom areas will be permitted.

**Cafeteria service will be not be provided at our school this year, please note this is not due to the pandemic**. Microwave use will be available, however students are encouraged to bring a no-heat lunch. Microwaves require sanitization after each use.

Drop off and pick-up times will remain the same this year. Parents are asked not to enter the building (unless you have an appointment) or congregate in the front entrance of the school, simply wait in your vehicle until the busses are gone and your child(ren) will be escorted to the front sidewalk at which point you can pull up your vehicle (or walk up to meet them).

All visitors must wear a mask at all times.

Even though there will be plenty of sanitizing stations made available throughout the school, hand sanitizer for personal use is a good idea and recommended.

Any parent that has not paid the $40 per child for school supplies may do so anytime during the first week. If sending in cash please put the money in a baggie and send in with your child.

Kindergarten parents: We know this might be an anxious time for new parents dropping their little ones off for the first time. It is not ideal, but we must adhere to strict policy on no parent entry into the building or congregation in our entryway. If you feel your child may need extra transition time in their first few days, please call the school 547-7440, the week prior to school starting to discuss this with the principal or your child’s teacher.

**\*Please note:** We will have staff available to take lots of pictures of our Kindergarten students on their first day which will be shared with you

**And finally…**

Please see the link below for more information from the Department of Education: <https://www.welcomenb.ca/content/gnb/en/news/news_release.2020.08.0443.html>

As always, you can contact me at anytime. At the school (547-7440), at home (546-3947) on Facebook at Janeville Elementary School. It is important that you receive timely correct information. Together we can make our school as safe as possible!

 Ellen Lee

Principal

 Janeville Elementary School