

Good Afternoon St. Margaret Mary Community:

BACK TO SCHOOL: With Minister Lecce's Return to School Announcement yesterday, we are excited to be returning to school and to in-person learning, as I am certain all parents are! We look forward to welcoming all students who were in face-to-face learning in December 2020 back to their homeroom class and teacher on Monday, February 8th, 2021.

SWITCH BETWEEN VIRTUAL & FACE-TO-FACE LEARNING: A letter was sent out yesterday from HWCDSB Director David Hansen and HWCDSB Chairperson Pat Daly. The next opportunity for changing your child's model of learning – from face-to-face learning to virtual learning or from virtual learning to face-to-face learning – will take place on Monday, February 22, 2021. A survey will be sent to parents this coming Friday, February 5 with a response date of Monday, February 8, 2021. Only those parents who wish to make a change to the current learning model need reply to this survey. This is the final opportunity for moving between learning models.

RETURN OF DEVICES: We have lent out approximately 120 devices from our school this past month. If you have a device (iPad or Chromebook) at your home that was lent to your child for remote learning please ensure the device is returned on **Monday** with the charging cable to your child's classroom teacher. **Please ensure that your child is signed out of all apps and has logged out of MySite if it is an iPad before returning the device.** It is vital that all lent out devices are returned as we need them for our in-class learning at the school. Thank you.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5: Don't forget tomorrow's theme is Funky Hair Day!

VALENTINE'S DAY: This week we are approaching St. Valentine's Day which is on Sunday, February 14th. During this time, students typically enjoy sharing Valentines with each other. If students would like to share Valentines please ensure that they are non-edible items such as a traditional Valentine's card or a pencil, that everyone in the class is included in the sharing and that the items are sent to the classroom teacher no later than Tuesday, February 9th. Once the teacher receives the Valentines, he/she will hold them for three days to ensure that they are virus-free and your child may then distribute them on Friday. If Valentines arrive later than February 9th, they will be handed out accordingly, three days after receipt. We are looking forward to this opportunity to have a little fun together again.

REPORT CARDS: Report Cards will be sent home on **Friday, February 19th, 2021**. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's teacher directly.

We know and understand how challenging the last few weeks have been for everyone. We sincerely appreciate everything that parents have done to support educators and to make at-home learning special and meaningful for their child. We are keenly aware of the sacrifices parents have made; you are heroes behind the screens. I would also like to acknowledge the absolutely outstanding work of all the St. Margaret Mary staff during this shutdown period. The extra hours for everyone and the quick shift to manoeuvre an online environment is to be commended. Together, parents and staff, we have worked to make this time not only bearable but special for our students. Here's to better things ahead in 2021; there is light at the end of the tunnel. One day at a time.

Wishing you a relaxing end to the week and looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday!

Mrs. Coletto