

Dear teachers,

Let me start by wishing you all a Happy New Year! Let's hope that 2021 brings you health, return to somewhat normal teaching conditions and a collective agreement! Below you will find some of the key points that you need to be aware of for the return to school buildings. I have included as much information as I have, which I apologize is not much in some cases!

Report cards can be sent home a little later, but parents must receive them by February 5. The two terms will not be worth 50% each. Second term will be worth more. No word on what the new weighting will be.

Elementary and Preschool students:

Being in Grade 1, students must wear masks or face coverings in all common areas. To be clarified is busses, Gym class and school yard.

Grade 5&6 students must wear masks or face coverings at all times.

Secondary students:

Must wear procedural masks at all times. Each student will be given two per day.

MEES exams cancelled this year.

Teachers and other employees:

Must wear procedural masks at all times. This includes when you are seated. You may NOT wear reusable masks unless you have a medical exemption. You should be changing the masks after 4 hours of use and should never wash and reuse procedural masks.

ALL extracurricular activities are suspended indefinitely.

Teachers are essential workers and will be vaccinated before the general population. The current estimate is March or April. Teachers will not be vaccinated before health care workers or residents of seniors homes. The timing could change based on availability of the vaccine.

Ventilation:

Before and after school, as well as recess and lunchtime, classroom doors and a window should be opened.

As much as possible classroom doors should be left open.

Air quality is going to be checked in every school.

Strike vote:

January 27, at 4:30 ESTA will be holding a general assembly, through Zoom. At this meeting we will be voting on a 5 day strike mandate. If you are not present you cannot vote. More information to come next week.

I will keep you posted with updates as I get them.

Take care,

Gillian