



Welcome to Fox Creek School September 2020



Parent Newsletter

Principal's Message

We have had an amazing relaunch at Fox Creek School. Classes are in full swing from Kindergarten to Grade 12. I am so proud of our students, families and staff. The relaunch back into school went extremely well. As you all know from our Social Media and Website we have some additions to our building.

I just want to say thank you to everyone. On March 13 we left our school not knowing what would happen just a mere two days later. On March 15 I asked my staff to step up and provide learning and supports for our students online. Each and every one of them stepped up and did not miss a beat even though they were scared and ridden with anxiety. Our students with their help and guidance achieved great things. Every one of our grade 12 students completed their courses and obtained their diplomas. This is thanks to the hard work of Fox Creek School students, parents and staff. On Wednesday we welcomed our students back into our shared home. All of us have levels of anxiety and uncertainty, yet I know everyone showed up, both in mind and spirit, to make sure our students are safe and supported.

We have some changes to our school this year that we would like you to be aware of. Ms. Gingras has joined us as our new Jr./Sr. High Social Studies teacher, Ms. Heyden is filling in for Jr./Sr. High English and Mr. Jaber is our new Jr./Sr. High Math teacher. All three have become part of our Fox Creek family and are working hard to support their students.

Email List:

If you would like to be added to our email list and receive an electronic version of our newsletter, please contact Mrs. Thackeray at the office or

pamela.thackeray@ngps.ca



Dates to mark your calendar

Sept. 25
Gr. 10-12
Awards
Night

Sept. 30
Orange Shirt
Day

Oct. 8
Picture Day

Oct. 9
Pro-D Day
No School

Box 88, Fox Creek, Alberta T0H 1P0 Ph. (780) 622-3742 Fax: (780) 622-3482 Email: foxcreek@ngps.ca

Website: foxcreekschool.ca Facebook: Fox Creek School Twitter: @ngpsfcs

Mr. Ian Baxter, Principal



It is imperative that parents use the AHS Screening Protocol each day before students leave for school. Parents are encouraged to email or call any staff member concerning your child. You can make appointments to meet with specific staff members but appointments need to be made in advance.

The NGPS 2020-2021 COVID-19 Re-entry Handbook is available on our website and we encourage all parents to be familiar with the information contained within the handbook.

We are thrilled to see students again! We are all learning about the New Normal, and the kids have been so eager to embrace it. Classroom learning is well underway and it has been an outstanding start to our school year. Please enjoy the long weekend with your families.

Ian Baxter, Principal
Fox Creek School

From *the* Principal



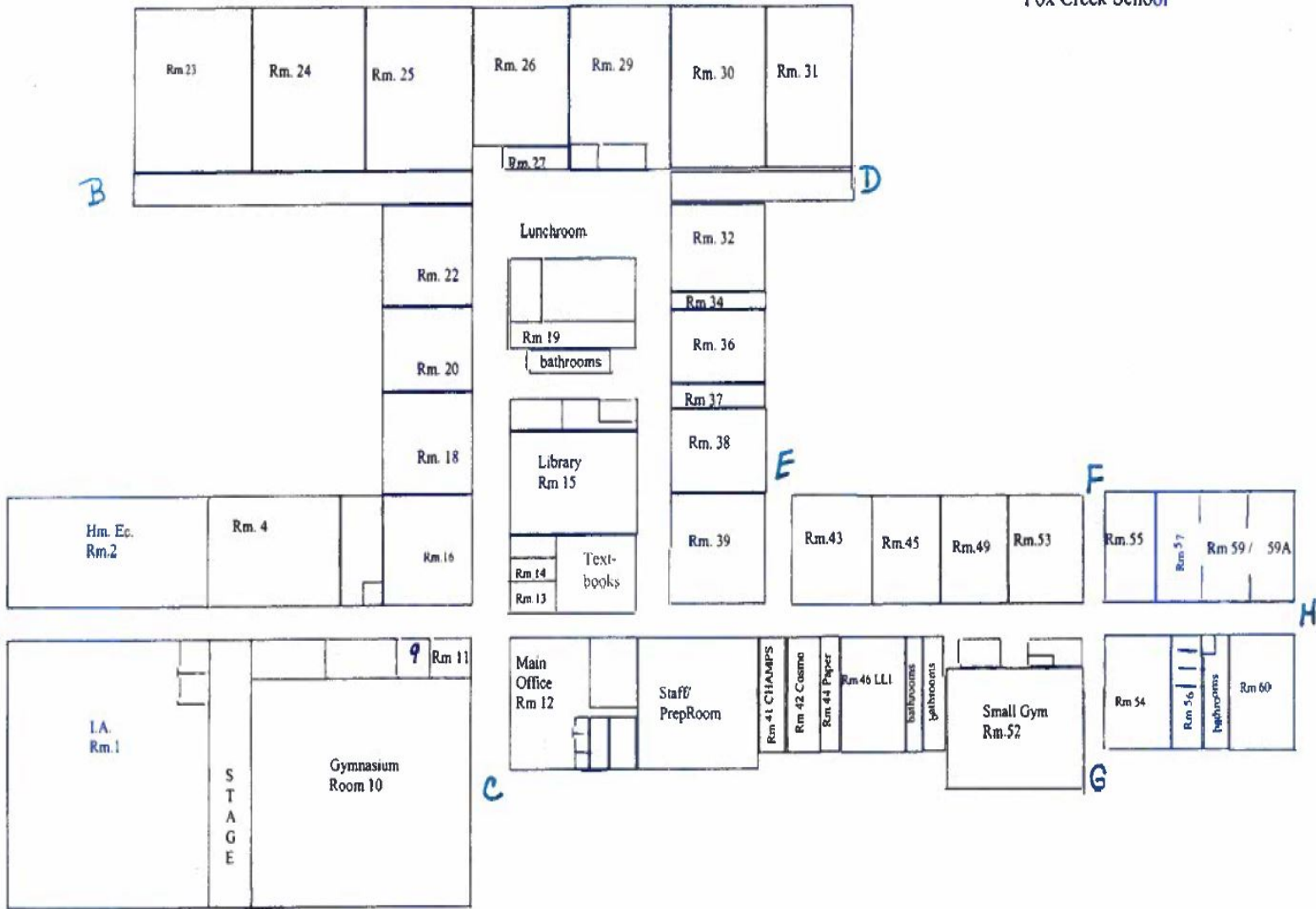


Please make sure your student is entering and exiting through their correct door, at their correct times!!

Grade	Door	Entry Time	Exit Time
Kg	H	8:40 A.M.	11:30 A.M.
1H	H	8:30 A.M.	3:15 P.M.
1/2	G	8:40 A.M.	3:25 P.M.
2G	F	8:40 A.M.	3:25 P.M.
3S	E	8:40 A.M.	3:25 P.M.
4W	D	8:30 A.M.	3:15 P.M.
5C	B	8:30 A.M.	3:15 P.M.
6D	D	8:40 A.M.	3:25 P.M.
6S	B	8:40 A.M.	3:25 P.M.
7, 8 & 9	C	8:30 A.M.	3:25 P.M.
10, 11, 12	A	8:30 A.M.	3:25 P.M.
Inreach	D	10:15 A.M.	2:45 P.M.



Fox Creek School





COVID-19 INFORMATION

Screening Questionnaire

COVID-19 ALBERTA HEALTH DAILY CHECKLIST

PARENTS/GUARDIANS/STUDENTS MUST USE THIS QUESTIONNAIRE DAILY TO DECIDE IF THE STUDENT SHOULD ATTEND SCHOOL

The tool is meant to be used to assist with assessing attendees who may be symptomatic, or who may have been exposed to someone who is ill or has confirmed COVID-19.

Attendees should fill out this checklist prior entering school daily. If an individual answers YES to any of the questions, they must not be allowed to attend school. Children and youth will need a parent to assist them to complete this screening tool.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, this screening tool will be updated as required.

Screening Questions

1.	Does the attendee have any new onset (or worsening) of any of the following	CIRCLE ONE	
		YES	NO
	• Fever	YES	NO
	• Cough	YES	NO
	• Shortness of Breath / Difficulty Breathing	YES	NO
	• Sore throat	YES	NO
	• Chills	YES	NO
	• Painful swallowing	YES	NO
	• Runny Nose / Nasal Congestion	YES	NO
	• Feeling unwell / Fatigued	YES	NO
	• Nausea / Vomiting / Diarrhea	YES	NO
	• Unexplained loss of appetite	YES	NO
	• Loss of sense of taste or smell	YES	NO
	• Muscle/ Joint aches	YES	NO
	• Headache	YES	NO
	• Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye)	YES	NO
2.	Has the attendee travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days?	YES	NO
3.	Has the attendee had close contact* with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days?	YES	NO
4.	Has the attendee had close contact with a symptomatic** close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days?	YES	NO

* Face-to-face contact within 2 metres. A health care worker in an occupational setting wearing the recommended personal protective equipment is not considered to be a close contact.

** 'Ill/symptomatic' means someone with COVID-19 symptoms on the list above





Screening for illness/Staying Home When Sick

- Parents are asked to screen their child every morning to ensure they have no symptoms of COVID-19
- **Families do not have to send the screening tool to school. It will be given to you to guide your decisions at home**
- If students are sick, they must stay home
- If students show symptoms at school, parents will be contacted to pick up their child
- Any student with pre-existing conditions, should have a COVID-19 test completed before school to establish a baseline with a negative test. If symptoms, due to the pre-existing condition, do not worsen your child can remain at school.
- If a case is confirmed, NGPS will work with AHS to ensure contact tracing and to determine necessary next steps

Handwashing and Sanitizing

- Everyone who enters the school will be required to wear a mask and use hand sanitizer or wash their hands immediately
- Students and staff will be required to wash or sanitize their hands every time they
 - Enter or exit the school
 - Before they enter classrooms
 - Before or after they use shared equipment
 - Before eating



Arriving at School

- Bus students will arrive according to the bus schedule
- Once students arrive, they will be asked to head directly to their assigned door and line up in their assigned line
- Staff will then direct student to enter the building and sanitize their hands
- Students will complete activities in their classrooms until classes begin
- Playground equipment will be off limits before and after school
- Parents dropping off students are asked to stay in their vehicles or outside of the school

Student Materials

- All students will be asked to have their own school supplies
- Families may wish to leave extra supplies at home and bring them to school as needed as space may be limited in the classroom
- Shared equipment and supplies will be kept to a minimum
- Students are asked to bring their own water bottle. Students will be asked to use the bottle fill stations rather than the fountain
- **Families are reminded to make sure students have everything they need for the day, including lunches, as parents will not be able to just drop by the school to deliver items to students**
- At this time, students need to bring their lunch and required snacks for the day



Volunteers and Visitors

- Unfortunately, we will not be able to accept volunteers into the school at this time
- All individuals who enter the school must have an appointment and wear a mask and complete screening

Teaching/Learning

- Gym:
 - Classes will take place outside when possible
 - Shared equipment will be limited where possible
 - Students sanitize hands before and after use of all equipment
- Music:
 - Activities will not include singing at this time.

COVID-19 INFORMATION

HOW TO WEAR A NON-MEDICAL MASK

Non-medical masks, including homemade cloth masks, can help prevent the spread COVID-19. They are another tool to use in places where it's difficult to keep two metres from other people for extended periods of time – such as public transit, grocery stores, pharmacies, hair salons, airplanes and some retail shops.

Masks do not replace proper hygiene, physical distancing or isolation to prevent the spread.

SAFELY PUTTING A MASK ON

- 1 Wash/sanitize your hands.
- 2 Inspect the mask, holding it by the ties or loops. Discard if damaged or dirty.
- 3 Open fully to cover from the bridge of your nose to your chin.
- 4 Adjust the mask to your face so there are no gaps on the side.
- 5 If mask has stiff edge, pinch to close gaps between nose and mask.
- 6 Keep your nose, mouth and chin covered at all times. Avoid touching the mask.

SAFELY TAKING OFF A MASK

- 1 Wash/sanitize your hands.
- 2 Remove it from the back by releasing ties or loops. Do not touch the front of the mask.
- 3 Discard the mask immediately if disposable. Wash thoroughly if reusable.
- 4 Wash/sanitize your hands.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON WEARING AND CARING FOR YOUR MASK

alberta.ca/masks



Wearing Masks at School

- K-3 students are encouraged to wear masks
- Grade 4-12 students must wear masks in areas where physical distancing is not possible (hallways, common areas, busses, some class activities)
- All staff must wear masks in areas where physical distancing is not possible





Recess: Each class has an assigned recess time with a small cohort of students. These times are staggered throughout the day.

Jr./Sr. High breaks: Students will proceed to the classroom for their next scheduled block and have their Connections class or break in that classroom.

Lunch:

Jr. High> Students will eat in an assigned classroom. Grade 7: Room 22. Grade 8: Room 16. Grade 9: Room 38. Students who are returning from home after their lunch, should proceed to the classroom of the next scheduled block.

Sr. High> Students will eat in an assigned classroom. Grade 10: Room 4. Grade 11 and 12: Student store eating area. Students who are returning from home after their lunch, should proceed to the classroom of the next scheduled block.

Elementary> Half of the classes will be eating lunch in their classrooms, while the other half goes outside to play in their cohort. Then students will switch. See schedule below.

Students going home for lunch will exit through their assigned door, according to social distance protocol, as guided by the staff. As students return from lunch, they are expected to join their cohort, either inside the classroom or outside on the playground, as per the schedule below. Please DO NOT send your child back to the playground if their cohort is not scheduled to be outside at that time.

11:40-12:05 :

Students eating - 1H, 1/2O, 4W, 5C

Students outside - 2G, 3S, 6S, 6D

12:05-12:30

Students eating - 2G, 3S, 6S, 6D

Students outside - 1H, 1/2O, 4W, 5C

Please find the complete NGPS relaunch plan on the Division website at ngps.ca

COVID-19 INFORMATION

PARENTS' GUIDE 2020–21 SCHOOL YEAR

Return to near normal daily in-school classes with health measures



Learning in the new school year

Students will return to school daily at the beginning of the new school year. There are health measures that everyone has to follow to reduce the risk of COVID-19 and help stay safe.

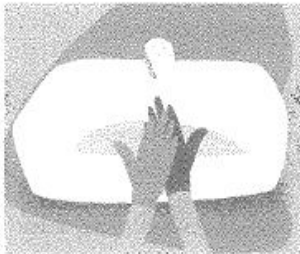
While your school will develop a plan to meet the government's health recommendations, everyone will have a role to play.

PARENTS' ROLE IN KEEPING SCHOOLS SAFE

Screen for symptoms every morning

Check every morning to see if your child has any of these symptoms. If yes, they must stay home:

- Fever, cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, sore throat, chills, painful swallowing
- Runny nose/nasal congestion, feeling unwell/fatigued, nausea/vomiting/diarrhea, unexplained loss of appetite
- Loss of sense of taste or smell, muscle/joint aches, headache, Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye)

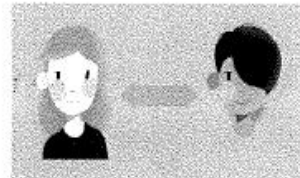


Stay home when sick or if in contact with someone who is sick

Students, parents or family members must not enter school if they:

- Feel sick or have symptoms of COVID-19
- Had close contact with someone who is ill with a cough and/or fever
- Have anyone in the household who has been in close contact in the last 14 days with someone who is being investigated or confirmed to have COVID-19
- Have traveled outside of Canada in the last 14 days
- Had close contact with someone who has travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days and who is ill

Use the [Self-Assessment tool](#) to check if your child should be tested for COVID-19.



Keep a safe distance

Keep 2 metres between you and others when possible:

- During drop-off and pick-up
- During interactions with a teacher, school staff or other parents and students

Pick up students promptly if they show symptoms at school

You will be asked to pick up your child from school immediately if they show symptoms. Please ensure the school has your most up-to-date contact information so they may reach you if your child needs to be picked up.

For more details: alberta.ca/returntoschool

©2020 Government of Alberta | Published: July 2020



Taking your child to school

If your child normally takes the bus, consider taking them directly to school if your personal situation allows for it. This would help with physical distancing on the bus for students who do not have other options besides taking the bus.

WHAT STUDENTS NEED TO KNOW

Cohort

A cohort—or bubble—is a group of students and staff who remain together. The size of the cohort will depend on the physical space of the classroom.

The risk of COVID-19 is reduced by limiting exposure to others. Staying in a cohort also makes contact tracing easier and faster if there is a suspected case of COVID-19.

Talk to your child about some of the new health measures to help them prepare for the first day of school:

- Sanitize hands before entering school and classrooms
- Keep a distance between others and follow marks in hallways
- Do not share food or personal items
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Tell staff if feeling sick at school
- Lunch and recess time may change to allow for more physical distancing
- Students may be asked to stay in their own cohort to decrease contact with others
- Students who take the bus will have to sit in the same seat every day.

Your child may feel nervous about what school will be like. While there will be changes, the key school experience will be the same as before—they will learn in class with their teacher and see friends.



HEALTH MEASURES AT SCHOOLS

Schools will follow detailed health guidelines to prepare for the return of students. For example:

- More cleaning and disinfection of high touch areas and shared equipment
- Allow for physical distancing when possible, which may include:
 - Stagger pick-up and drop-off times
 - One-way or marked hallways and designated entrance and exit doors
- Leave space between desks and tables
- Stagger start and end-times for classes and lunchtime to avoid crowded hallways and lunchrooms
- Limiting bathroom occupancy
- When physical distancing is not possible, extra emphasis will be on hand hygiene, covering coughs and sneezes, and cleaning.
- Students, where possible, will be cohorted by class.

For more details: alberta.ca/returntoschool

©2020 Government of Alberta | Published: July 2020



Typical Symptoms of COVID-19 Infection

Anyone who has these symptoms **MUST SELF-ISOLATE** for a minimum 10 days or until symptoms resolve, whichever is longer.



Fever



Cough



Shortness of breath



Difficulty breathing



Sore throat



Runny nose

ahs.ca/covid



Healthy Albertans.
Healthy Communities.
Together.





Dear Parents,

We have been receiving numerous calls where parents are asking to be transferred to the classroom phone to speak with their child or their child's teacher during class time. Such phone calls disrupt class and interrupt the learning. As a result, we ask all parents to use the following guidelines when calling the school.

Parents needing to leave an important message for their child should do so with the school office staff. Examples of such calls would include:

- Arranging times to pick up children for appointments or family commitments
- Changes in the usual lunch or after school routine such as a child needing to go to a different location
- Notifying the school of an absence or a late arrival

Students will be called down at lunch or after school for their message. They will not be called down during class time.

Parents wishing to speak to a teacher will be asked to leave a message for the teacher and the teacher will return their call at their earliest opportunity. Parents should note that this will often result in calls being returned after school so matters that require immediate attention should be discussed with our office staff.

Thank you!





Awards Night 2020

Our annual Fox Creek School Awards Night will be on September 25. Due to current challenges, we will be presenting awards during the evening ceremony only to grades 10 - 12 students. We will be presenting awards to our junior high students during the day on September 25. In addition to this change, we are also asking that only parents attend this ceremony with their student. This has been done to keep our numbers of attendees under the maximum gathering size. We know that you all understand and want to help us keep our school community as safe as possible.

Parents of senior high awards recipients should be receiving their letters in the mail shortly and are asked to RSVP to the school by Monday, September 21.



A huge thank-you to Lainey who came in while school was out and painted some beautiful art work in the Student Learning Commons and Secondary Lunch Room!! It really helped to add a little something extra to each room and was a wonderful surprise for the students!





PICTURE DAY!!

Fox Creek School

October 8th

All students are photographed against Green screen.

IT'S ALL ONLINE NOW!

View images and order pictures online at SmartOrders.ca
Ordering information will be sent home with students on picture day.

www.smartphotography.ca



What to expect this year at Smart Photography!

- Smart Photography will be at your school on **October 8th.**
- On the day your child is photographed, they will receive an information sheet with their online access code
- Your child's photos will be loaded online 2-3 business days after the last day of photography
- Log in to smartorders.ca to view your proofs and place an order
- Place your order before the ship to school deadline to have your order sent to the school at no cost
- After the ship to school deadline, you can still access your photos and place an order to be shipped directly to your home!
- Contact Smart Photography at 780-944-0800 or 877-838-0800 info@smartphotography.ca for questions or assistance with your order!



COVID Processes for Photographers - Schoolday

With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Smart Photography is aware of the significant challenges and apprehension that each of us is experiencing. We recognize the need to adapt in order to keep students, families, teachers and schools safe, and have made a number of changes to our processes as we learn and receive updated government requirements.


For the safety of our customers and staff while we continue to capture children's memories through our school photography, our photographers are committed to following these guidelines when photographing at each school:

- At the beginning of each day of photography, a screening questionnaire is completed to confirm that our photographers are not experiencing COVID-19 symptoms
- Photographers will wear a face mask at all times while on site
- We are required to document what we clean and when we clean it. At the beginning and end of each day, equipment is cleaned and disinfected. Any items that students are in contact with during the sitting are disinfected between sittings
- "Practice Physical Distancing" signs are posted on location as a reminder to maintain the appropriate distancing and keep safety in mind
- Hand sanitizer is easily accessible for the photographer and students to use
- If there is more than one photographer working in the same area, sharing of equipment is avoided to minimize contact between photographers. If sharing is required, the photographers clean and disinfect items between uses
- Our photographers only use equipment and supplies that can be cleaned and disinfected or disposed of between sittings
- Photographers are required to maintain physical distance of a minimum of 2 meters from students
- Students will be posed in a standing position with no props to avoid contact with any items
- We request that students leave the area/room as soon as their picture has been taken
- Ordering will be online only, with no paper order forms distributed to students
- We are not able to offer group photos until the requirement for physical distancing has been lifted

780.944.0800 | 877.838.0800 | #5, 10121 82 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T6E 1Z5

Group Triple P-TEEN

REGISTER





Group Teen Triple P is a course that will set you up with the full range of Triple P's positive parenting strategies, and will help you understand why your teenager behaves the way they do.

There will be five group sessions as well as three individual sessions with each family participants; the option of virtual attendance may be considered.

Please contact Angie Mitchell at 780 778-3637 ext. 412 for more information.

Wednesdays 6:30-8:30pm
Allan & Jean Millar Centre
Strike Boardroom
September 16 to October 7, November 4
Course ID#: 6569





NORMAL, FOR RIGHT NOW

Back to school planning typically brings feelings of anxiety, fear, nervousness, and excitement. This year, in the middle of a worldwide pandemic and global uncertainty, these feelings can have us parents feeling completely overwhelmed, vulnerable and hopeless.

What is a parent to do? So many decisions, confusion and few places to find unbiased information. Do we send our child to school with a flippant wave "sayonara, kiddo, may the odds be ever in your favour?" or do we mask up, bubble wrap, bathe in sanitizer and invest in a hazmat suit. Perhaps we should board up our windows and doors and hibernate until it is all over. All joking aside, our reality is truly no laughing matter. The stakes are high and the consequences grave. I cannot say what the right answer is. Every family has different circumstances. Whatever you decide to do with your child, I can share with you my perspective as a Division Office staff member and a parent, and perhaps that will calm your fears.

Every District Office staff, Administrator, and school staff member at Northern Gateway Public Schools have been working around the clock since March 15 to ensure that children and staff will be as safe as absolutely possible, while continuing to provide a high quality education. **Education and safety has been the number one priority** and what is being accomplished is outstanding. Each risk factor has been analyzed and discussed with solutions being found. If you decide on the at-home, on-line learning format for your child, be assured that there is ample support and dedicated teachers to connect with, build a relationship with and make the experience successful.

On a personal level, I am sending 3 of my children back to school for in-class learning. I am confident that our school division and staff are prepared for a safe and healthy environment. Trust me, as a school division, the last thing we want is to have a student or staff member become sick. **We need EVERYONE to be healthier than they have ever been:** staff, student, parent.

The schools are doing their part. **As parents, there is much we can do to prepare our children** for back to school in the middle of this pandemic.

- The most important thing: MODEL CALMNESS and CONFIDENCE; in our words and actions. Our children are watching and listening.
- Practice having children put on and take off their mask on their own. Practice storing it properly. [Listen to this catchy song about masks.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMVsCwKeARQ) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMVsCwKeARQ>) Or you can read [a social story about wearing masks.](#) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lnP-uMn6q_U)
- We have heard this a thousand times already, children must be able to practice good hand cleaning and hygiene on their own. We cannot leave it to teachers. [Here is a cute little "Hand washing Hero" video.](#)



<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/video/covid-19-hand-washing-heroes-dv.html>

- Keep the immune system strong. Get enough sleep, eat a large variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, drink plenty of water, exercise regularly, get outside for healthy doses of sunshine, and try to keep stress to a minimum.

As September approaches and we send the ones most precious to us to school, either in person or on-line, be confident that they will be safe. Our children's teachers, school and district office staff are completely and wholeheartedly prepared for them.

There are many arguments, attitudes and thoughts about COVID-19. You may have your own personal opinion on the virus, masks, social distancing, whether schools open or not, etc. As a school division, we are following the direction and guidance of the Government of Alberta and Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Deena Hinshaw.

School in September will not be normal and we hear the words "new normal" tossed about. I do not like the term "new normal"; there isn't anything normal about this! Wearing masks everywhere, sanitizing our hands a thousand times a day and staying 6 feet apart is not normal! I prefer the term: "normal for right now". We are hardwired for connection, structure, stability and collaboration. But, FOR RIGHT NOW, we must follow provincial guidelines and mandatory health instructions. **We are all in this together and together we can get through this pandemic** with as few long term negative effects as possible.

Despite all our School Division is doing, remember, as parents, **we have the most influence on resilience and the psychological wellness of our child.** It is critical that we manage our own discomfort and angst, because our children pick up on our feelings. Yes, we are terrified and feel we are not ready. We may fear what is to come. **But we (children too!) are strong, brave and adaptable.** Have faith that the leaders of our schools are prepared, excited and ready for September!

This article was written by Tammy Charko BA, BSW, RSW. Tammy is Northern Gateway Public School's Student Support Facilitator. She advocates for students and parents, providing a link to other supports within the community. Tammy has been a social worker for over 20 years and is a mother to 4 teenagers.