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December 18, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardians,

The Ministry of Education has requested that we share the following information with our JMSA families:

Thank you for your ongoing efforts which have made the school re-opening process possible, and for adhering to public health and safety measures that have ensured schools remain a safe place for our students and staff.

The holidays are going to look a little different this year. We understand that there may be challenges as the winter break approaches but we encourage all families to consider what we can all do to make the return to school in January 2021 as safe as possible. I would also like to remind you about the actions we are taking to reinforce the health and safety protocols aimed at protecting our students, educators and staff while limiting the spread of COVID-19 at schools.

During the holidays, it is important for everyone to adhere to the public health measures in your communities when connecting with one another. By following public health advice, we can all have a safe and fun holiday season. You can check the government's holiday web page for more direct and up-to-date guidance on how individuals and families can plan for a safe holiday season, including suggestions for safer holiday activities for children and families.

As a reminder for January, anyone feeling ill should not attend school. All children, students, staff, and visitors must be screened for symptoms of illness every day before attending school or child care. To help meet this requirement, please use the provincial COVID-19 school screening tool.

Self-screening will still be a requirement when we return to school and we will continue to reinforce masking and hand hygiene as well as cohorting and physical distancing with students and our staff.

We encourage you to visit Ontario.ca/covidresponse to learn what public health measures are in place in our community – but also please be aware that these could change depending on the most current public health advice. Please check our local Public Health Unit website <https://www.wechu.org/> for updates on local schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B. Roberts-Santarossa".

Brenda Roberts Santarossa, PhD
Principal,
John McGivney School Authority

