



Ms. R. Corneil
Principal/Directrice

ÉCOLE ÉLÉMENTAIRE
JAMES WHITESIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Ms. S. Grant
*Vice Principal/
Directrice adjointe*

January 18, 2022

Dear Families,

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Richmond School District has been paying special attention to the air quality in our school. The district has been taking concrete steps to ensure that our students and staff come to our school each day in a healthy and safe environment.

Our school is fully compliant with all school ventilation requirements. The district works closely with, and takes direction from, public health officials to ensure that our heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems are designed, operated and maintained in accordance with Provincial guidelines.

As you are aware, the impact of the Omicron variant has required all school districts to review existing health and safety protocols and implement enhanced safety measures in all of our schools. Recently, the district has been working closely with the Ministry of Education to address classroom air filtration where mechanical ventilation systems do not exist. As a result, we are pleased to let you know that the Ministry will be providing funding to the district to purchase portable air purifiers for our school. The air purifiers will be placed in rooms that do not have mechanical ventilation. It is expected that the air purifiers will be operational by the end of January.

Air purifiers are part of a systemic approach to classroom safety and will provide an added layer of protection for staff and students in classrooms without mechanical ventilation. Classrooms that already have mechanical ventilation will continue to have enhanced air filtration programming consistent with the recommended safety guidelines.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Rachael Corneil

Principal