

February 3, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Our ÉCS Polar Bear Club is an initiative that permits Grade 5 and 6 students, with parental consent, to have outdoor time when according to the divisional guidelines of temperatures/ windchill below -27°C, they would need to remain indoors.

We believe that providing students with opportunities to learn to be physically active outdoors in colder weather is an important aspect of embracing winter and adopting a healthy lifestyle while living in Winnipeg. We also believe that numerous factors beyond temperature and wind chill (appropriate dress, shelter, physical activity) affect our comfort and safety outdoors in colder weather and it is important for students to have the opportunity to learn about these factors while at school.

The ÉCS Polar Bear Go Time Club guidelines are as follows:

- Participation is voluntary.
- Parental consent is required.
- Staff supervision will be provided at all times.
- Staff will check in with individuals at 10–15-minute intervals.
- Students who have consent can participate in Polar Bear Club on occasion or each day.
- Students must be dressed appropriately. This includes multiple base/under layers, a warm toque/hat; snow pants; face covering; warm, insulated jacket; mittens; and snow boots.
- Students can go to a designated indoor alternate location at any time.
- All students will remain inside when the temperature/windchill is -40°C or below.

To allow your child to participate in ÉCS Polar Bear Club, please complete and sign the consent form below by Friday February 10. The form must be returned to the office in order to allow your child to participate.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Regards,

Eric Paas and Terry French

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