



# École St. Avila

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[www.pembinatrails.ca/stavila](http://www.pembinatrails.ca/stavila)

May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

We are communicating to provide an update regarding yesterday's incident at École St. Avila which resulted in a school evacuation.

Further investigation indicates that a flame rollout occurred in the boiler room at approximately 9:40 a.m. on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026. This caused a sudden change in air pressure in the HVAC system throughout the school. The school was immediately evacuated.

As you are aware, from yesterday's communication, there were many supports on site including our School Resource Officer, Constable Fultz, Manitoba Hydro, Winnipeg Fire and Paramedic Services as well as our Division Safety and Health Officer and the Supervisor of Utilities.

Manitoba Hydro had a team to inspect the school and the adjacent on-site daycare and determined that there was no gas leak. The boiler and hot water tank were also inspected as per their requirements. The Winnipeg Fire and Paramedic Services authorized the students and staff to return to the building safely.

The areas impacted by the incident include the boiler room, the basement stairwell, Room 9 and the office of the daycare director, which is also located in École St. Avila.

While our Divisional Workplace Safety and Health Officer conducted a visual inspection yesterday, out of an abundance of caution, these rooms will remain closed and are being professionally tested today. Please note that as a further precaution, the boiler system will remain off and is being inspected.

Today, students are outside and engaged in outdoor learning and play for the remainder of the day and have access to the South Winnipeg Community Centre for washrooms and shade breaks. Students have access to water, snacks, and fruit throughout the day.

Student and staff safety is of utmost importance to us, and we value all those involved who have put the wellbeing of our students and staff first.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me directly at [jrothwell@pembinatrails.ca](mailto:jrothwell@pembinatrails.ca).

Sincerely,

Jennifer Rothwell  
Directrice/Principal  
École St. Avila