



Ancaster Meadow Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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Family Update – Friday, October 8th, 2021

Hello Ancaster Families,

It is with great admiration that I commend our students who were relocated within the building. This was a very tall order, especially considering the experiences over the last year and a half. I know the frustrations of change, and the worry that these additional changes sparked. I can tell you from the inside, that students have quickly settled into their new spaces, and our wonderful staff members will continue to work in support of transition and well-being. Open lines of communication between home and school are important, and if there are concerns or questions, your child's teacher is the first point of contact.

Staff Changes

We send a very fond farewell to both of our remote educators, who have worked hard to provide an engaging and inclusive program for our students who are learning remotely. We know we will continue to see both educators in our building with further occasional days.



Thank you and you will be missed:
Christine Perra – Grade 7/8 Remote
Rebecca Alcock – Grade 5 Remote

We welcome three new permanent teachers to Ancaster Meadow.

Michael Bottosso – Grade 7/8 Remote
Justin Plant – Grade 5 Remote
Gregory Kendall – Grade 4 (afternoons)



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Food/Drink

We continue to be required to minimize visitors to the building. Please refrain from having delivery to the school (Uber Eats, Skip the Dishes, Door Dash, etc.). Thank you.

Terry Fox Day

It's been wonderful to participate with students and staff for our Terry Fox Day. Loads of fun in our cohorts, running/skipping/walking with great music and lots of smiles. Thank you to our families for your donations – as of this morning we've raised over \$1000! Together, we make a difference. Thank you to our organizers, Mr. Wlodarczyk and Mrs. Matasej!

Cohorts

Students remain in their class cohorts when outdoors during nutrition breaks. These cohort spaces are clearly marked, and students are aware of both how to travel to their cohort space (to ensure they are not crossing other cohorts), and what the boundaries of these spaces are. Teachers reinforce staying within cohorts with students in classroom discussions, and teachers on supervision duty remind students where they need to be. By now, all students are very aware of what is expected and where they need to be. There are a number of students who have had difficulty following these rules. Moving forward, students will still be given a reminder, and then we will be contacting home. **Contract tracing throughout the school day is imperative for student safety, and for the safety of all.** We would greatly appreciate a follow up and reminder from home to please follow safety protocols at school.

Vandalism / Inappropriate Choices

We are reaching out to our families to both bring awareness and ask for your assistance regarding the unfortunate TikTok "Devious Licks" Challenges that have been widely shared. Your child may or may not be aware of this social media influence, but we know that many are. There have been some instances of vandalism in our building, in the washrooms. Students were removing the soap dispensers from the walls. With the end of September's TikTok challenge of destroying or stealing things from school washrooms, and from the work done from the office and by our educators, this seems to have ended. We are concerned about what is next. Please see below for the challenges being given to students:

- October - "smack a staff member on the backside"
- November - "kiss your friends' girlfriend at school"
- December - "Deck the halls and show your b****" in school halls (expose your private area)
- January - "jab a breast!"
- February - "mess up school signs"



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- March - "make a mess in the courtyard, yard or cafeteria"
- April - "grab some "eggz" (theft/stealing)"
- May - "ditch school day"
- June - "flip off front office"

A further challenge has also surfaced, which is highly concerning:

- loosening the nuts on the teachers' car tires

Please use this list to discuss this trend with your child. IF they are not the ones doing it, we can talk about what it means to stand up for your school environment and respect. We know that this is mostly directed at secondary students, but there has been significant impact within the elementary panel. There will be consequences for anyone who is involved in these challenges. We are responsible for our own words and actions. *Let's help our students make the RIGHT choices.*

Students are also required to use social media/chat groups appropriately. Students are not permitted to post pictures of students/staff without consent. We've had discussions with students about the notion of "context", and regardless of the context existing regarding a post (e.g., "It was a joke"), or regarding intent, inappropriate use of technology will not be tolerated.

We need to work together to provide a solid foundation for appropriate use of social media. Our children live in a world where social media is everywhere, and as much as we may monitor screen time at home, access to social media is far too easy. We have the responsibility to monitor and teach them the life skills of appropriate conduct. A reminder to all children that nothing via internet post is private, even once deleted. We need to help our children protect their own reputations.

Wishing you all a wonderful long weekend. We're back on Tuesday!

**Grade 6,7,8 Girls Cross Country is Tuesday 12th

In partnership,
Kelly Dunford