



Bellmoore Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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October 5th, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Students and staff have quickly been able to get into some more regular classroom routines. While some things are definitely different, it has been great to see students getting into class activities. This week we were able to recognize the legacy of Residential Schools with Orange Shirt Day and also the 40th Anniversary of the Terry Fox run. The month of October is Islamic Heritage Month in Canada and we will be incorporating activities throughout our classes this month.

Medical Screener and Symptom Procedure

The province has released a new daily screener tool which can be found at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

There has been a change in how symptoms are categorized and what follow up is needed. However, the message is still that students showing symptoms should not be coming to school or will need to be sent home if showing symptoms at school.

To help ensure the health and safety of all members of the Bellmoore community it is important that all families pay close attention to the daily medical screener. Students showing symptoms while at school still must be moved to an isolation room awaiting pick up. Please have a plan in place to pick up students quickly during the school day if necessary.

Parents can contact the COVID School Support Team at Public Health at 905-974-9848 x5 if there are questions regarding symptoms and school attendance. If needed, a COVID test can be booked online at <http://www.HamiltonCovidTest.ca>

HWDSB Family Update

The HWDSB sent an update to families on Sept 30th. It can be found at: <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/blog/covid-19-update-to-families-26-september-30-2020/>



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Remote School and In-person school Transition

Parents/guardians are able to choose between remote and in-person school programs at specific times throughout the year (October, January and March). The first transition date has been delayed to November 3. This is the next step in the fall elementary reorganization process and is likely to result in changes in teachers and classes.

The HWDSB will collect parent/guardian choice through an optional parent survey in the Parent Portal. Only parents who want a change will need to enter a choice in the Parent Portal. If parents can't access the Parent Portal, they can contact the school office for assistance. If we don't hear from parents, then their child's placement stays the same. The next opportunity to change will be after the December break.

The optional survey for parents will be available in the Forms section of the Parent Portal starting Monday, October 5 at 9:00 a.m. The survey will close at midnight on October 12.

Rain procedures

We have had some wonderful weather to start the school year but we know that the Fall will bring some rainy days. Students should be dressed for light rain and mist as outdoor time is valued and students will be outside as much as possible.

In heavier rain the following changes to school routines will be in place:

- Morning: Doors open at 8:15 am and students will go directly to the classroom. Students will enter through their assigned entry door.
- Recess: During indoor recess students must be wearing a mask and be at their assigned desk.
- Dismissal: After school students will be called to the gym. Walkers will dismiss directly from their rooms and will exit the school. Bus students will be dismissed shortly after the walkers and will travel directly to their bus line. Students should please bring an umbrella.

To help maintain physical distancing, families and students will still have to walk on and off the property. Please wear coats, bring umbrellas and wear masks while on school property.



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iPad Device Collection

If you were a family that received an iPad during the school closure in the spring please return the iPad to the Homeroom teacher or the Main Office. Please remember to include the charger. Next week, we will be reaching out to families directly to collect these devices that we have not received back. Thank you to the families who have already returned devices.

Bus Information

There is no courtesy busing this year. Only students indicated directly by HWSTS my ride the school bus. Families have been notified directly by HWSTS about rotating cancellations. This is currently impacting our Triangle bus route.

Special Events and Birthdays - Class Food and Handouts

With the requirement to follow all the additional health protocols the school cannot have food or other handouts to celebrate birthdays and other special events. Unfortunately items brought in by students cannot be shared by others.

Thank you for your support,

Your Admin Team