



Cecil B. Stirling Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Hello Stingers and Cecil B. Stirling Community

I hope you are all well and your child has enjoyed a positive first six weeks of school. Walking the halls and visiting classrooms provides me with wonderful evidence of the productive and positive learning environments created by CB's staff. From classroom to classroom, students enthusiastically call out for me to visit their desk and proudly show me their learning. We're a great little school!

Last week, our school held this year's Terry Fox Run. Students in all classes participated in 40 minutes of physical activity supporting this great cause! This year our school raised \$240. Amazing!!! Thank you to students for participating, teachers for encouraging their pupils, and community members for donating. A very special THANK YOU to Mrs. Cannon-Zdero (CZ) for organizing the whole event on behalf of the school.

I'd like to share a few of calendar items and reminders that will help the back end of October go smoothly;

- ✓ Teachers are finishing up Progress Reports. This is the first official report home of how your child is progressing in school. Progress Reports will be walked home on October 29th. If you have questions about your child's classroom program or progress, please call or email your child's teacher.
- ✓ School enrolment numbers and correcting over or under staffing situations is a regular process done in October by school boards. This autumn with remote school enrolment surging, many brick and mortar schools find themselves in a challenging position regarding enrolment and staffing. Here at Cecil B. Stirling, we are finding ourselves in a likely re-organization scenario with our current enrolment at 191 students. This means there could be changes to your student's classroom placement. If changes occur, they will be communicated prior to November 2nd. I share this information to show families the road ahead while not intending to cause upset.
- ✓ Our next School/Parent Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday October 29th at 6pm. The meeting will take place virtually on MS Teams. This is a fantastic venue to share information and give the school feedback about "how we're doing." Congratulations and thank you to Shannon Lavalley (Chair), Becky Wagner (Vice-Chair) and Rose Hubbard (Secretary) for accepting their positions on council for the 20/21 school year. If you were unable to join us for the first meeting but are still interested, please contact me via email and I will add you to the "invite list."
- ✓ This year we will be celebrating Halloween on Friday October 30th. While it's always a fun and exciting day, a few adjustments need to be made in order to ensure everyone's safety. All Halloween fun will need to take place in classrooms with individual classes/cohorts only. Students will be able to wear their costumes for the entire day (no weapon-like accessories). Food and gift exchanges are not allowed. Unfortunately, there will be no costume parade this year.
- ✓ The first assembly of the school year is also happening in the morning on October 30th. This important celebration of school spirit and community will happen virtually with classes participating via MS Teams. During this assembly, the school will be revisiting The Seven



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Grandfather Teachings and how students can model themselves and their actions around them. Here is a link to visit and find out about The Seven Grandfather Teachings.

- <https://unitingthreefiresagainstviolence.org/services/the-seven-grandfather-teachings>
- ✓ In October, we completed all three of our fall evacuation/fire drills. We will be practicing our Shelter in Place (external environmental threat) on Nov 17th and Lockdown (internal threat) on Dec 15th. I will send more information about these important Safe Schools procedures closer to the drill date.

VERY IMPORTANT!

As a school community is important that we remain vigilant and actively follow the safety protocols around COVID-19. The layered safety measures keeping students, staff and those at home healthy and safe are;

- Daily Screen and Attestation – Parent screen students for COVID related symptoms and don't send to school if they're experiencing them.
- Masks – All members of the school community must wear masks inside the building.
- Physical Distancing – Staff and students need to practice staying 2 metres apart.
- Hand Hygiene – Washing and sanitizing hands multiple times during the day.
- Cohorting – Students learn and are active with their cohort/class throughout the day.

If you have any questions about the above information or an additional inquiries please reach out via phone (905-385-5374) or email (dschroed@hwdsb.on.ca).

Last, thank you to parents for sending your child to Cecil B Stirling and your contribution to a great start to the school year!

Sincerely,

Dave Schroeder

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Principal – Cecil B. Stirling Elementary School

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