



December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Hello Stingers and Cecil B. Stirling Families and Friends

I hope this message finds you warm and well as we enter December. The temperature is staying consistently cold now and we've had our first real blanketing of snow. Winter is here and our kids are enjoying the snow during their Nutrition Breaks.

As we enter December and approach the winter break, I'd like to share some information items with our community.

On Tuesday December 15<sup>th</sup> at approximately 10am we will be practicing our Lockdown procedure. This is an important safety drill to prepare staff and students in the event the school experiences a serious security threat. Some adjustments will be made to our practice procedure because of COVID-19 safety protocols. I will send home another reminder to families closer to the date to avoid any unfortunate surprises. To find out more about HWDSB Safe Schools Protocols follow the link below.

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Secure-Schools-Protocol.pdf>

With winter weather here now and temperatures staying consistently on the cold side, it is important that students dress appropriately for outside times during the school day. A suggested kits list is; a winter jacket, snow boots, snow-pants, hats and gloves/mittens. Inside shoes that stay dry are also a good item to have. It is an expectation that students are outside for half of nutrition break and PE class continue to be outside for much of that program. Teacher are also encouraged to take their classes outside for DPA.



To reduce clutter in already packed classrooms from jackets, boots, snow pants, etc., starting this week students have been assigned individual lockers to store their jackets and other outerwear. A team system supervised by teachers is in place to reduce hallway traffic. Backpacks and lunch bags will continue to be brought into the classrooms.

We are in the midst of planning this year's Stinger spirit wear drive. I am so excited about this because spirit wear is a great way to build community and a sense of "normal" during this very different school year. Spirit wear will be available to the whole school, with the Grade 8s being able to purchase grad hoodies. Sales will align with HWDSB COVID safety protocols. Stay tuned for more information.

School pictures are an important keepsake as students move through the grades of elementary school. Working with our school vendor Edge Imaging, school pictures will be taken on January 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. Pictures for students in kindergarten to Grade 7 will be on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Grade 8 grad pictures are more involved and need two days to complete so January 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> are being used. Picture Day(s) will align with HWDSB COVID safety protocols.





# Cecil B. Stirling Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Just to put a few dates on your radar. Our last day of school is December 18<sup>th</sup> and we return from holidays on January 4<sup>th</sup>. I know teachers are planning class celebrations within their cohorts which will be a lot of fun. Similar to Halloween, following HWDSB safety protocols, we are asking that no treats or gifts are brought to school to be exchanged amongst students and staff.

While respecting the COVID attestation and daily screening protocols, I would like to remind our community about the importance of regular attendance and punctuality. Everyday teachers build lessons that stack upon each other from one day to the next. Missing several days in a row can be very impactful for a child's learning. Our school day runs from 8:45am to 3:05pm. Please have you child ready to line-up with their class/cohort on our school's blacktop prior to 8:45am. If your child needs to miss school, please let us know by using the School Messenger App.

It is important that we maintain our efforts to keep the school safe for students, staff and families at home. Please continue to reinforce with your child the importance of following our school's layered approach to COVID-19 community safety. Our layered safety protocols are:

- Daily screening and attestation – Do not send your child to school if they are sick.
- Wear a mask – Wearing a mask that covers the nose and mouth keeps us safe indoors.
- Hand hygiene – Washing and sanitizing hands frequently when entering and exiting classes.
- Physical distancing – Students need to be aware of staying 2metres apart whenever possible.
- Student cohorts – Students need to stay in their designated their cohort areas during nutrition break.

As always, if you have any questions about your child's program or questions about Cecil B. Stirling please call (905-385-5374) or email ([dschroed@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:dschroed@hwdsb.on.ca)).

Sincerely,

David Schroeder

Principal – Cecil B. Stirling Elementary School

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Twitter – @CB\_Stirling

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