



# George L. Armstrong Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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March 18, 2021

Dear Eagle Parents/Guardians:

We continue on with this strange year! A few updates...

### COVID Protocols:

Staff continue to remind students to be diligent about our COVID protocols as this is the only way to ensure our students remain healthy. Masks are required for most of the day both inside and outside. A few of our students have mask exemptions so you may see a few students without masks when you pick-up and drop off. Students use hand sanitizer upon entry when they start the day, after each nutrition break and many times in between! Social distancing is maintained as much as possible although many students need frequent reminders when outdoors for nutrition break. We would ask that parents/guardians wear masks when picking up and dropping off children. If you are a mask exempt parent/guardian or forget a mask and you are dropping off your child, please remain socially distanced (at least 2m) from other students and staff. If you have any questions or concerns about our protocols, please contact the office.



### Remote and In-Person Learning:



The next switch will take place in Early May. On Monday, March 22, the option to switch from in-person to remote will open on the Parent Portal. If you wish to make a switch and you can't access the Parent Portal, please call in to the school office and we can do it for you. You do not need to do anything if you do not wish to make a switch.

### iPads:

Thank-you to all who returned your iPads promptly after a switch back to in-school learning! The sooner they are returned the sooner we can put them into classrooms for student use. If you still have an iPad at home, please return it to the school. We do lock the screens with a message saying please return to G.L. Armstrong or the HWDSB.



### Cell Phones:

Cell phones can be a useful classroom tool when used appropriately under teacher direction. They can also be a huge distraction to our students. On Nov. 3, 2019 the following statement was issued: Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education, issued the following statement regarding the cell phone restrictions coming into force. "Our government heard clearly from parents and educators about the growing challenge related to distracted students in the classroom. When in class, students should be focused on their studies and not on social media. The cell phone restrictions coming





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into force on Monday is another step forward in providing a focused and academically-enriched learning environment for our students."

The other issue that we struggle with is students and parents connecting with each other during the school day. For student health and safety, we need to know when and why students are calling home. Sometimes we can solve a problem at school, for example, if a student needs a snack or drink or if there is a social issue between students. If a student is not feeling well, we may have to follow up with COVID protocols or contacting Public Health. Mrs. Riddell and Ms. Newton are always available to support with students and parents who need to connect with each other.

### Spring Break:

Our spring break has been moved to April 12-16. School will also be closed on April 2 and April 5.



### Kindergarten Registration:



If you know of any students who are eligible for Kindergarten in September, please let them know that registration is open online or by calling in to the school. We can't wait to welcome our new Eagles to G.L. Armstrong!



### School Council:

School Council is working on plans for some fun Family activities. Stay Tuned!!



Stay safe and healthy everyone!!

Mrs. Koop and the Staff at G.L. Armstrong