



Guy B. Brown Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

55 Braeheid Avenue
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www.hwdsb.on.ca/guybbrown

Hello Guy Brown Families

I want to start by first sharing a thank you note that was written by one of our wonderful teachers for our families at Guy Brown:

As a school we wanted to sincerely thank you for your support as many of you juggled your busy family schedules, in order to have your child on-line each day. Many of your families had to alter work schedules to accommodate learning from home. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we worked through technical glitches and Wi-Fi outages. Thank you for checking in and peeking over the shoulder to ensure that your child was attentive and on-task. Thank you to those parents who became "elbow partners" in order to assist your child as needed.

As educators, we walk away from this over-whelming and historic experience with so many positives that none of us could have imagined. We have had the opportunity to meet and know your family pets, as many made periodic special guest star appearances throughout the day. We have also been familiarized with the names, genders and histories of many of your child's favourite "stuffies" and toys. We have almost felt that we have been welcomed into each of your homes. We feel somewhat closer connected with your child. We feel that we have gotten to know many of you better.

In closing, thank you for supporting your child and thank you for supporting the staff at Guy Brown. We could have not done this without you! (Mr. Chatelain)

As we return on Monday, February 8th just a few reminders:

Device Return:

Please return all HWDSB devices, including cubes and cords, in a Ziploc bag with the student's first and last name and class number on Monday, February 8th.

Transportation:

Full transportation services will resume on Monday, February 8th. Please remind your child that they need to sit in their designated seat on the bus to and from school. It's important to check the [HWSTS Website](#) daily for your child's bus stop information and [possible delays](#).

Masking:

Students will continue to wear masks (unless you have a [mask exemption](#)), however, a new mandate requires students to wear masks during outdoor activities where physical distance cannot be maintained. For this reason, we are asking that you pack a couple of masks each day for your child so that they can replace masks that become wet or frozen in cold weather. Neck warmers and scarves do not replace a mask as they do not form a seal around the nose and mouth and may not be made of the recommended material.



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Winter Clothing:

Please label all your child's winter clothing so that it can be easily returned. Students all have their own hook or locker for storing winter clothing and indoor shoes that can be left at school.

Cohort Squares

Unfortunately sometime over the last several weeks our flags that were being used to cohort our classes were removed from our field. This is very disappointing as we can no longer determine where each cohort square is located. The board and public health have made it very clear that now, more than ever, we must remain vigilant and keep our students cohorted. With it being so cold, we are unable to place the flags into the frozen ground. We have also tried spray painting the snow, but it wasn't effective. With coming back earlier than anticipated we have not yet received the supplies we need to cohort the field. We have become very creative and will be using orange buckets filled with a sand bag and flag to distinguish our cohort squares, just like other HWDSB schools neighbouring us.

Morning Entry

Until further notice we will be using our inclement weather entry from 8:20 to 8:35 a.m. Students are to use their designated door and will proceed to their classroom.

Nutrition Breaks

For a few days this week, during nutrition breaks students will remain indoors for the entire 40 minutes. Teachers will ensure that students receive two 20-minute outdoor DPA times during the day so that our students can get outside. When going outside, staff will ensure we maintain physical distance between class cohort and others while we wait to be able to set up our cohort squares.

Please Note: Once we get our cohort squares back, we are considering flipping the nutrition break so students eat first and then go outside in order to minimize disruptions to instruction and to maximize more outside time for staff who wish to have outdoor DPA immediately after nutrition break, since students will already be dressed in their winter clothing. More information will be shared in the coming days.

Dismissal:

Until further notice we will be using our inclement weather dismissal. When the bell goes, students, maintaining physical distance, will exit using the door that is always used for entry/exit procedures. Bus students will report right to the gym. Aftercare students will go outside and meet up with the aftercare staff in their designated outdoor location. If we have bad weather, the aftercare students will line up on the left hand side of the hall, in front of the classroom used for the aftercare program.



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Congregating at School:

Public health and the board are requesting that the number of adults entering school property be reduced. Where possible only one parent/caregiver should be dropping off and picking up students. It is recommended that students in grades 4 to 8 determine a designated pick-up location not on the blacktop area. For grades 1 to 3, we ask that parents not wait right at the doors but instead near the rock and fence areas. We also ask that parents and students not congregate on the playground before and after school. Please leave the premises as quickly as possible during both drop-off and pick-up. The playground area is supervised from 8:20 to 8:35 am and again from 2:55 to 3:10 pm by Guy Brown Staff.

Daily COVID-19 Screening:

It is vital that parents/guardians review this screening for COVID-19 symptoms daily before your child arrives at school. If you answer **Yes** to any questions, the student has failed the screening and must not attend school and you should contact Public Health at (905) 974-9848. For further information please follow the links below:

- [COVID-19 school screening online](#)
- [COVID-19 school and child care screening tool](#)
- [Students who fail the daily screen](#)
- [Students who become symptomatic at school](#)
- [COVID at home protocol](#)
- [COVID at school protocol](#)

Return to School Attestation – after illness or self-isolation:

This is an attestation for return to school/child care following illness or self-isolation. Parents and families, please complete this form to document that it is safe for your child to return to school: [Attestation for return to school after illness OR self-isolation](#)

We thank you for your cooperation as our number one priority is to keep all of us safe and to have our schools remain open. See everyone on Monday!

Mrs. Hall
Principal