

Good afternoon Guy Brown Families

Welcome to March! As we continue with in person learning, there are a couple of items that we want to review with our families:

1. **Updated COVID Symptomatic Student Protocol**

The COVID protocols were recently updated by the Ministry of Education on February 19th. Our board has updated the return to school attestation after illness. Families must continue to use the online version of the screen tool which highlights steps needed for their child to return to school should they fail the screener.

1.1. Changes to Household Contacts of Symptomatic Individuals

Household members of symptomatic individuals must now isolate until the symptomatic student/household member has tested negative for COVID-19, they have received an alternate diagnosis for the illness or they isolate for 14 days (10 days for the symptomatic person).

This also applies to students who become symptomatic during the school day. Household contacts, even if they attend another school in HWDSB, should be picked up.

1.2 Updated Downloadable Student Screening Tool

The online screening tool for students has been updated by the province and is now available for download. This also includes improved descriptions for what constitutes a symptom and focuses on the recent changes to how we treat household members and students with single symptoms. The latest version can be found [here](#).

1.3 Symptomatic Individuals Return to School

As outlined on the HWDSB website "Staff, students and children with any new or worsening symptom of COVID-19, as indicated in the school and child care screening tool, even those with only one symptom, must stay home until:"

- They receive a negative COVID-19 test result.
- They receive an alternative diagnosis by a health care professional, or
- It has been 10 days since their symptom onset and they are feeling better.

Click [here](#) to view our boards policy in its entirety. This is extremely important, as if your child fails the screener in the morning, they must stay home and follow the above protocol.

2. **Learn Disrupt Rebuild**

Over the past few weeks, our staff and students have been engaging in our Learn Disrupt Rebuild curriculum. This is a board wide initiative with a focus of establishing a set of tools through various classroom modules to create a community of care. Through these modules, students have been learning about ongoing self-care, identity and race, intersectionality and fairness. Modules are grade specific and have been created by the HWDSB equity team.

3. **Black History Month**

Throughout the month of February, many of our classes have been learning and celebrating Black History Month. It is important to take the time to focus on the importance of Black

History Month in both a Canadian and global context and we welcome the opportunity to continue our learning as a school.

4. Nutrition Break

Just a reminder that we are currently having students eat during the first twenty minutes and then going outside for the last 20 minutes. Please continue to pack a litterless lunch and containers that can be opened independently as we continue to limit the amount of contact around personal items.

5. Outdoor safety during Recess

Historically, our field and black top can accumulate very thick and unsafe layers of ice. When this occurs, we will be utilizing the front drive way of the school and request that staff take out their classes for two twenty-minute sessions. The entrances of the driveway will be blocked off using large industrial grade pylons to ensure vehicles are not entering. When staff take their classes out to the front, there are cones available to create their own cohort area. While we recognize this is not as ideal as a traditional recess where students are outside on the field, we are trying to think outside the box and provide opportunities for students get some much needed fresh air. Staff can continue to use our gym sign-up sheet where teachers can take their classes into the gym for some physical activity during Nutrition Break.

In the event that our field is too wet to be used, but our blacktop is good, we have created a recess schedule using both the blacktop and front driveway, where classes have two scheduled 20-minute sessions.

As we enter a phase between thawing and freezing temperatures heading into the spring, it is likely that we will be utilizing both methods mentioned above to ensure our students are getting outside twice for twenty minutes each day. If the field is in good enough shape to be used, we will be following our regular nutrition break schedule.

6. General Classroom Questions

Report cards and IEPs have recently been sent home electronically. A printed signed version of the report card will be sent home with students on March 4th. We ask families to start with the classroom teacher as the first contact when questions or concerns arise within the classroom.

Have a great week ahead,
Joanne Hall (Principal) and John Efthimiadis (Vice Principal)