



HESS STREET SCHOOL

MID-MAY 2020 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is John Bradley and I have been Temporary Principal at Hess Street School since April 15. After over thirty years with the HWDSB (fourteen of them as a school administrator), I retired in June 2016. Since then it has been my honour to fill in from time-to-time at a variety of schools where the Principal has been on leave.

Several of my friends and former colleagues had the pleasure of working at Hess Street School. All spoke of a community where staff and parents worked together to build the best future possible for their students.

We are living in very unusual and confusing times. The Hess Street staff are working very hard to overcome challenges to continue to provide quality education for their students. Technical issues sometimes make virtual learning difficult, but working together we can problem solve and help each student learn. An incredible 87% of our students are actively engaged in on-line learning!

What does the future hold? When will we be back in school? Unfortunately none of us know the answers to these questions. What we do know is that the HWDSB and staff at Hess Street are committed to providing quality education and care for their students. Whatever the obstacles, we will continue to work hard for your children. As more information about the future becomes available, we will share it with you.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Our Learning Resource Teachers (Ms. Cheyne and Mr. Morganti) and Special Class Teachers (Ms. Freeman and Mr. Lightfoot) continue to provide programming and assistance to students with diverse learning needs.

During a period of distance learning, some practices have been altered. This includes:

- **IEPs** - we continue to follow individual learning plans for students who need them. If your student is learning with an IEP, you will receive a copy electronically in the near future. If you wish to have a conversation about your child's IEP with one of the teachers mentioned above arrangements will be made to do so. Paper copies of IEPs will be distributed in the fall.
- **Initial IPRCs** - if your child was scheduled for an initial Identification, Placement and Review Committee meeting, staff will be in touch to set up a virtual meeting using a video conferencing app.
- **Review IPRCs** - normally, school staff would meet with parents of students who have been formally identified with a unique learning need. During this unusual period, we are asking that parents dispense with the need to schedule a meeting this spring with a promise of follow-up when school resumes on-site.

We know that at home, on-line learning presents added challenges for families of students with complex learning needs. Your child's classroom teacher and our Learning Resource teachers remain ready to help. Just reach out and they will assist you.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Do you have a child who was born in 2016? If you do, they are old enough to start Junior Kindergarten in September.

If you have not already done so, please go on-line to hwdsb.on.ca and follow the links to Kindergarten Registration. Once you have submitted the initial registration, one of our Office Administrators (Ms. Lane or Ms. Smith) will contact you for the information needed to complete your registration.

Information regarding Kindergarten Orientation will be sent to the families of registered students once it is available.

IPAD CHALLENGES? CONTACT YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER FOR ASSISTANCE.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- June 1 - School to reopen (closure may be extended, TBD)
- June 24 - Report Cards released
- June 25 - Last Day of School - on line instruction ends
- Aug 31 - Office reopens - daily 8:30 am to 3:30 pm
- Sept 8 - First Day of School 2020/2021

Now available DOORSTEP DELIVERY

**COVID-19
EMERGENCY
FOOD
RESPONSE**

Are you ...

- Living with a low income?
- Unable to leave your home due to COVID-19?

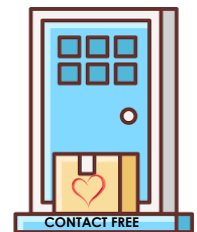
If you answered yes to these questions, you may qualify for food bank hamper delivery.

Please be ready to answer questions about your family and income when you call.

Please call:

905-537-3663

Phone lines are open
Monday to Friday
9 am to 2 pm



GRADE 8 CELEBRATIONS

Given the restrictions on gathering together (no more than five people) traditional graduation ceremonies are not possible this June. At Hess, we recognize the important milestone finishing Elementary School represents for our Grade 8 students. The staff is brainstorming innovative ways for us to honour our graduates in a safe and meaningful way. Stay tuned for more info.