



# HESS STREET SCHOOL

OCTOBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

WOW! What an amazing month September turned out to be! While we all began the school year with some anxiety, everything is going smoothly.

Our students are resilient, having adapted to new routines and regulations. They are wearing masks, washing hands, maintaining physical distancing and remaining in their class' assigned area on the playground.

With these routines now the new normal, we are enjoying another great year of learning!

## IMPORTANT DATES

- Oct. 2 Terry Fox class walks, Red & White Day
- Oct. 5-23 Welcome Temporary Principal Doug Baker
- Oct. 12 Thanksgiving Day Holiday (school closed)
- Oct. 29 Progress Report Cards sent home
- Nov. 3 First switch date from remote learning to in-school learning

## PICK-UP & DROP-OFF PROTOCOLS

Strict public health protocols will be followed during the pandemic. This will include limiting access for parents/caregivers to the playground.

Morning Routines (8:50 am)



- Kindergarten** - Parents/caregivers should bring their kindergarten aged student to the gate to the kindergarten play area on Hess St. at the back of the school. Staff will receive your child and supervise their play in the kindergarten play area
- Grades 1 to 8** - Parents/caregivers are asked to say good-bye to their children at the Queen St. or Hess St. entrances to the playground. Students will go directly to their class' assigned space on the playground and line up

Afternoon Routines (3:10 pm)

- Kindergarten** - parents/caregivers are asked to return to the gate to the kindergarten play area and wait for the kindergarten staff to "hand off" their child directly to their care
- Grades 1 to 8** - Parents/caregivers are to wait on the playground in the area assigned to their child's class, teachers will bring their class to this area at dismissal. If you are picking up more than one student, go to the youngest child's assigned area first. Older students may walk home without a parent escort.

## RETURNING TO IN-SCHOOL LEARNING

Parents have the opportunity to have their children return from the Remote school to learning at Hess Street School. We know that before school started up, many parents were worried that in school learning might not be safe for their children.

Since reopening there have been no (zero) COVID-19 cases at Hess Street School. We have protocols in place when a student or staff member develop COVID-like symptoms. Students are isolated until their parent can pick them up, their teacher takes the class to the library while their entire classroom is sanitized. Only when it is safe to do so does the teacher bring their class back. All students who have had COVID-like symptoms have tested negative.

While remote learning helps students to not fall behind, it is not a real substitute for in-person learning where a teacher can better meet a child's needs.

We look forward to welcoming your child back to Hess Street and ask that you seriously consider having them return on November 3. **You can request a change from remote to in-school learning through the Parent Portal. Requests must be made no later than Tuesday, October 13, 2020.**

**FOR HEALTH & SAFETY REASONS, STUDENTS ARE ASKED TO REMAIN AT SCHOOL DURING BOTH NUTRITION BREAKS.**

## REMINDER OF PUBLIC HEALTH PROTOCOLS



Parents/guardians are reminded to:

- Complete the self screening checklist every morning (go to: <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/about/covid19/student-screening-translated-documents/>) with their child.
- Inform the school if their child has "failed" the screening and contact public health to book a COVID test (call 905-974-9848 or book online at [www.HamiltonCovidTest.ca](http://www.HamiltonCovidTest.ca))
- Pick up their child immediately from school if they develop potential COVID symptoms during the day.
- Talk to your child about the importance of following the public health protocols at school.

**Working together is the best way to stay healthy!**

## SWIS (SETTLEMENT) WORKERS

Parents requiring help to understand the school, forms, parent portal, etc. should call a SWIS worker for assistance.

Somali	Nadro	905-518-8463	nardo.farah@ymcahbb.ca
Arabic	Hala	289-339-9243	hala.farha@ymcahbb.ca
Viet./Chinese	Kim	905-515-0821	Kim.cheung@ymcahbb.ca

## UPDATING PARENT CONTACT INFO

Are your phone numbers, email addresses and emergency contact information up to date? If not, we won't be able to contact you in an emergency.

If any of this information has changed since March, please call the school to speak with Mrs. Lane or Mrs. Smith in the school office. They will be happy to receive this new information to update our records.