



Hess Street Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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SERVICE DOG FOR AN EMPLOYEE

Dear Parents/Caregivers:

This letter is to inform you that we are in the process of finalizing approval of a request for a certified service dog in our school assisting one of our employees. We have had some experience with service dogs at the HWDSB and we are confident that we will be prepared for the dog's arrival.

Service dogs are specially trained to meet individual needs (e.g. seeing eye dogs, seizure alert dogs, autism service dogs, diabetes alert dogs) to prevent and remove barriers that impede individuals with disabilities from participating fully as employees of the Board. The right to have a service dog is protected by Human Rights legislation and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

As always, we are committed to providing an inclusive, safe and respectful environment at school for all students and staff. I understand there may be questions about the role of the service dog, including any restrictions and limitations, and protocols regarding interaction with the dog. If your child has allergies, phobias or cultural sensitivities related to dogs or if you have any other questions pertaining to the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

S. Johnston, Principal

Cc: Assistant Manager, Social Work Services
Manager, Employee Support and Wellness
Superintendent of Achievement