

September 2020 Newsletter:

Dear Parents, Guardians and Caregivers:

Welcome back! We are looking forward to working with all of our families during the 2020-2021 school year. We know it will be a very different school environment than we are all used to but the Mount Albion staff and I are looking forward to working with you and your children again.

As some of you may be aware, our school is in the midst of a substantial construction project. We are very excited with the progress that the contractors are making and we look forward to seeing the completion of this project some time next Spring. Our ten-classroom new addition has had its foundation poured, the gym is well on its way to being expanded and our child care centre addition will soon follow.

As we return to school there are some changes to our school entry and dismissal routines to ensure the safety of all of our students. Our school buses will load and unload on Kennard Street. If you are driving your child to school please note that parents are **not permitted** to drop off in either of the two parking lots. Please arrive early enough to find a parking spot on one of the side streets and make sure that you are not parked in the bus loading and unloading zone. City By-Law Officers will be on site for the first few weeks to help us with traffic flow.

The majority of our students will be led to the back playground with their bus cohorts and then they will line up in designated areas with their class cohorts, rain, shine, snow or sleet. All teachers will greet and lead their classes into the building according to a schedule that Mrs. Nelson and I have created to ensure that we are observing physical distancing.

There are several Covid 19 protocols that we will be observing throughout the day. In order to help us keep your child safe, here are a few suggestions:

- Speak to your child about the importance of physical distancing and hand washing. Hand sanitizers will be available in your child's classroom.
- Ensure that your child wears a mask on the school bus and is aware that a mask is required in class. A back up mask (or two, or three!) in your child's

backpack would be helpful. Please label all masks with, as unidentified masks found in the school will be discarded. Please label all clothing as well!

- Due to students waiting outside prior to class, a suggestion of rain boots and a rain coat or poncho (they are a great price at Dollarama, and take up next to no room in a backpack!) for inclement weather.
- Send your child with a reusable water bottle with enough water for the day. This will help avoid trips to the hydration station in the hallway.
- School supplies – as students will not be sharing supplies, a good idea is to send a labelled pencil case with your child, and include any special items your child may want to use, such as pencils, pens, highlighters, etc. Items will be provided at the school as well, but a pencil case is good to keep their items in one place.
- Please send your child with a packed lunch with ample food every day as we are not able to accept lunch drop offs in the office.
- Help your child learn how to tie their own shoes or purchase slip on/Velcro shoes for your child if they are not yet able to do so on their own.
- Please remember to do a wellness check with your child every day and do not send your child to school should they present with Covid 19 like symptoms.
- If your child presents with symptoms during the school day, you will be contacted and required to pick up your child in a timely manner, and the student will be required to wait in our quarantine room. Information about the process for students showing symptoms returning to school will be sent out to families shortly.
- Parents will not be allowed in the school, and must use School Messenger to report absences, lates and early dismissals. Protocols for lates and early pick-up will be sent home at the beginning of school.
- The office does not accept cash, and all transactions must be done using SchoolCash Online. Information to follow for new families at start-up.

We are not able to offer pizza days, smoothie days or a milk program at this time, however our nutrition program will begin in the coming weeks. All appropriate protocols from Public Health and Tastebuds Hamilton will be observed for this program.

A reminder of the staggered entry for our students. On September 8th and 9th we will welcome our special class students. Beginning September 10th, we will welcome all students whose last names begin with the letters A-K. On September 11th, Students with last names beginning with letter L-Z may attend school. On September 14th the A-K group will return and then on September 15th the L-Z group will return once again. On September 16th we will welcome all students who have chosen in class learning.

I will continue to keep you all posted with any further updates. I look forward to seeing your children back in our building!

Sincerely,

Mrs. A. Giardino

Principal

Mount Albion School