



Shannen Koostachin Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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September 6, 2023

Dear Parent(s)/ Guardians,

It is with deep sadness that we inform you that our beloved Kindergarten teacher Mr. Carl Creatchman died this morning.

The news of Mr. Creatchman's death is a deep and sudden loss for the school community. Mr. Creatchman worked at our school for 5 years and helped us open the building. Mr. Creatchman will be fondly remembered for his amazing rapport with students, staff and the community, his great sense of humour and his excellent guitar skills.

Our condolences are extended to Mr. Creatchman's family and friends during this difficult time. As a sign of respect and honour for his dedication to our school community, our school flag will be lowered to half-mast.

Members of the Board's Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) will be at our school tomorrow to offer support. We recognize that you may wish to provide an opportunity at home for your children to share their thoughts and questions.

Parents, guardians, and caregivers can access *Tips for adults supporting children and youth after distressing events* at <https://hwdsb.info/distressing> to support your child when talking about the death of a caring adult. Supporting children during this time will greatly assist in their ability to understand and cope with their feelings of grief and loss.

Students can also access support using *HWDSB Helps* (<https://hwdsb.info/HWDSBHelps>): Text to 905-963-0066 (Standard rates apply), use the HWDSB Helps app for iOS and Android, or the web chat. In case of emergency, call 911.

Our thoughts are with Mr Creatchman's family at this sad time. Our lives are richer for having known him.

Sincerely,

Tricia Nelson
Principal

Louise van der Put
Vice Principal

Colin Hazell
Vice Principal

Sharon Stephanian
Superintendent of Schools

curiosity.

creativity.

possibility.

HWDSB