



Strathcona Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

10 Lamoreaux Street
Hamilton, Ontario L8R 1V1
Phone: 905.527.2470
Fax: 905.527.2472

EMAIL: strathcona@hwdsb.on.ca
PRINCIPAL: Ms. K. Chute
www.hwdsb.on.ca/strathcona

September 19, 2020

Hello Dragon Families!

Welcome Back! I would like to say a big 'thank you' to our community for the support we are receiving during this September startup. Our students have come back prepared for the unknown and I couldn't be prouder of them. Students are wearing masks throughout the day with minimal reminders, arriving with their filled water bottles and socially distancing from their peers and staff.

Did you know that our school has a Contingency Action Team who meet on a regular basis? We meet to review and adjust procedures to ensure we are meeting safety guidelines and we are running efficiently. Together, we are keeping each other safe! Let's keep it up!

Drop off and Pick Up

A reminder that supervision starts at 8:35am. There is no supervision prior to 8:35am. Please ensure your student is not arriving prior to supervision. Students are doing a great job lining up before school. We have spent the first week practicing and routines are becoming our new normal. If weather does not permit us to be outside prior to the bell, students will enter the school and report directly to their classrooms.

Staff will continue to bring students to their lines at 3:05 to be ready for 3:10 dismissal. We are reminding our students to watch for their adult on our 'drop and go' path. Once your student sees you, they are walking up their class lines and across the path next to our school over to their adult. Once you have your student(s) please continue to follow the blue arrows to exit. This will help to support our social distancing of families. A reminder that students who walk home on their own will exit when our bell rings at 3:10pm. Supervision ends at 3:25pm. All students need to be picked up prior to 3:25pm or have a plan to exit independently by that time.

A reminder that dogs need to remain off of the school property. This includes our parking lot. If your family is walking their dog to and from school, please make arrangements with your student to meet on the sidewalk or other location off of the property. Our drop off and pick up is a very busy time and this may put additional stress on your dog making them more prone to becoming anxious or aggressive. Please be mindful that there are students and adults who may not be comfortable with dogs that are unknown to them. For safety of all, dogs need to be kept at a distance and under their owners control.

Daily Attendance

Attendance reporting is extremely important. If your student is going to be absent or late, please input this information into the Safe Arrival/Parent Portal app. If your student is required to leave school early,



Strathcona Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

10 Lamoreaux Street
Hamilton, Ontario L8R 1V1
Phone: 905.527.2470
Fax: 905.527.2472

EMAIL: strathcona@hwdsb.on.ca
PRINCIPAL: Ms. K. Chute
www.hwdsb.on.ca/strathcona

you will also need to enter that data into the system. A reminder that for students to attend school they must clear the daily medical screener questions each morning.

Nutrition Breaks

Each class has a designated area to play in at recesses. These areas allow students to social distance and enjoy time with their peers outside. Designated areas help us in the event we need to contract trace.

Signs and cleaning

Our school has many new signs to support our students. Signs include: staying to the right, wearing masks, social distancing, reporting if you feel unwell, hand hygiene reminders and floor markers for social distancing. Hand sanitizer is available throughout the building and our caretaking staff are diligent about cleaning high touch surfaces throughout the day.

What Happens When a Student Feels Sick

Remember to screen your child before they come to school using the online screening tool at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/>. Students who report not feeling well or exhibiting any symptoms of Covid-19 while at school, will be removed from the classroom to an isolation room and families will be called to pick them up. Currently, the isolation room is near to the office so that we can monitor students who are waiting for pick-up

- Students who **test negative** for COVID-19 must isolate until they do not have a fever (without using medication) and without symptoms for 24 hours. Household contacts should continue to monitor for symptoms.
- Students who **test positive** for COVID-19 must remain in isolation and follow Hamilton Public Health Service guidance and cannot attend school for at least 14 days. Household contacts should self-isolate at home and follow public health guidelines.
- Ill students **not tested** and given an **alternative diagnosis** by a health care provider, the individual is to isolate at home until without a fever (without the use of medication) and free of symptoms for at least 24 hours.
- Ill students, if **not tested**, must not return to school for 14 days from the start of symptoms and be without symptoms for at least 24 hours. Household contacts should monitor for symptoms.

You can find more information and a Flow Chart of steps on the HWDSB website.

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/COVID-At-Home-Protocol-1.pdf>

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/COVID-At-School-Protocol-1.pdf>



Strathcona Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

10 Lamoreaux Street
Hamilton, Ontario L8R 1V1
Phone: 905.527.2470
Fax: 905.527.2472

EMAIL: strathcona@hwdsb.on.ca
PRINCIPAL: Ms. K. Chute
www.hwdsb.on.ca/strathcona

Parent Portal Startup Paperwork

This year, the majority of school board forms will be completed through the parent portal as we reduce or eliminate the amount of paper going between school and home. We ask all families to review and complete the Annual Media, Photo Use and Internet Use Consent Agreement forms. These can be found by going into the Parent Portal, permission/agreements title then to digital tools permission form. Please complete these as soon as possible.

For families still experiencing issues with the parent portal, please contact our school office to confirm your contact information. If your contact information is correct and you are still experiencing Parent Portal issues, we will submit information to the HWDSB IT Department. I can appreciate the frustration of families with these issues. We will do our best to support you.

Eco-School Team

Last year, many classrooms started to implement boomerang lunches. We even started to have school wide days to help us to be mindful. Thank you to our Eco Schools team last year lead by Mrs. Depew, Mr. Hughes and several of our parent volunteers. We will be expanding on that work this year.

For families that are new to boomerang lunches, here is what they are and what they do! Boomerang lunches means everything your child brings to school in their lunch, will go back home with them. This includes garbage, recycling, re-useable containers, and left over food. Boomerang lunches help to let you know what your child is actually eating at school each day. Ever wonder if your student needs an extra snack or two or if they actually eat everything you pack? Now you will know! This is beneficial to our families and their ever growing food budgets!

Don't forget to label everything important to you! Please ensure you include your student's first and last name. This will help your student to keep track of their items and ensure your items return home. Unclaimed items such as lunch containers and water bottles will not be kept in our building due to COVID-19 safety requirements.

Safety First! Fire Drills and Health and Safety Drills

Each year our school is required to have different drills to help prepare our staff and students in the event of an emergency. This includes Fire Drills, Hold and Secure, Shelter In Place, Lockdown and Bomb Threat Drills. We practice these in the fall and in the spring. Staff will prepare students for these drills starting this week and we will be practicing them as a school soon. While these drills will look a bit different this year to ensure we are socially distancing, it is important for our students to be aware of the procedures and safety expectations in the case of an emergency.



Strathcona Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

10 Lamoreaux Street
Hamilton, Ontario L8R 1V1
Phone: 905.527.2470
Fax: 905.527.2472

EMAIL: strathcona@hwdsb.on.ca
PRINCIPAL: Ms. K. Chute
www.hwdsb.on.ca/strathcona

Strathcona Open House

Due to social distancing our Open House will be paused. This includes our annual fall book fair. If you wish to connect with your student's teacher, please let them know or call the office and leave a message. Meetings with staff will take place through a phone call or on MS Teams. At Strathcona we understand the importance of communication between home and school and will continue to foster these relationships.

School Council

Please stay tuned to the school website for more information about School Council and Sage Steering committee and what that may look like during these unprecedented times.

Don't forget:

- To follow us on twitter @StrathconaHWDSB
- Sign up on our school's website to receive alerts as new information is added

Be Kind. Be Caring. Be Safe! Go Dragons!