



Strathcona Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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Hamilton, Ontario L8R 1V1
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PRINCIPAL: Ms. K. Chute
www.hwdsb.on.ca/strathcona

October 3, 2020

Hello Strathcona Dragon Families!

A HUGE thank you for the ongoing help, patience and support in what has been an incredible start up and return to school for the 2020-2021 school year. There have been numerous changes to past practices in order to align with direction from Public Health and the School Board in order to keep everyone safe. Thank you for working through these changes with us.

First Transition Date

HWDSB has delayed the date our first transition. Transition dates allow families to change from in-school learning to remote school or from remote school to in-school learning. November 3rd will be the first transition date. **Only families who want a change will enter a choice in the Parent Portal.** This optional survey will be open from Monday, October 5 at 9:00 a.m. until midnight on October 12. Anyone requiring assistance with this please call the school prior to 2:00 p.m. on Friday October 9th. After Friday, we will be unable to assist you for this transition period. It has been announced that there will also be transition dates in January and in March.

Masks

Thank you to all our students who are working hard to ensure they have their masks on at school. We are seeing success with students who have a plan for their masks at recess. These plans include the use of a fanny pack or a short lanyard that attaches the mask to the shirt. This has helped students to keep their masks clean and accounted for. We also have paper bags available that students can store their masks in. Please talk to your student about what their plan is, for their mask, during recess time.

Rain Procedures

The weather has treated us kindly so far but we need to plan for when this changes. Students should be dressed for light rain and mist as we value our outdoor time and students will continue to be outside as much as possible.

In heavier rain, we will follow these routines:

- Morning entry: Doors will open for students to enter at 8:35am. Students will go directly to their classroom and remain seated at their desk.
- Recess: Students will remain inside at their desk.
- Dismissal: Classes will be brought outside just prior to the 3:10pm bell. Students waiting for their adult will remain in their class lines until the adult arrives on our 'Drop and Go' Path. Students who walk home independently will leave as soon as the bell goes.



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Special Events and Birthdays

In order to ensure the safety of all students, we need to follow the health protocols that are in place. Please do not send any food items or treats to be shared with classmates. Unfortunately, these items cannot be distributed to peers.

Visiting the school during the instructional day

Wherever possible, no items should be dropped off during the day for students. We understand that on occasion, it may be necessary to deliver a forgotten item such as lunch or required medication. Please be patient as it will take time for your student to be dismissed from class, perform hand hygiene, come to the front door with staff supervision, and retrieve the item from you outside.

If you are coming to pick your student up early, remember to enter their early dismissal time into the system. Once you arrive, we will follow the same procedures as above. If you have somewhere you need to be, please consider giving yourself a few extra minutes to pick up your student as they will not be brought down to the office until you have arrived.

Boomerang Lunches

Thank you to everyone for supporting our school wide Boomerang lunches. Students have adjusted to this new routine quickly. Just a reminder to send items that your student is able to independently open. This helps to reduce their frustration and reduces contact made with student items.

Focusing on Safety and Academics

Our students have adjusted to our many protocols very well. Throughout September they had the opportunity to practice, ask questions and gain an understanding as to why we are doing things in a different way this year. We have found this to be both informative and empowering for our students.

We are also focused on identifying and bridging any gaps that we see in student learning. Teachers, along with our Learning Resource Teacher and Reading Specialist, have been busy conducting diagnostic assessments to inform their instruction within the classrooms. We will always be mindful of safety and yet we are also focused on classroom assessments in order to respond accordingly with programming and instructional strategies to support student learning and achievement.

School Council

We look forward to connecting with our school council and Sage Steering as soon as direction has been received from HWDSB. In the meantime, please continue reach out with any questions or concerns that you have.



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Parent Involvement Committee

The Parent Involvement Committee is currently receiving applications for 2020/2021 school year. Application deadline is Oct. 13, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.

As a member of a Parent Involvement Committee, parents have an opportunity to become part of a dedicated team committed to helping every student achieve.

Parent Membership Criteria

- Parent or guardian of a student enrolled in HWDSB
- Selected to ensure broad representation & diversity across the district
- Committed to a two-year term
- Able to attend monthly meetings (second Tuesday of each month)
- Demonstrated commitment to school and community involvement

Find full details on the application process on our website and the online application at:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PIC_Application20-21

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