



## September 2021 Newsletter

**\*\*You are receiving this notification as an email only and will not be able to access this message in your School-Day account\*\***

**We would like to welcome you and your children back to Hesper P.S. and extend an extra warm welcome to those families who will be joining our school community this year!**

This certainly continues to be a unique and ever-changing time for our education system and greater society. We want to assure you that as we begin this new school year with some continued uncertainties, it is our priority to provide a quality education and experience for your child while making sure he or she is as safe and healthy as possible. Our approach will be informed by care and compassion, in a manner that will comply with all COVID-19 health and safety requirements. 'Safe, happy learners' will be our priority as we continue to focus on the conditions for learning: relationships, pedagogy and assessment, the learning environment, and human rights and equity.



**All students will begin full time on Tuesday, September 7th.**

Please look for a School Day message in the upcoming week to indicate the process to log into School Day to determine your child's teacher. It is expected that this information will be available by Sunday, September 5th on School Day. All classroom teachers and rotary staff will be outside at 8:35 on Tuesday morning with signs to indicate the meeting spot. If you are unsure which teacher to look for, please find one of the staff members outside who have master class lists.



### **Preparing for Back to School:**

We thought you might like to know what kind of supplies would be helpful to send with your child this year. So here is a guide.

- Students will be expected to bring all personal items home each day
- Please only send essential items. Lockers will not be available at this point and in many cases, students will be keeping their items with them at their desk. Less is more!
- We will be providing each student with essential learning supplies (pencils, erasers, pencil crayons, markers, ruler, etc.). The items provided will differ depending on grade level.
- Each student is asked to bring a **mask** to wear on the first day of school. The school will be providing students with reusable masks when required. Students are also free to continue wearing their own masks (e.g., cloth, disposable). Please send your child with

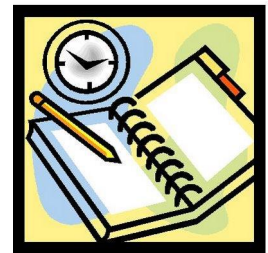
a paper bag to house the mask when they remove it to eat. It is advisable to send a few masks for the day in case they get soiled or wet.

- Each student is asked to bring a **labelled water bottle** since drinking fountains will be closed for use by mouth.
- Students should pack a **healthy lunch and a water bottle** labeled with their name. They will have access to touch-free water filling stations as needed during the day. We will also continue with our “Boomerang” lunches so everything that they bring with them will be returned home in their lunch bag. Please pack a reusable plastic bag for items that may be messy.
- Approved **WRDSB hand sanitizer** will be available to all students and will be dispensed by the classroom educator at identified times throughout the day, upon request by a student, and as needed.
- At this time, kindergarten students are asked to bring a **change of clothes in a labelled Ziploc bag** (in case of spills or accidents). Kindergarten educators will communicate to families if there are any additional supplies needed.

We understand that this is an exciting time for students and often the tradition of purchasing back to school supplies adds to the excitement. As we all know, this is an unprecedented time so we ask that you please keep these personal supplies at home for students to use at home. We also ask that personal toys and/or sentimental personal belongings do not come to school with your child.

### **Daily Routines**

School routines and procedures will look different than they have in the past so we would like to take this opportunity to share some of those with you. We thank you in advance for adhering to these guidelines to help keep everyone safe while at school.



### **Beginning & End of Day**

- Though bell times remain the same for ALL students, students will enter and exit school in a staggered fashion (one class entering/exiting at a time) to promote physical distancing
- Please try to arrive as close to bell time as possible
- Staggered entry/exit may result in students being outside for longer periods of time. Please be sure that students are dressed appropriately as this process will continue to be in place during inclement weather (rain gear/umbrella, warm clothes, etc.)
- Each class will have a designated line up space on the tarmac/yard
- As they arrive on school property, students will need put on their masks and head directly to their line
- We kindly ask, that where age-appropriate, you allow your child(ren) to enter the property on their own to help reduce congestion on the yard and allow for physical distancing
- At the end of the day, it would be helpful for your child (again, as appropriate by age) to be able to meet you at a predetermined spot off-property to help reduce congestion
- If meeting your child on property, please limit it to 1 adult/family. All adults should also be wearing a mask and should be on the field only (no adults on the tarmac please to ensure enough space for physical distancing).

- Please leave school property promptly at the end of the school day (do not congregate on property)

### **School Access**

- Access to the school will be greatly reduced and only essential visitors will be allowed
- Parents/guardians will not have access to the school
- Please ensure students have all items needed for the day, including lunches, when they leave each morning as we will not be able to accept deliveries of these items during the school day
- All students will need to remain on property at both lunches

### **Illness/COVID symptoms or diagnosis**



- Please be sure to complete the [Ontario School Screening Tool](#) with your child daily. If they are showing any symptoms, do not send your child to school. You must follow the advice provided through the screening tool. As mandated by the Ministry, we will be asking for verification of this daily for at least the first two weeks (for information to follow)
- The board's safety protocols require symptomatic children be removed from class and parent/guardian called for prompt pick up
- If your child(ren) has been exposed to an active case of COVID-19, they must also stay home and must follow the recommendations from Public Health
- Please be sure the school has up-to-date contact information for your family and emergency contacts

### **Late Students**

- Students arriving after 8:35 should determine if their class is still on the yard in their designated line for staggered entry. If so, they are asked to join their line.
- If your child arrives late, please be prepared to wait with them in cue outside the main entrance of the school
- Entry at the main entrance will be delayed until students on the yard have entered the site in order to reduce congestion in halls and promote physical distancing.
- Students will enter on their own (without parent/guardian) when prompted by office personnel who will sign them in and then direct them to class

### **Staff Training**

A staff handbook specific to Hespeler P.S. that follows the Health and Safety guidelines by WRDSB, the Ministry of Education and the Region of Waterloo Public Health has been created. Staff will receive training this week through professional development days on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. This includes learning about COVID-19 symptoms, prevention, transmission, control and management of suspected and confirmed cases. We recognize that there is some anxiety around the start of this school year and want to assure you that we are taking a very cautious approach to the reopening plan.

## Chromebooks

In order to be ready for September, we are asking that all families with a loaned WRDSB device at home, **RETURN devices and charging cords** to school this coming week. All devices will be set aside for 72 hours and then be thoroughly cleaned before they are distributed to classrooms. Please drop off ALL borrowed devices on **Friday, September 3** between 10:00am and 2pm. Park in the parking lot, come to the main entrance and buzz the school buzzer for further direction. We ask that you please wear a mask and practise physical distancing when returning the device. If your child is signed up for Distance Learning and you know you will need a Chromebook, you may keep it in your possession for now and let us know by emailing [HES@WRDSB.CA](mailto:HES@WRDSB.CA). If you are unable to drop the Chromebook off this week, please send it to school with your child when they return.



This is a busy time for the staff at Hespeler P.S. as we prepare to welcome your children back to the school building for what we all hope is a fantastic year of learning, friendship and joyful experiences for us all! See you all soon!

Rebecca Jutzi  
Principal

Kevin Pomfret  
Vice-Principal