

**2022/23 Clinton Cougar Chronicle Vol. 1**

Friday, September 9, 2022

**Dear Clinton Community**:

Welcome to the first Clinton Cougar Chronicle for the 2022/23 school year.

For those families new to Clinton Street, we do our best to provide you with a weekly update newsletter each Friday to keep you informed of all Cougar news.

Allow me to begin by thanking all the families, students, and staff for such a great start to the 2022/23 Clinton Cougar season.

The first week of any school year contains some degree of excitement, uncertainty, and concern and everyone seems to be settling in quickly.

In these opening few days, there has been a lot of laughter, engagement, and interaction evident throughout the school and we look forward to many more joyful days at Clinton this year.

However, these past few years have taught all of us that it is difficult to predict what might come so we are also preparing for other possibilities while hoping for the best.

With that in mind, here are a few items of significance at Clinton:

**Clinton Cougar Teams**

For those families new to Clinton Street, there has been a school building on our site since the late 1800’s and we are very proud of the Clinton Street tradition of providing our students the opportunity to cooperate, participate and compete in school sporting events.

The 2022/23 year marks the 100th anniversary of the 1922/23 Clinton Street School Bantam Hockey Championship team. Feel free to go to our website’s ( [www.clintonstreetschool.ca](http://www.clintonstreetschool.ca) ) ‘athletics’ section to see a picture of that team and the names of the players and coaches. It is safe to say that not many schools in our city can celebrate a centennial milestone for a championship team and we hope that our teams this year will be able to channel some of the vibes from that squad.

We are thrilled to announce that we will be offering school sports teams this fall. At this point we have teachers volunteering to coach Cross-Country running (Grade 2 and up), Boys and Girls Football (Grade 4 and up), Boys and Girls Soccer (Grade 4 and up), and Girls Basketball (Grade 4 and up).

Practice schedules, permission forms, and information regarding tournaments should be available very soon. It is highly likely that some practices will start as soon as next week. Please remember if you are giving permission for your child to participate, then you must be on time to pick them up once the practice or game has completed. Students who take TDSB transportation to get to Clinton will not be able to access that service if they are staying after school for athletics.

**Clinton Construction:**

As was mentioned in our correspondence prior to the opening of the school year, Clinton Street is in the process of receiving a new roof. The construction started as soon as we dismissed for the summer. Largely due to the Centro Clinton Daycare selflessly moving to a different location over the summer, and the lack of rain, the crew believes they are ahead of schedule and hope to complete the last major piece of work (the roof over the gym, library, and kindergarten hallway) during the week of September 12 – 16. The two kindergarten classes will be moving to rooms 109 and 110 for that time and the library and gym will be out of bounds. All the machinery, trucks, materials, etc., will be in our parking lot that is accessed from the Clinton Street side. For those families accustomed to walking through the parking lot to move between Manning Ave and Clinton Street, we would ask that, for safety reasons, you do not use that walkway until the work has completed.

**Clinton Lunches and Food Procedures:**

For all the new Clinton Cougars, our students need to bring their own lunches and it should not require either a microwave or a refrigerator. So long as the weather cooperates, we will be having the Grade 1 – 6 students eat outside during their assigned lunch hour of 11:40 – 12:40. Kindergarten students will eat in their classrooms.

For any celebratory events that occur during the school year such as birthdays, we ask for any families who wish to do something special to consider an option that does not involve food. There are many students in our school with food allergies and we do ask for students to not share food. Please connect with your homeroom teacher for some suggestions if you would like.

If any parent does need to access their child during the day, we ask that you call or buzz the office from the front door. We will be happy to get your child, but we need to have only staff and students in the hallways.

**Clinton School Council:**

We are extremely fortunate to have a vibrant school council at Clinton Street and the work they continue to do for the school helps to establish both our welcoming and inclusive environment and enriches opportunities for the students. The Council is eager to get started soon, is looking for parent volunteers, and is still finalizing the date for its first meeting. The initial date that was proposed was pointed out by one of the council executives to conflict with one of the final Blue Jays games of the season. The suggestion to not proceed with that date was quickly supported by the principal. We will inform you once the new date and location is confirmed.

**Clinton Communication:**

Aside from our weekly newsletter, and school messenger emails, we will be consistently updating our school’s website – [www.clintonstreetschool.ca](http://www.clintonstreetschool.ca) -- and sending out more immediate messages using our Clinton Twitter account -- @ClintonStreetPS. The Clinton School website also displays our school’s calendar which will contain the upcoming Clinton activities and events if they impact a significant number of students. We would appreciate any input you would like to provide as to how we can improve our school’s communication.

**Clinton Covid Procedures:**

Throughout the pandemic, all schools across the TDSB have followed the guidelines established by Toronto Public Health and we will continue to do so. Various PPE items are available daily to staff and students and their usage remains a personal or familial choice. We ask that families continue to screen their children prior to them coming to school. At the time of writing this letter, we have completed two school days and have two positive cases reported.

**Clinton Commute (Busing):**

Due to the number of specialized programs at Clinton Street, we have roughly a dozen school buses servicing our school each day. The buses drop off and pick up right in front of our main doors on Manning Avenue and start to arrive roughly fifteen minutes before the school day and fifteen minutes after the bell. For families who do drive, please do not park in our clearly marked bus zone. Please also know that we do not establish the bus schedules. We ensure that applications are submitted to TDSB transportation, and they take it from there. The link for TDSB transportation can be found on the Clinton Street website.

Once again, we would like to thank you all for such a positive start to the school year and please feel free to connect with me if you have any questions, suggestions, compliments, or concerns.

Sincerely,

Dan Taylor

Principal

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