



**Clinton
Street PS**
Clintonstreetschool.ca



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At Clinton Street, we place an emphasis on the security, safety, health and well-being of our students, staff, and community. Schools are dynamic institutions which require a multi-faceted approach to meet the needs of the actual school facility and those who access it. We do receive some questions around TDSB procedures and how they are implemented at Clinton, and we thought it would prove beneficial to share some of that information with you.

Security:

The external doors to the school remain locked throughout the instructional day. We have staff on duty to open the doors during recesses or lunch so students can access the building for a washroom break. We are also in the process of having an electronic fob key entrance system installed which will enable more access for teachers and classes to move between outdoor and indoor learning spaces. The daycare staff will also be able to benefit from this system. It is a lengthy process to get the fob system installed and we are now in the final phase with hopes that it might be complete by the winter break.

Safety:

If your child is marked absent, then you will receive an automated call from the TDSB safe arrival program. If you receive such a call, and you understand that your child is at school that day, we encourage you to call the school and we will investigate it immediately. We endeavour to be extremely careful when it comes to inputting attendance, but errors sometimes happen. If indeed we find that a child is absent from class, and the family has informed us that the child is in the school, then we have a detailed procedure we follow. We keep the family informed throughout that process. If you know your child is going to be late or absent, please call the safe arrival number which is 1-833-250-2290, and you will not receive the automated call.

Roughly one quarter of the students at Clinton Street rely upon TDSB transportation to attend school. Each morning, and at dismissal, you will see many Clinton Street staff ensuring that our students arrive and depart safely. If you are driving your child to school, we ask that you please be mindful of the bus zone on Manning Avenue, as generally the buses start arriving 20 minutes prior to the school day and for the same amount of time following dismissal.

When concerns arise regarding issues of behaviour, the two main TDSB policies / procedures that direct our actions are the Code of Conduct, <https://ppf.tdsb.on.ca/uploads/files/live/98/1714.pdf> , and Progressive Discipline and Promoting Positive Student Behaviour <https://ppf.tdsb.on.ca/uploads/files/live/98/1801.pdf> . These policies are available on the TDSB website, and we have added them to the Clinton Street website as well. The Code of Conduct applies to everyone who accesses the school and its grounds (staff, students, families, guests, community members) whereas the Progressive Discipline procedure is student specific. Please feel free to connect with the

Chronicle editorial team if you have any questions about either policy, or if you would like to become part of Clinton Street's Caring and Safe School's Committee.

Health and Well-Being:

The TDSB regularly sends occupational health and safety inspectors to all their facilities. These inspectors complete a report, and we act on any item indicated. There tend to be very few issues in our reports as our caretaking team is always carefully examining our building and its grounds. Like many of the buildings in the neighbourhood, as the weather gets colder, we start to notice the tell-tale signs of mice in the school. Again, there is a process we follow that involves a TDSB-approved pest control service. Starting in the late fall, we always arrange for ongoing visits from this agency to ensure that Clinton Street PS remains a healthy place. We also encourage our students to be careful with any food they bring with them so that we do not attract unwelcomed visitors.

As the pandemic has continued, there have been many reputable articles written about the dramatic increase regarding physical and mental health issues in children. Indeed, many of the students and families at Clinton Street are currently coping with such issues, and undoubtedly there are several others who have yet to be diagnosed. We consistently access the input and direct support from the various paraprofessionals (occupational therapists, physical therapists, social workers, speech and language pathologists, psychologists. Etc.) who service our school. As you can imagine, the demand for the needs of these professionals has created waiting-lists for their services. As educators, we ensure that many of the more common recommendations made by our paraprofessionals are regularly available to all our students, and we work diligently to access any other supports available. The process through which access such supports is referred to as our School Support Team meeting which occurs monthly. We are always trying to better meet the needs of the Clinton Street School community.

Undoubtedly, the most effective way in which to foster a secure, safe, and healthy school environment is to strive to provide engaging, inclusive, challenging, and fun programming that can be enjoyed by the students, staff, and community. We know how much it has meant to everyone at Clinton to be able to, once again, provide a wealth of co-curricular activities. Our early fall sports schedule was full and highly successful. The two current teams (boys' volleyball and girls' basketball) have their tournaments soon (Volleyball – Dec. 6 @ AMG, Basketball – Dec. 15 @ Clinton) and we will see what the early winter sports season will bring. The house league games being played at recess times are extremely popular and our Lego, Chess, D & D, Guitar and Uke, and Choir Clubs are in full swing.

Next week will also see the return of School Council pizza lunches (Nov. 30 and Dec. 14 -- parents can email hello@clintonschoolcouncil.ca if they need to access the community support fund for pizza day), our Inter-school floor hockey tournament connected to the Special Olympics (Nov. 30), Café Clinton (Dec. 1 – 6:00 p.m.), and a PA Day (no school for students) on Fri. Dec. 2. Our first Artsmart session for the students is also fast approaching and we continue to work with the School Council to organize a community skate night prior to the winter break. By December 5, our annual 'Giving Tree' will be up and ready in the foyer – all donated new clothing items (we are looking for mittens, scarves, warm socks, etc.) will be sent to a local organization for newcomers to Canada. We should also be receiving the next order of spirit wear items very soon. Indeed, we are attempting to provide the opportunities that we know our students, staff and families have missed so much during the last few years. We are so appreciative of everything our community does to make Clinton secure, safe, and healthy and we will continue to reflect upon, and further improve, our practice.

As always, please go to www.clintonstreetschool.ca for all your Clinton PS information.

Sincerely,

Dan Taylor

Principal

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