



September 15, 2021

Dear Givins/Shaw Community:

If you are new to our school, welcome, and if you are an experienced Givins/Shaw family, welcome back.

A quick note of thanks to everyone for what has been a very smooth start to the 2021/22 school year. Roughly one hundred of our students, and their families, are returning to our actual school building for the first time in nearly 18 months, or the first time ever, and everyone is doing an amazing job with the transition. The students seem so excited to be back with their friends that the energy is infectious throughout the school and neighbourhood. Hopefully that is the only context in which I will use the word 'infectious' this year in a school letter.

Now that we have had nearly a week together, I thought it might be beneficial to send out a few points and reminders regarding our school year.

- Please have your children at school by 8:20 a.m. (8:25 for Kindergarten) and remember that we dismiss promptly at 2:45 p.m. – there are no clubs or teams so everyone dismisses with the bell
- Conduct an active student health screening self-assessment for your child every morning before coming to school. Students need a signed health pass daily to enter the school.
- Have your children remember all items (including water bottles, masks, lunches, etc.) prior to entering the school's grounds
- Please provide a specific reason to us if your child is absent and if they are absent due to a covid-related symptom then they do need to have a negative covid test and be symptom free for 24 hours prior to returning
- Individual Education Plans (IEPs) will go home for students who currently have IEPs by Oct. 21/21 – parental consultation regarding the IEPs is forthcoming

Health and Well-Being

We are placing a heightened emphasis on our health and well-being. As a staff we have had many discussions regarding being mindful and flexible as it pertains to our academic programming and meeting our students' needs. With that in mind, we have agreed to the following:

- All students will be outside at their assigned location for recesses and lunch (weather-permitting) – these times will not be used for students to complete class work inside
- All staff will properly wear approved TDSB PPE masks
- Homework is designed to be assistive and augment the programming in the classroom -- the TDSB homework policy can be found here: <http://ppf.tdsb.on.ca/uploads/files/live/97/199.pdf>
 - General rule is to take the grade your child is currently enrolled, multiply it by ten, and that should be the total number of minutes a night spent on any and all homework assignments (i.e. Grade 2 = 2 x 10 = 20 total minutes of homework maximum) – in the primary grades

homework mostly takes the form of reading with your child – if any assigned homework exceeds that timeframe, please have your child stop the task and inform the teacher

- Ensure your child is dressed for the weather – we will be going outside as much as possible
- All staff will be leaving shortly after the conclusion of our last supervision time, once all students are safely dismissed – we encourage the use of electronic communication if you are wishing to connect with one of your child’s teachers

As always, we ask that you go to www.givinsshaw.com for the most updated school information. On Wed. Sept. 22 from 8:40 – 9:00 a.m. there will be a virtual morning coffee gathering with me and any interested Kindergarten parents, and at the same time on Thursday the 23rd for interested parents of our grade-aged students. Links for the zoom chats will be sent soon. Our first zoom school council meeting of the year will be on October 5, with likely a 6:15 p.m. start, and the invitation link will be available well in advance of the meeting.

Many thanks to you all for such a successful start to the school year.

Sincerely,

Dan Taylor

Principal

Givins/Shaw PS