



J. Addison School

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Friday, November 6, 2020

Greetings,

As we approach the end of our fall season, I would like to provide an update with what has been happening at J. Addison over the last month. We continue to monitor the rapidly-changing environment and intend to review our approach on an ongoing basis. Next to the health and safety of our staff and students, the continuation of student learning is our top priority. We appreciate your understanding and support with the modifications for our 2020-21 school year.

The key principles we continue to monitor are as follows:

- A requirement that people who are ill should stay at home;
- Robust hand and respiratory hygiene;
- Enhanced cleaning arrangements;
- Formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximize distancing between those in school and wherever possible, minimize potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable;
- Grouping our students together in cohorts;
- Avoiding contact between groups as far as it practically possible;
- Arranging classrooms with social distance requirements;
- Maintaining physical distance from each other as much as possible;
- Continuing to work with Public Health with regards to Covid-19 updates;
- Mask wearing at all times inside the school building and daily screening with temperature checks at the front door;
- Locker use is prohibited and students will keep their belongings with them in their classrooms.

Teachers have been adapting their long term plans so that they are able revisit some prior learning and cover gaps that may exist from the past few months. This will be a careful process and **no student should feel overwhelmed or under adverse pressure.**

We are continuing to use Microsoft Teams, with success, with our online and in-class students who are expected to spend 3 hours daily either virtually or in-class with their teachers. Students then dedicate additional time towards working independently on the day's assignments.

For high school students, the second course in our first semester is coming to an end on Friday, November 13, 2020. Students have been busy completing their final culminating activity in lieu of no final exam. The third course starts on Monday, November 16, 2020.

We have also arranged an IELTS test at J. Addison for Saturday, November 28, 2020 for those students applying to University. All Covid-19 safety protocols will continue to be strictly enforced on the day of the test. Our Guidance Department has provided these students with an IELTS Practice Package to help them prepare for the test.

FROM OUR MONTESSORI & ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DIVISION

We will be sending out report cards the week of November 2, 2020. The next reporting date is February 12, 2021, which will include Term 1 grades and comments.

We also want to remind families of some school procedures and exciting events:

- Parent-Teacher Conferences will be conducted the week of November 9th to 13th. Teachers will have scheduled times within the school day to communicate with parents via phone call or video chat on MS Teams.
- To report an absence, parents may email attendance@jaddisonschool.com or call (905) 477-4999.
- For students switching from online to in-person learning, the next incoming date is on **Monday, December 7th**, and the deadline to notify the office is Wednesday, December 2nd.
- **Upcoming Special Events:**
 - November 9th to 13th: **Parent Teacher Conferences**
 - November 9th to 16th: **Beaver Computing Challenge** (Grades 5-12) from the *University of Waterloo*
 - November 11th: **Remembrance Day Ceremony** (virtual)
 - November 24th: **Aladdin** – live-streamed musical production by *Diversified Theatre Company*
 - December 17th: **PA DAY** (please note this has been newly added to our calendar, please contact our office should you have any questions or concerns).

We will continue to monitor the rapidly-changing environment and intend to review our approach according to Public Health guidelines. Thank you, in advance, for sharing your thoughts and questions over these past couple of months and for your flexibility to positively approach the coming months. I would like to share a thought with you that one of my fellow principal's shared with me:

"If I can leave you with one thing, it's this: at the end of all of this, your child(ren)'s mental health will be more important than their academic skills. And how they felt during this time will stay with them long after the memory of what they did during those weeks is long gone. So keep that in mind, every single day".

Regards,



Mr. Lee Venditti,
Principal