

November 3, 2020
Hawthorne Public School
Principal's Report to School Council

Student Achievement

Diagnostic reading assessments done on all students; small group reading now happening. School Learning Plan will be delayed in planning, but our focus this year, notwithstanding board requirements, will be on reading by end of grade 3 and reading for understanding at higher grades. Equity has to be a part of all plans. Math—new math curriculum out, along with new ways of reporting on it. Rather than 4 of 5 strands, teachers will report one overall mark which integrates all strands as well as social emotional learning. Parent guide to Mathematics can be found [here](#). In a nutshell, more real-life connections, coding, financial literacy—also growing confidence and awareness of job opps with mathematics.

Student Well-being

Students are adjusting to COVID protocols as well as we can expect—super proud of them. Behavioural referrals are way down. Students are enjoying the smaller class sizes and more one-on-one attention from educators. Hard on yard—but they are managing.

Equity & Anti-racism

- **KSIS:** Reminder that this is a Ministry project aimed at improving outcomes for racialized and Indigenous students. As a district, consistent with stats across Ontario, racialized and Indigenous students are less likely to graduate, more likely to be placed in Applied level courses in secondary school, and more likely to be suspended or expelled from school. We have added a parent member and an EA to our leadership team as well as 2 teachers—student success and Learning Support teacher. Will be doing a ½ day session this Thursday around bias and positionality. Steering the ship in the direction of building capacity in this leadership team before shifting to asking them to move others. Lots of personal reflection work to be done.
- **Staff book clubs:** Each staff member is engaged in a book on anti-racism (list of books attached). Staff have been given release time to read and/or meet at other times, and each staff meeting we dedicate some time to talking within book clubs. **CRRP:** P & SST are part of the board CRRP team which is growing this year. Training is being done with Nicole West Burns and will help to inform some of the work we do here as well as feed into support for other schools across the district. Centers around making classrooms centers that reflect the student identities and experiences in the classroom.
- **Indigenous Education:** VP of Indigenous Ed presented at last staff meeting; Itinerant teacher of Indigenous Ed has spoken with one grade 8 class; Treaty Week being observed this week with various activities happening, including grade 8s writing their own land acknowledgement. One of our commitments as staff this year has been to deepen our own understanding of the land

acknowledgement and to make personal connections (and help our students make connections) to what this means for us to be good citizens on this land. Orange Shirt Day: Dave Hookimaw did drum song and spoke to the importance of his attachment to land. Grades 5-8 took part in National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation Videos and Activities.

Facilities

- The school environment is considered to be the “Third Teacher”, and ours was not giving the message we want for students and families. So far, thanks to the help of Allan and his team, and to funding support from OCDSB’s Student Success Team, we have:
- Swipe entrances on yard and at parking lot
- New windows and doors in front hallway
- New furniture in library
- New paint throughout hallways—still working on library and upstairs
- In the coming months/year, looking to get new carpet in the office as well as new furniture—important as this speaks volumes during a regular year when this is the first stop for those coming into our school.
- Murals for P and J hallways may be completed by artist off site with a linked project where students make their own individual environmental/recycled art piece.

COVID

So far only 2 active cases at our site; both have been resolved. Cannot give personal information out about students to any other families. Both were considered low risk for transmission because of the time they were contagious vs. time in school.

Three main things to review with kids, done every day over announcements: (1) masks, (2) hand hygiene, and (3) 2 m distance.

Staff have done a great job answering student questions and lowering anxiety.

Upcoming dates

- November 2-6: Treaty Week
- November 11: Remembrance Day done virtually
- November 12: Progress Reports home
- November 26: Parent/Teacher Interviews—being done virtually; scheduling information will be sent out in the next week or so
- Photos delayed until January at least