



Friday, August 21, 2020

Dear Hawthorn Parents and Faculty:

I hope this letter finds you and your families healthy and well!

This summer has been vastly different from what many of us are used to, with online camps, staycations rather than international trips, and more time spent at home with family and smaller groups of friends. I hope that despite everything you found time to enjoy the lovely weather and relax this summer. This year, our return to school is going to be very different from what most of us are used to. As we prepare to reopen for full, conventional (in-class) learning on September 8th, I would like to take this opportunity to update you and hopefully reassure you that we are working very diligently to ensure the safety of both our students and our staff.

In addition to some of the highlights you will read below, you have received an e-mail from the administration containing information about new policies and procedures that are being implemented this fall, as well as details about the meetings next week and supply drop off times. We realize that there is a lot of information contained within the e-mail but we ask that you please carefully review all the documents and return the signed forms as soon as possible. This will provide a common ground and a better understanding of the changes that will help us return to school safely.

The past few months have been filled with learning new ways of doing the things that we used to take for granted, such as going to the grocery store or taking our kids to the park. While many things have changed, we at Hawthorn would like you to know that there are some things that haven't. Our mission remains the same, working with you to give your children the best education. We are committed to ensuring that we communicate with you on a regular basis. You'll continue to see the weekly *What's New* as well as Newsletters from the teachers, updates on social media and letters from the school. We are also continuing to provide excellent academic programming, no matter the platform, and we truly value your input as we make it happen. One example is the Singapore Math Program which we are excited to bring to our Grade 3 classroom in the continuation of the roll out that began last year in the JK/SK and Grade 1 & 2 classes.

Though many aspects of school life will continue, we recognize that in order to respond to the current situation adaptations are required. You will hear more details at the meetings next week but as you know we have been working hard to ensure that our faculty and students can safely return to the classroom. Some of the changes you'll notice are:

- New spacing in the classrooms and new signage around the school, to allow for and indicate physical distancing,
- An adapted schedule with staggered recesses and lunches in the Lower School,
- A new schedule in the Upper School with additional breaks,
- Additional cleaning of high traffic areas and surfaces during the school day

Finally, there are several staff changes I would like to share with you. In the Lower School, we are pleased to announce that Mrs. Alejandra Fernandez will be joining our staff this year as a teacher. Mrs. Fernandez has a Bachelor's in Educational Pedagogy as well as qualifications and experience coordinating mentoring programs. To replace the position of Lower School Director, we will have a 3-member coordinating team led by Miss Tiffany Zupan in the role of Parent and Student Relations, Miss Theresa Kim in Academics and Curriculum Development, and Mrs. Fernandez in Character Education.

In the Upper School, Mrs. Trevino, who has been the Director of Academics for the past 2 years, has decided to return to Mexico to take on new entrepreneurial challenges and to be close to her family. We wish her all the best in her endeavours and thank her for her service. Taking on the role of Upper School Director is Ms. Anne Francis who has been a teacher at Hawthorn for the past 6 years teaching Economics, Philosophy, and Ethics. For the past 2 years she has worked closely with Mrs. Trevino as Guidance Counsellor. The position of Guidance Counsellor will be filled by Miss Kathryn Nijssen, who has recently completed additional qualifications in Guidance & Career Counselling.

We will continue to keep you updated on changes and developments as they are implemented and I look forward to connecting with you next week via video conferencing.

In the meantime, I hope you continue to enjoy the summer!

As always, if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Warm regards,



Irian Flores de Medina
School Head

