



October 16, 2020

Dear Hawthorn Parents,

First, let me thank you for your continued support and understanding as we deal with the evolving situation. I am very proud of the way our Hawthorn students, parents, teachers, and staff have handled the demands we are faced with to protect everyone as we continue to educate our students during these most unusual of circumstances. I hope that you had a chance last weekend to celebrate Thanksgiving safely and take the time to recognize with gratitude our many blessings. Today we had the opportunity to celebrate within the school and to kick off the Big Sister/Little Sibling program which is a highlight for many of our students. The older girls and younger students connected virtually, handmade cards were exchanged, and a special treat was enjoyed.

It's sometimes hard to believe that it's already the middle of October and that we've been back in school for more than a month. We want to thank you for all that you have done and continue to do to keep our school safe, including completing the daily screening form and communicating diligently. As we've said before we are working hard to ensure that we can continue in-person learning with enhanced safety and cleaning procedures. In order for that to be possible we must be proactive and continue to focus on implementing the guidelines as laid out in the IPAC policy. This week you received the latest version of the IPAC policy where changes have been made to reflect the most recent guidelines from the Ministries of Health and Education. We ask that you please return the signed form, as noted in the communication, acknowledging that you have read and understand these changes.

Our school has been assigned a School Liaison Nurse by Toronto Public Health, who is a member of TPH's COVID-19 Private School Liaison Team. The management had an opportunity to meet with her this past week. She will help us to ensure that our policies and procedures are up to date and that we continue to do everything we can to ensure the health and safety of our school community.

In other news, despite or perhaps because of the situation we find ourselves in, we've had to be more creative in our approach to both learning and fun. A recent testament to this was the "Stratford at Hawthorn" Day which took place on October 15. Students in the Upper School have gone for the past several years in the fall to Stratford, ON, where they take in a Shakespearean play and enjoy the sights of the town. Rather than cancelling this year, the Upper School Student Council decided to bring Stratford here. The students enjoyed watching Henry V, taking part in Shakespearean games and even partaking in the donut shop.

In the Lower School we also continue to adjust to new ways of teaching and learning. Monday co-curricular activities resumed and the girls have been excited to engage in some new activities. In grades 6 & 7 students are taking entrepreneurship where they get to learn about what it takes to run a business. Grade 5 students have been charged with organizing the Christmas Play once more, while students in grades 3 & 4 are taking part in Home Arts where they have been learning to embroider and the grade 1 & 2 students are doing Nature Studies.

Over the course of the fall we continue to look for and find new ways of engaging students and helping to broaden their experiences. We are looking forward to upcoming events where we can connect virtually with one another and with the broader community because at the end of the day, we are all in this together and together we are going to get through this. Thank you again for everything you are doing!

Warm regards,

Irian Flores de Medina  
School Head