



November 4, 2020

Dear Hawthorn Parents,

Fall is well and truly upon us. The leaves continue to change colour and fall from the trees in a glorious display of the season. At Hawthorn we are well and truly entrenched in the school year as we come to the end of the first term. The past two months have required adaptation and constant attention to the new and evolving procedures which keep us safe and our school open. We are grateful to everyone for their commitment and attention. We ask though, that you continue to remain vigilant in checking for symptoms and ensuring that you reinforce with your children the importance of hand washing and mask wearing. A reminder as the weather gets colder that masks tend to get damp when outside so please make sure that your children have the required 3 spare masks at school everyday and that they are replenished if they get used.

In recent news, we are pleased to share that we have passed our ministry inspection this year with flying colours. For those of you that are unaware, every two years our Upper School is inspected by the Ministry of Education to ensure that we are doing what is required and that our courses meet the standards necessary for granting Ontario Secondary School Diplomas. The inspection was meant to have been last year but was deferred due to COVID-19. When they rescheduled they indicated that they would be inspecting what we did during the school year with a focus on the virtual learning that took place in the spring. The inspector was pleased with what she heard and saw and congratulated us on the work that Hawthorn is doing. We wish to acknowledge all of the Faculty and Staff that were involved in preparing for this important process and thank them for their continued hard work! We often say how amazing everyone at Hawthorn is and this just proves it. We are very proud!

Looking ahead to what the next few weeks hold, report cards will be sent home on Friday and next week (November 12) will be parent-teacher interviews. As you know our philosophy at Hawthorn is that the parents are the first educators of their children and we believe in working closely with them. To that end we encourage parents to make a plan to meet with their child(ren)'s teachers and if you aren't available on that day to reach out to them to coordinate a different day and time.

On November 18 from 9:00-9:30 a.m., we will be launching a new monthly series called *Bring Your Own Coffee* where I hope you will join me online for talks on a variety of parenting topics. I hope to make them interesting and engaging and look forward to seeing you there. Also coming up is our Fall Parent Speaker Series. Keep an eye on the What's New and our social media accounts for updates on that.

If you are interested in seeing more about the different happenings at Hawthorn don't forget to check out our social media accounts - @HawthornSchool on Facebook and Twitter , hawthorn_school on Instagram. We post pictures and updates of what's happening at the school and news about upcoming events. Please take a moment to like and subscribe to our pages to see future posts.

With my very best wishes,

Irian Flores de Medina
School Head