



Dear Hawthorn Parents, Students, Teachers, and Staff,

We made it! Thanks to your diligent and concerted effort we have been able to keep the school open, safe, and fully operational! Thank you for ensuring the safety of everyone at Hawthorn by diligently following all the protocols (washing hands, screening for symptoms, wearing masks all day, staying home when needed, and doing your best to maintain physical distance). It is because of all our efforts that we are able to continue being here in person.

Despite all these protocols, this term has been filled with all sorts of fun activities on top of the wonderful learning and growth that happens in our classrooms each day. While many of our activities have needed to be modified, we have used this opportunity to 'think outside the box'. For example, learning to sign the National anthem at the beginning of the day in lieu of singing; the percussion in the music program; stop motion videography as part of the Christmas Concert, as well as bringing Stratford and the Nutcracker to Hawthorn. We look forward to the adventures to come in 2021.

Last week, the Toronto Public Health nurse assigned to our school came for an onsite check and reviewed our policies and procedures. She was very impressed and gave us a glowing review! We are doing everything to keep our staff and students safe and we will continue to adapt to the recommendations as they come out.

Looking forward to 2021, we are expecting to see all of our teachers return on January 4<sup>th</sup> and our students January 5<sup>th</sup>. This is what we are planning for; however, we will follow the advice of the Ministry of Education and the Province and adapt as necessary. For this reason, students were asked to bring home their school books and supplies. Given that the Premier and Ministers of Education and Health have indicated they are considering "all options" including a school shutdown of one or two weeks in January.

We hope that everyone stays safe and healthy this Christmas and that you enjoy time with your family. Despite the restrictions we have all discovered different ways to connect with our family, friends, and reach out to those that might be alone. Let's take this opportunity as a time to reflect and focus our celebrations on what truly matters, the real meaning of Christmas. May Christ be born in your hearts and bring joy, love, and peace to your families this year.

With our sincere wishes for a peaceful Christmas and a hope filled 2021!!

Irian Flores de Medina  
School Head