



Our Agency Connection— A Grove Perspective December 2020

Grove School 240 Simcoe St. S Oshawa— Phone: 905 725 7042 Fax: 905 723 4194

Principal: Patrick Belmonte **Vice Principal:** Joanne Docherty **Administrative Assistant:** Heather Mayell

Dear Valued Partners,

I would like to thank all of you for a successful first three and a half months of the school year. Our students responded remarkably well to the guidelines and protocols set out by the Health Department while working diligently on their courses of study. Unfortunately, we did experience some cases of COVID-19 within Grove however, through our collective efforts we were able to work closely with Durham Region Public Health with contact tracing and following all protocols necessary, (for example deep cleaning of affected areas), to prevent further transmission to our staff, students and visitors to Grove.

We continue to emphasize the adherence to guidelines with respect to wearing medical masks at work, washing hands regularly and maintaining social distancing especially during non teaching times like lunch and preparation times.

Over the holidays I will be the Grove contact should one of your clients/Grove students test positive for COVID-19. I will be available to work through the protocols with the day treatment managers and or designate. Please let me know ASAP should this case arise during the break. My cell number is **905 706 2111**.

Contingency plans

While no official announcement has been made at this time regarding a closure or a shift to virtual teaching and learning in the new year, we are prepared for a sudden change, and if access to the school is restricted. Grove staff will be taking home all necessary resources (i.e. computers, required materials for virtual teaching, etc). Secondary students will be asked to take home their Chromebooks and other essential items. Chromebooks for elementary students will be stored in areas that will be easily accessible by staff and delivered to each student should the need arise.

Integration “IN” (formerly reverse integration)

Grove school is revising the process to be followed in determining candidates for the 2 seats open to mainstream students in the treatment class, as per the service agreement between agencies and the DDSB. A draft copy is being vetted by the DDSB and will be shared with agencies at the next virtual GAC meeting on **Wednesday February 17, at 9:00 am**.

At this time, I can share that the process begins with the host school administrator connecting with the administration at Grove to discuss the potential candidates for the 2 seats. During this discussion we will have the opportunity to share any pertinent information that the host school administrator will need to know as we move forward. Following, we will connect with the agencies to further explore the suitability of the candidate/s and all options for integration into the treatment class. Until the process is shared in its entirety, I am asking DDSB principals to reach out to me if they have students in mind for integration “IN” when we return to school in 2021.

Growing with Grove

Bus Cancellation

Grove administration has consulted with all agencies regarding plans for class operations should busses be cancelled by the DDSB at anytime this school year. As you are aware each agency has it's own perspective on the situation and we appreciate your input and we will honour your requests. Should a bus cancellation occur I will have the same expectations of all my staff from kindergarten to grade 12. All teachers will be expected to work from their classroom either teaching in person with students or connect virtually if students remain home.

Staying Safe During the Break

Although a vaccine being approved is good news, current federal projections indicate that widespread vaccination won't be completed until the end of the third quarter of 2021, at a minimum. Therefore, we must still be vigilant and resist the urge for "pandemic fatigue" to set in. All staff should continue to follow the advice of public health officials over the holidays to protect your family, everyone who enters our workplace and the public so that we can have a strong start to 2021.

It has been wonderful working collaboratively with you throughout these most challenging times supporting the needs of our school community. The work that we do together is critical to student success and our collective health and safety. I could not be prouder to be part of such a fantastic team.

As the holiday season quickly approaches, we hope all agency staff and our support staff will take the opportunity to pause for some well-deserved rest and relaxation time.

On behalf of everyone here at Grove, we wish you a joyous holiday season. We hope that the time outside of the workplace will allow you to relax and focus on your well-being. Thank you for everything that you are doing and we look forward to seeing you in the new year!

Sincerely,

Patrick