

**December 14th, 2020**

Shane Sliziak, Principal | Tel 604-826-9239 | shane.sliziak@mpsd.ca | www.cherryhill.mpsd.ca

Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Guardians:

First and foremost, I would like to wish everyone a safe and relaxing winter break. Although our holidays will look very different this year, my hope is with things being less busy, we can all focus on the things in our lives that really matter most. A little more quality time for our immediate household is always a great thing! This is my final 'Principal's Message' here at Cherry Hill, and I would like to take a moment to thank our parent community for their tremendous work with our young learners. Cherry Hill has a healthy, vibrant school community and your efforts are a large part of that! Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I have truly enjoyed every single moment of the last 3.5 years at Cherry Hill. I've made many important relationships with members of the community, both professionally and personally. My time at Cherry Hill has shaped my professional practice, and that is something I get to keep with me even if I'm not physically in the building. And for that I will be forever thankful. Ms. Grewal, incoming principal in the New Year, has already begun making relationships with many of our students. Cherry Hill is extremely lucky to have Ms. Grewal as their new leader. Please know that I am available for consultation for any Cherry Hill related matters between January and February (or longer if needed). Ms. Grewal and myself will be in constant communication with each other in the New Year to help with transitioning. Parents, please do not hesitate to send me an email in the Yew year if you think I can be of assistance with anything at all. Happy holidays everyone!

We have a few important dates coming up:

Dec 14-18: Cherry Hill Spirit Week

- Dec. 14th Toque Day
- Dec. 15th Red and Green Day
- Dec. 16th Ugly Sweater Day
- Dec. 17th Fancy Day
- Dec. 18th Pajama Day

Dec 16th: Last day to collect cash donations for our annual food drive**Dec 16th:** Virtual Concert (9:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30 showings)**Dec 18th:** Last Day Before Winter Break!**Jan 5th:** School Reopens, first day back**Jan 21st:** Cultural Day (virtual)

Thanks,
Shane Sliziak, Principal

Report Card Envelopes

A reminder to parents to please sign and return report card envelopes once you've had a chance to review first term report cards (sent out on December 3rd). Signing and returning envelopes has two purposes. First, it helps us know that you've reviewed the report card. Secondly, it cuts down on paper as we use the same envelopes for subsequent report cards throughout the year. Before signing, if parents do have any questions about first term reports, please reach out to the classroom teacher directly as a first step.

Virtual Concert, December 16th

Our virtual concert is on Wednesday, December 16th. Our classrooms have been very busy preparing, practicing and videotaping. Although things will be very different this year, we are still very excited to see the final product. **Zoom links for the concert will be sent out on Tuesday, December 15th for the following showings: 9:30, 1:30, 4:30 and 7:30.** Please keep a look-out in your email inbox for links. Due to bandwidth and occupancy limits, we are asking only parents to attend the virtual concert. Sorry, no grandparents or other relatives. Also, please only attend one showing. Students will not be attending the virtual concert showings, but instead will be viewing the concert on Friday in the gym in their separate learning groups. We would like to thank parents for any help with costume design they may have been tasked with over the last couple of weeks.

Annual Holiday Food Drive: Cash Donations

As indicated in previous communications, we are collecting cash donations this year instead of non-perishable food items for our local food banks and families in need. Thank you to those families that have already made contributions. Students can give their cash donations to their teachers in the morning. The last day of collection is Wednesday, December 16th. On Thursday we will announce our total funds raised, as well as how we will be dividing the donations amongst the food bank and local families.

Covid-19 Health and Safety Reminders for Parents

We would like to remind parents of two important protective factors with regards to parents entering our building. Firstly, parents should only be entering our building if they already have an appointment. Please just call the office and speak to Marion. This is necessary for even simple things like dropping off a lunch or picking up a child early. If parents have made an appointment and are entering the building, please wear a mask like you would in any public indoor space (and don't forget to

do the health check at the reception table). We would like to take a moment to thank parents for their continued support with our health and safety protocols this year!

Term 2 Parent-Teacher Conferences: 1st Week of February

With the success of our first term parent-teacher conferences, we are offering another mid-term parent-teacher conference week in February. The purpose of having conferences at the mid-term (rather than the end of term), is to allow teachers and parents the opportunity to discuss student progress and necessary steps for improvement before the next round of report cards. We are tentatively looking at the first week of February (2nd to 4th), with Learning Groups spread out over several days. If our Covid-19 case counts remain high at that time, we may need to look at more virtual meetings than we had in November. Please keep a look out for further communications around this in the New Year.

Parking Along Best Ave.

We would like to make another reminder to parents to please not park too close to our main entrance driveway along Best Ave. When cars are parked too close to our driveway it makes it incredibly difficult for cars exiting our grounds onto Best Ave to have a clear line of sight. Please remember, your convenience cannot be at the expense of community safety.

Parking Lot Reminder

We would like to remind families to please use designated paths in our parking lot when walking to the school from your car. Several staff have noticed families walking through the actual parking lot, which is making it difficult for staff (or parents) to back out of stalls safely. Thank you everyone for your attention to this.

Lost and Found Bin

We have many items in our lost and found bin. We have more items this year probably because parents are in the building much less than before. To remedy this issue, we will be setting up a table at the front of the school this week with items on it. If you think your son or daughter is missing their coat, shoes or anything else, please pop by the outside area of the main entrance to take a look on the table. Any items left into the New Year may be donated to local charities.

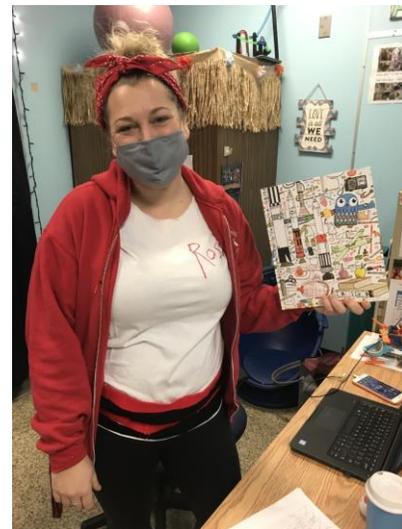
Cultural Day: January 21st

Cherry Hill is excited to host another Cultural Day, on January 21st. Every second year, our District's Indigenous Education Department organizes a cultural day for all students. This year will be no different. However, due to our 'new normal' the event will be 100% virtual for students and staff. Keep an eye out for future communications around this day.

Great Things at Cherry Hill



Cherry Hill students in Grades 4-6 learning the basics of archery!



Ms. Abbott on Dress as a Book Character Day.



Division 9 students practicing for the virtual concert.