

Dear Clara Hughes Community,

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we worked through our school reorganization. Mr. Budd and I really appreciated your willingness to work with us at this time. On Monday November 16, 2020 those students who are moving to new classes will be greeted by their new teacher and classmates. If your child is moving classes you should have been contacted by the new teacher. We will all be working together to make this a smooth transition for your child.

## **Weekly Updates;**

### **Educational Assistants Appreciation Day**

We are pleased to announce that Wednesday, November 18, 2020 is Educational Assistant Appreciation Day. This day recognizes the invaluable contributions that Educational Assistants make to the lives of students and the school communities within our board. Each day, Educational Assistants demonstrate a kind and caring approach to the children and youth they support in schools. By using their professional toolbox, which is filled with valuable knowledge, skills and experiences, they help grow the achievement and well-being of students. Through intentional guidance, educational assistants help improve life outcomes for students by helping them become more independent, capable and confident learners. We would like to recognize and thank our amazing Educational Assistants here at Clara Hughes for all of your hard work you do to support all of our students and staff.

### **Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week**

Ontario has designated the week beginning on the third Sunday of November as Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week to help promote safe schools and a positive learning environment. During Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week – November 15-21, 2020 – Ontario students, school staff and parents are encouraged to learn more about bullying and its effect on student learning and well-being. Bullying is defined as a form of repeated, persistent and aggressive behaviour directed at an individual or individuals that is intended to cause (or should be known to cause) fear and distress and/or harm to another person's body, feelings, self-esteem or reputation. Bullying occurs in a context where there is a real or perceived power imbalance. Schools are encouraged to use this opportunity to explain the different forms bullying can take. These include:

- **Physical** – hitting, shoving, stealing or damaging property
- **Verbal** – name calling, mocking, or making sexist, racist or homophobic comments
- **Social** – excluding others from a group or spreading gossip or rumours about them
- **Electronic** (commonly known as **cyberbullying**) – spreading rumours and hurtful comments through the use of cellphones, e-mail, text messaging and through social media.

### **Community Events**

**DENSA (Durham Educators' Network for South Asians)** will be hosting a series of virtual events/workshops for students in the month of November with a focus on Well-being and Mental Health. **We are hoping to release one**

**event every week for the month of November (Please see the attached flyer for details on dates and topics).**

[DENSA Fall Wellness Series.pdf](#)

### **Hindu Heritage Month**

Ontario is home to a large and vibrant Hindu community. Since the first Hindu immigrants arrived in Canada at the beginning of the 20th century, Hindu Canadians from across Ontario have made significant contributions across all fields: science, education, medicine, law, politics, business, culture and sports. Hindu Canadians have helped build Ontario into the multicultural success story that it is and have helped to build this province into the best place to live, work and raise families. They continue to help foster growth, prosperity and innovation throughout Ontario. "Deepawali" or "Diwali" is the biggest of all celebratory festivals that members of the Hindu community celebrate. It falls in either November or October each year, depending on the cycle of the moon. This year Diwali will be celebrated on November 14, 2020.

### **School Community Council**

Our next SCC meeting will be on January 12, 2021.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Your Admin Team,

Sharon Knights and David Budd