



École Mino Pimatisiwin School

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Directrice/Principal: Crystal Hanson

Directrice adjointe/Vice Principal: Cheryl Deans

Hello Mino Pimatisiwin families,

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at our Community Gathering on Tuesday, September 29th from 5-7 p.m. at the school. It will be an opportunity to connect, explore the school, play some games outdoors and get to know our school community.

We also wanted to share about the logo for École Mino Pimatisiwin School. Our logo was created in consultation with our staff, leadership team and divisional Elders. We are the Mino Pimatisiwin Stars, les Étoiles, Anangoog. Stars are considered a symbol of hope and direction. In June, École Mino Pimatisiwin School was gifted a collective art project completed by students at Riverbend School. The piece was representative of a star blanket, a symbol of protection and guidance in Indigenous culture and it hangs above the fireplace in our front entry. This became a source of inspiration for our logo and was incorporated in the design. The logo is also circled with a ring of braided sweetgrass, which represents a connection to nature and land and the three languages of our school; French and English, the languages of learning in our school and Anishinaabemowin, the first language of the land we are on. There are also arrows highlighting the four directions and helping us find our way to live the good life, which is what mino pimatisiwin means. These elements combine to inspire us all to live in a good way.

Traffic and parking are also issues that we wanted to address with our school community. The parking lot at the back of the school is for staff only. These are paid parking spots for staff of the school and the daycare and are reserved for this use from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The only exception to this is the two handicapped spots, which are reserved for use by staff and visitors who require more direct access and have a parking pass indicating this. We encourage families to use active means of transportation to bring your children to and from school. We offer the walking school bus in the Aurora community both before and after school, or you may wish to choose a parking spot on North Point boulevard or a street nearby and have a drop off and meeting spot with your child. The only parking or drop off areas available to parents are the parking spots at the side of the school near Murray Avenue (there are a limited number of spots) or families may use the front loop on Mira Gate for quick drop-offs. The loop at the side of the school is for buses only. We appreciate your cooperation and ask that you please share this direction with anyone who may be responsible for bringing your child to and/or from school.

As a reminder, please contact the school if your child is going to be late or absent or if plans have changed for pick-up at the end of the day. For example, if your child is on the bus list and regularly takes the bus, it is important for the office to know that they will not be expected to take the bus that day. We also request that arrangements be as consistent as possible as changes are when information can be missed and we want to ensure everyone is where they are expected to be.

To ensure the safety of all students, we ask that families not enter the school without checking in first at the office. We also ask that family not be on school grounds during recess or lunch hour, aside from picking up or dropping off your child.

We have appreciated getting to know so many of our students already and look forward to a wonderful year of learning together.

Regards,

Crystal Hanson
Principal/Directrice

Cheryl Deans
Vice-Principal/Directrice-Adjointe