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September 2015

Dear Sterling Hall Parents:

As parents, we seek the best for our children. Amidst all the tumult, noise and distractions, we want for them a life of opportunity and challenge and compassion.

I would like to congratulate you on choosing The Sterling Hall School, a member of Canadian Accredited Independent Schools (CAIS). Together with each of our member schools – 96 and growing – CAIS takes these responsibilities and opportunities seriously.

You already know that CAIS is a community of the top schools in Canada, that our member schools meet the highest national and international standards, and that graduates from CAIS schools attend the most prestigious Canadian and international universities.

As part of our ongoing commitment to CAIS parents and children, we are also continuously engaged in thinking about the future that awaits your children.

I was particularly interested in recent research by David Deming of the Harvard Graduate School of Education. In a working paper tracing connections between earnings and skills over time, he found that the labour market is increasingly rewarding social skills such as teamwork, collaboration, and the ability to communicate effectively – even over the sort of cognitive skills that we think of as being essential in our era of expanding technology.

CAIS also recently commissioned the Academica Group to summarize for us the trends related to online learning in postsecondary institutions. In order to ensure that our member schools understood this shifting landscape, we wanted to know how much online learning will influence your children's postsecondary education.

Casting our attentions even further into the future, CAIS is actively engaged in our own "2051 Project" – which gathers best international practices and creates business and academic strategies to ensure the ongoing strength, independence and permanence of all CAIS member schools.

I invite you to seek out the Harvard study, the Academica research, and The 2051 Project on our website at www.cais.ca.

I also invite you to wander around our website and read about the wealth of academic, leadership, athletic, social, artistic and other skills that we help foster and encourage. You'll find this information in our National Tracking Project as well as elsewhere on our site.

No other Canadian accreditation or standards organization in education is as complete or as thorough as CAIS, and because we exist at arm's length from member schools' own administration, ongoing evaluation enables schools such as The Sterling Hall School to be more accountable directly to the Sterling Hall community.



Congratulations again on picking The Sterling Hall School for your child. At CAIS, we encourage parents to be actively engaged in Canadian education, in asking the hard questions, and participating in the rigorous improvements continuously needed to reimagine Canada's best schools – both for our students today and for generations to come. By picking The Sterling Hall School you are the first and essential part of this ongoing activity.

Established in 1981, CAIS remains focused on you, and on your children. They, after all, represent the future of all that we do.

With my very best wishes to you – and your children – for this academic year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'AmKee'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a light blue shadow effect behind the letters.

Anne-Marie Kee Executive
Director