

PRINCIPALS MESSAGE

This newsletter includes information for December and January. There will not be a January newsletter.

November has been a busy month. Our staff has been working very hard to ensure that students feel safe and welcomed here at school. Excitement is building as we prepare for the production of Elf Jr. We are thrilled to be attending the performance as both of us have watched the practices in the classrooms and viewed the painting of the backdrop and other set pieces.

On the December PA day, all the staff will be engaged in math P.D. as prescribed by the Ministry of Education. We will be digging into the EQAO data results for our school and looking at strategies to close the gaps in student learning.

December 21st is the last day of school before the holidays. We would like to thank the Greenleaf community for all their support over the last two months and wish everyone a safe and happy holiday!

Mrs. L. Behr & Ms. L. Snell

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS



To the many volunteers who have given their time to our school we thank you! Your efforts in supporting the classrooms, driving to field trips or extra-curricular events, helping with fundraising or in a variety of ways around the school are greatly appreciated! It is through the efforts

of many that help make us a great place for students!

DATES TO REMEMBER

Dec. 6-Gr. 1 Trip-Mountsberg
Dec. 7-P.A. Day
Dec 10 –14 Toy Drive
Dec. 11 - Red & Green Day & Elf Spirit Day
Dec. 11, 12 & 13 Elf Jr. Play-7:00pm
Dec. 19-Gr. 2 Trip-Westfield
Dec. 20 Latkes!
Dec 21. P.J. Day
Dec. 24-Jan. 4-Christmas Break Inclusive



AFTER SCHOOL PICK UP ARRANGEMENTS



As many of you are already aware, our office administrators Ms. Frasson and Ms. Posavad work very hard to support our staff and students. We realize that emergencies do arise, but please be aware that depending on what may be happening in the school and in the office, we cannot

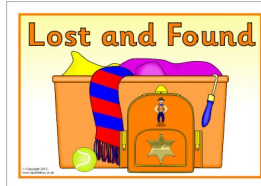
guarantee communication of changes in afterschool pick-up arrangements if calling after 3:00 pm. Please ensure that children are clear before they leave the house in the morning what the plan is for the end of the day. A Reminder that our office hours are from 8:30 to 4:00 pm. Although administrators are often in the office after 4:00, phones are not answered after this time. Thank you for your understanding.

"VIRTUE OF THE MONTH: GENEROSITY

You are practicing **GENEROSITY** when you think of ways to share what you have. You think about what people need and do things to give them happiness. You share your time, your ideas, your things, or your money. When you give away something that is really special to you, that is a very generous way to show love. It feels good to give freely, just for the sake of giving.

I am generous. I look for opportunities to give and to share. There is plenty of time for thoughtfulness. I give freely, fully and joyfully.

LOST AND FOUND



Is your child missing some items of clothing? We have accumulated a large number of items in our "Lost and Found" bin over the course of the term. December 21, they will be given to charity. If you are at the school over the next couple of

weeks, please make sure to take a look. Also, a reminder to please label all items that come to school so that lost items can be returned to your child easily.

SMOKING ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

As part of the Ontario Tobacco Act, we must remind our community several times per year that there is no smoking permitted anywhere on school property. This includes the school parking lot and all playground areas. Please ensure



that you dispose of your lit cigarette before entering onto school property.

Thank you for your co-operation with this Municipal by-law.

SNOW CLEARING AND SALTING OF SCHOOL PROPERTY

Staff from the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board will clear, salt and/or sand the following areas:



- The walkways from the City sidewalk to the school
- The school steps
- Ramps to schools
- An area outside of entrances and Fire Exit Doors
- Fire Exit stairs and ramps

When there is an accumulation of 5 cm of snow, parking lots and sidewalks are plowed by approved contractors arranged through Facilities Management. General salting and sanding of the parking lot is also done by contracted staff prior to the commencement of the school day when deemed necessary by the Facility Management staff. Head Caretakers may salt or sand isolated areas on the parking lot on an as needed basis.

COLD WEATHER AND OUTDOOR PLAY

Time spent outdoors is an integral part of the school day. Children benefit from fresh air and exercise.



With the Canadian climate, time spent outside could mean anything from applying sunscreen to donning extra mittens and a hat, depending on the season. In the winter, it's important children come to school prepared for the cold. Boots, mittens or gloves and hats should be worn and it's a good idea to provide extra mittens, socks, etc. in the event they are needed.

The City of Hamilton's Public Health and Community Services Department recommends individuals stay indoors when the temperature drops below minus 15 degrees Celsius without wind chill.

SNOWBALLS

As the snow season begins full force, we must remind all of our students about the dangers of throwing snowballs. In ensuring that all of our students are safe at all times we must insist on the age old rule of NO SNOWBALLS at any time.



If parents could please review this important rule with their children at home it would be most appreciated.

CANCELLATION OF SCHOOL & BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS

The decision to cancel School and Board Administrative Operations is often a difficult call to make.



Please be assured that the decision to remain open or to close is always made with the safety and security of our students and staff in mind. In the event of inclement weather, our Transportation

Department advises our carriers to drive predetermined routes to assess the condition of the roads. This is done between 4:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. The drivers report back to the carriers and HWDSB begins to receive reports between 5:30 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. In the meantime, our Transportation Department is verifying the weather forecast through our local media outlets as well as contacting the City of Hamilton Works Department to determine where possible what roads have been cleared or when they are expected to be serviced. The decision to close our schools is made in conjunction with our colleagues at the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board based on relevant information at that time. School Boards across Ontario have varying policies about the cancellation of schools. At HWDSB, the cancellation of transportation is linked to the cancellation of School and Board Administrative Operations. The cancellation of transportation immediately triggers the closure of our schools. For more information on the Cancellation of School and Board Administrative Operation, please check the Board website. The HWDSB has a voice-activated message system that allows the Board to send out messages to all students in the School Board. On days when the decision is made to close schools due to unsafe weather, the System will send out a telephone message to every household in the school. Please remember, as a parent/guardian you always have the choice on whether or not to send your child to school.



Hamilton Wentworth District School Board School Closure Hotline (905) 521-2535.

Other sources include:

CHCH TV, CHML Radio, K-Lite FM Radio

*Please **do not** phone the school to ask if schools are open as when schools are closed there is no staff at school to answer telephones.*

PLAYGROUNDS WILL NOT BE PLOWED OR OTHERWISE CLEARED.

Head Caretakers will check the condition of the grounds early in the morning and during the school day to sand and/or salt isolated slippery areas that may occur due to changing temperatures. Students should take extra caution when walking onto and leaving from school grounds. Caution must also be taken when playing on school grounds when conditions are slippery. Principals may decide, dependent on weather and playground conditions, to have indoor recess and nutrition breaks.



THE LUNCH LADY



the
Lunch
Lady

It is hard to believe that it is almost December and everyone is gearing up for the Holidays. While we know it is the 'most wonderful time of the year', we also know it is a *busy time of year for everyone!*

We are here to help add a little more **FUN** to December at your school with our **Holiday Fun Lunch!** As always, we take care of everything! The menu will be on your regular Lunch Lady service days from December 10 - 21.

Featuring our **Traditional Holiday Lunch** with roasted turkey breast, homemade mashed potatoes, corn, stuffing & gravy, this menu is a favourite among Staff & Students at schools across Canada.

TOY DRIVE

Greenleaf's annual Toy Drive will run for the week of December 10th! Please bring a new, unwrapped toy for our Drive. Your generosity will be appreciated by others less fortunate in our community. We will first donate to schools in the HWDSB, then to charities in the area. If you are coming to see Elf Jr. we will have a Toy Drive bin in the front foyer for our collection. Thank you in advance for your kindness!



curiosity.

creativity.

possibility.

HWDSB

ELF JR

Elf Jr performances will be Tuesday December 11th, 12th and 13th! We are so excited to showcase the immense talents of our many students! Tickets are still on sale online or with cash/ cheque for \$7. Evening performances begin at 7 p.m.

We would like to thank in advance the many parents, friends, family and alumni who helped bring this show together!

Come out and kickoff the magic of the Holiday Season with us :)



Kickoff the holidays with Buddy, Santa, the elves and the cast of our Musical!