

A.M. Cunningham School Newsletter

We have had a great start this school year. It has been great to meet returning AMC families and welcoming the many new families to our school. Our school population has grown over the summer we welcomed new students in all of our grades. I have enjoyed reading the information you wanted to share with me about the AMC community and goals for you child this year. It had helped me get a broader picture of the strong, supportive community that makes the school special.

A warm welcome to all of the new staff that have joined our growing community: Ms Potter in FDK (teaching partners with Mrs Fair), Mrs Williams (the Arts, Math), Mrs Clarke (Music, Drama), Mrs Chand (Media Literacy) and Mrs DeBoer (Literacy). Mrs Wilson has joined Mrs Gruza in the office, until Mrs Mantini returns in the Spring from maternity leave.

We look forward to meeting students' parents and caregivers at the *Meet the Teacher event*, which is taking place on *Thursday Oct 12th*. A solid home/school connection is critical to student success. You should have received a welcome back newsletter from your child's teacher that contained how to best communicate with them. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact them. Your child's teacher should always be your first point of contact. We look forward to working with you this year to support your child's learning.

My office door is always open, so please do not hesitate to call or visit me if you have any questions or concerns. The sooner I know there is a problem, the sooner we can find a solution. Thank you for your continued support.

Ms. George, Principal

Save the Date!

Upcoming Dates

- Oct. 9 Thanksgiving - no school
- Oct 12 Meet the Teacher
- Oct. 19 School Photo Day
- Oct 26 French Immersion
Information Session for SK
parents considering grade
1 FI program
- Oct. 27 Orange & Black Day
- Oct 30 Progress Reports Sent
Home
- Oct 31 Halloween Activities
- Nov 3 PA day no Classes /
Interviews

Automatic Parent Updates via the AM Cunningham Website

We value regular and timely communication with our parent community. Please remember to subscribe to our e-news.

Simply go to www.hwdsb.on.ca/amcunningham/subscribe to enter your email address.



Toonies for Terry

Terry Fox Run

On Thursday September 25th, the students participated in the Terry Fox run. Primary students ran around the school, while older students ran a longer route. Classes also participated in Terry Fox trivia the week prior to the run, celebrating the perseverance and courage of this great Canadian Hero. Many thanks to all who supported the run by a donation, volunteering their time, or cheering on our students. **A total of \$376.55 was raised!**

Thank you for your support!

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STUDENT SAFETY / LIFE THREATENING ALLERGIES

We have a number of students with **nut and nut product** life-threatening allergies. Please do not send lunch products that contain nuts to school (including peanut butter sandwiches).



Although this can be a hardship for some families, it is essential that we all work together to ensure the safety of the entire A.M. Cunningham community.



SPECIAL FOOD DAYS

Schools play an important role in teaching students healthy eating habits and reinforcing those lessons through school practices. Research shows that good health is a *prerequisite for good learning*. **We do not accept cakes or candy** to serve to students when celebrating special events. Please avoid disappointment by checking with your child's teacher before sending treats to school.

There are times in the school year where students are invited to bring in "treats" for themselves or to share depending on whether there are students with allergies in the classroom. These are "food policy exception" days. Foods that are offered by School council and the school must also meet these guidelines (e.g., pizza, popcorn). Please watch the website and your child's backpack for upcoming information.

PLEASE LEAVE YOUR FOUR LEGGED FRIENDS AT HOME!

Schools are required to remind Community Members that **dogs are not allowed on school property** (as posted at the



AMC ATHLETICS



Extra-Curricular Athletics is off to a great start this month. Grade 3, 4, and 5 students have been practicing and trying out for our **Cross Country** team at Nutrition breaks. Practices were slightly delayed due to the hot weather this week, but should back to normal next week. Students train during Nutrition Breaks. The Area Cross Country Meet will be held on **October 11th** at Christies' Conservation Area. More details will be coming home with successful team members at a later date. School Council is generously taking care of the transportation cost for this event.



We will once again be having a **Swim Team** this year for students in Grades 3-5. Practice Times are still being determined but will hopefully begin by the end of the month. Details will be posted once finalized.

rear of the school). As well as for the safety of our students, we have students who do not feel comfortable around dogs. Please respect our school property and ensure a sanitary play space and safe environment for our students by keeping all dogs off school property at all times.

If you are dropping off/picking up your child and have your pets with you, please wait off school property.

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CONTINUOUS LEARNING AND IMPROVEMENT

Schools have recently received their EQAO results. A.M. Cunningham's EQAO scores for 2017 were: Reading 54%, Writing 44%, Math 15%. A focus on improving student learning will include identifying students that are at-risk in all grades, and creating a plan to support them in being successful. Each teacher in the school will also select marker students and will use data to determine gaps in learning, and adjust the instruction accordingly



PHOTO DAY!

For best results, Edge Imaging is recommending students to wear bright, solid coloured clothing. **Please do not wear green on Fall Photo Day Oct 19.** Proofs will be sent home with your child approximately two weeks after Photo Day.

Please note that a class group photo will also be taken on Photo Day. Did you know that parents/guardians can view their child's photos on over 40 different backgrounds before ordering? Simply visit edgeimaging.ca with your portrait and pass codes that will be provided on each students' proofs.

WELCOME TO THE NEW SCHOOL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

On Sept 25 AMC School Council welcomed a new executive for this school year. There were many experience council members and parents new to the council this year.

Co-chairs: Sarah Coles / Sue Littleton

Secretary: Meghan Lloyd / Lisa Selman

We look forward to working closely with School Council to make AMC the best place to learn!

TRANSPORTATION / SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

Our transportation provider hopes to have driver shortages resolved by mid October. During the year there are times where delays are unavoidable. If you would like to receive an email notification of any school bus delay 10 minutes or longer, please register through the Parents' Portal at The Hamilton Wentworth School Transportation Services website. www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca

Please encourage your child to behave appropriately, to stay in his/her seat while the bus is in motion, and to refrain from putting arms out the window. Respect for the bus driver and other students is required for the safety of all passengers.



PARKING LOT CONGESTION

The parking lot is for **A.M. Cunningham staff only**. Please do not double park or block driveway. Staff members need to be able to leave for medical or other appointments on time. Your cooperation with this matter is greatly appreciated.

ORANGE & BLACK DAY

Wear **black and orange on Friday, October 27th** and bring a Toonie to support Unicef.



HALLOWE'EN ACTIVITIES

More information will be coming to you regarding Hallowe'en parade and activities. Please stay tuned for details.



KEEPING STUDENTS SAFE AND HEALTHY DURING A HEAT EVENT

When the forecast calls for one or more days with a 40 or higher humidex reading it is declared "a heat event". The City of Hamilton Public Health



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Department monitors weather forecasts closely and notifies the media and community partners of a heat event. AMC takes the following precautionary steps will be taken for students and staff:

- Limit physical outdoor activities
- Ensure access to water
- Close drapes and blinds
- Move students through cooler areas of the school
- Monitor students for symptoms of heat stress

For more information please visit the following websites:

[City of Hamilton](#)
[Health Canada](#)

INCLEMENT WEATHER

As the wet and colder weather will soon be upon us, students are expected to be dressed for the weather when arriving at school. If there is a light drizzle, students will be admitted to school when the bell rings. If there is heavy rain, staff will have the children wait in the inside door/hall area until the bell rings.

Grade 1-5 parents do not have to wait with their child as there is a teacher supervising this area. In heavy rain, the Kindergarten entry door will be opened, and parents can bring their Kindergarten child into the school **and wait with them at the**



classroom door until the entry bell rings, at which time the teacher will have the children enter the classroom.

SNACK BIN

An emergency snack bin is kept at the office for students who are in need or have forgotten their lunch at home. If you are interested in donating nut free items to our bin, we thank you in advance.

REVISED HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM

The revised curriculum has been updated to reflect current realities of children and youth. It includes updated content related to important issues that our children are facing in today's society. If you have any questions regarding specific expectations of the curriculum, please visit the Health and Physical Education Quick Facts for Parents online at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/health.html>

"Parents are the primary educators of their children with respect to learning about values, appropriate behaviour, and ethno-cultural, spiritual, and personal beliefs and traditions, and they are their children's first role models. It is therefore important for schools and parents to work together to ensure that home and school provide a mutually supportive framework for young people's education." *The Ontario Curriculum 1-8: Health and Physical Education*

Meet the
Teacher

Thursday, October 12th

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.



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To Ask Your Kids So How Was School Today? (without asking “so how was school today?”)

<http://www.simplesimonandco.com>

- #1. What was the best thing that happened at school today? (What was the worst thing that happened at school today?)
- #2. Tell me something that made you laugh today.
- #3. If you could choose who would you like to sit by in class? (Who would you NOT want to sit by in class? Why?)
- #4. Where is the coolest place at the school?
- #5. Tell me a weird word that you heard today. (Or something weird that someone said.)
- #6. If I called your teacher tonight what would she tell me about you?
- #7. How did you help somebody today?
- #8. How did somebody help you today?
- #9. Tell me one thing that you learned today.
- #10. When were you the happiest today?
- #11. When were you bored today?
- #12. If an alien spaceship came to your class and beamed up someone who would you want them to take?
- #13. Who would you like to play with at recess that you've never played with before?
- #14. Tell me something good that happened today.
- #15. What word did your teacher say most today?
- #16. What do you think you should do/learn more of at school?
- #17. What do you think you should do/learn less of at school?
- #18. Who in your class do you think you could be nicer to?
- #19. Where do you play the most at recess?
- #20. Who is the funniest person in your class? Why is he/she so funny?
- #21. What was your favourite part of lunch?
- #22. If you got to be the teacher tomorrow what would you do?
- #23. Is there anyone in your class that needs a time out?
- #24. If you could switch seats with anyone in the class who would you trade with? Why?
- #25. Tell me about three different times you used your pencil today at school.