



A.M. Cunningham Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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January 2018 Newsletter – A.M. Cunningham School



Dear Parents / Guardians:

Happy New Year! We hope that everyone enjoyed a safe, enjoyable, restful holiday and that you are ready to embark on a fabulous new year.

I would like to personally thank the A.M. Cunningham Community, Parent Council, staff and students, for participating in the numerous events that took place in December to help us build school spirit, support our children, and many charitable causes. Here are some of the things that AMC got involved with in December.

- ✚ **Juravinski Cancer Centre.** Primary & Junior Choirs sang at Juravinski Cancer Centre and brought smiles to many patients and their families.
Thank you to Ms. Clarke & Ms. Williams for their hard work & dedication.
- ✚ **Kiwanis Boys & Girls Club of Hamilton.** Thank you for your very generous donations during the month of December of food, hats, mitts, scarves and new toys. The Hamilton Boys and Girls Club (Kiwanis) is very grateful for the donations and will be distributed to families in need in East End Hamilton. Thank you for giving your children the opportunity to think of others.
- ✚ **Stuff-a-Sock for Notre Dame House.** Thank you for the overwhelming abundance of generous donations of warm socks, personal items and Christmas gifts for the Notre Dame House homeless shelter for teens.
- ✚ **Candy-grams & Gingerbread Village Raffle.** Students purchased candy-cane messages throughout the month of December, 5 for \$1.00, and addressed them to their friends and families. A full-size candy-cane was attached to each message and all were delivered to classrooms on Dec. 21st. **A huge thank you goes out to Karma Candy for donating over 3000 candy-canes !!** Students were also very excited about the Gingerbread Village, built by Mrs. Gruza. Students purchased raffle tickets throughout the month of December, 5 for \$1.00, in hopes of winning this giant confection ! ***The lucky winner was Bridget from M Moore's class. Congratulations !!!!*** All proceeds from these two fundraisers will support Notre Dame House, and a cheque in the amount of \$1,025.00 was presented to the shelter.

Holiday Family Sing-a-long & Bake Sale

Christmas carols and yummy treats.....what could be better !!!!! Thank you to Parent Council for arranging this 1st ever annual event and to all families who made this night even "sweeter" by donating tasty treats to our first annual Bake Sale. All proceeds raised at this event will support Erich's Cupboard. **A cheque in the amount of \$427.00 was presented to Erich's Cupboard on Dec. 13th.**

The following was posted on Facebook by Erich's Cupboard:

"If you don't believe in Christmas miracles, you've gotta hear this...

We've been building Erich's Cupboard for 3 years now. We're small, but have been steadily growing.

We had a very successful Spooktacular and we committed to holding SafeTalk courses with the proceeds as we added suicide prevention to what we do. We also wanted to become a registered charity so we can do more, and offer tax receipts to donors. It also opens up the possibility of grant money, and huge savings on clothing and food purchases for the ERRC. But unfortunately the cost to register is pretty steep.

Today, totally out of the blue, Erich's Cupboard received a cheque from the A.M. Cunningham School's fundraising team. They held a Christmas bake sale and donated the proceeds to us! I was stunned...

This donation makes it possible for EC to become a full-fledged charity!!! And that opens up a world of possibilities we hadn't imagined.

We'd like you to help us imagine. We want to have the biggest impact on suicide prevention and mental health awareness and continue being a place that collects food and clothing for those in need. We have some ideas, but would love our friends and our community's ideas for how you would like to see Erich's Cupboard grow...

You grew us from an idea to something real, and good. You've had fun with us and helped us help others. You've learned with us. And you've helped us heal...

This is a big step. But with all the support you've given us, we're strong enough to do more. Tell us how you see us growing.

Sarah Coles and Jen Lenoir Moyer, you two and the families of A.M. Cunningham have created the opportunity for our community to dream a bigger dream.

Please share this post with your friends and groups.

And dream with us.

Christmas miracles happen! "

We really know how to celebrate the season!

Sincerely,

Ms. J. George

News From the Gym

I trust that you all had a happy holiday. Just a reminder for students that have phys-ed with Mrs. Lowery will be having a mixed unit in January. We will have 2 weeks of ball hockey and 2 weeks of winter ball (T-ball in the snow.) We hope to play these outside as much as possible so please be prepared for phys-ed both inside the gym and outside during the cold and snow (snow-pants, hats, mitts and boots). February will see us back in the gym for a unit on Basketball for junior grades and catching and throwing for the younger grades. Stay tuned for information about ball hockey at recess with M Empringham and M Ferlatte.

Mrs. Lowery

Communication

We invite you to visit us at www.hwdsb.on.ca/amcunningham and subscribe to our website. We post the monthly newsletter and calendar on the school website with limited paper copies for families without internet connection.

Goal Setting

As the New Year approaches, we encourage our students to set academic goals to help them be the best they can be. We also remind our students of school guidelines:

- Have a positive attitude
- Keep your hands and feet to yourself
- Focus on learning
- Strive for excellence

Safe Schools

Parents are reminded that if you're coming to the school you must stop at the office and speak to one of our Office Administrators. Any parents or visitors within the school must wear a visitor badge from the office. Please do not go up the stairs or to a classroom without a badge. If you have communication for the teacher, please write it in the agenda. At entry time, the teacher needs to have full attention on the students as instruction time begins at 8:50 AM. This procedure must be followed other than in very special arrangements where principal permission has been given. For safety reasons, we need to know who is in the school at all times. When parents are in the hall this becomes commonplace so in the event a stranger ever came into the school this may not be noticeable right away. Remember, to people who do not know you, you are a stranger. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Dental Screening

Dental screening will take place for JK/SK and Grade 2 students on Friday, January 12th. Letters will be sent home to all AMC students in the event that parents would like their child screened, who are not in the grades mentioned above.

Anaphylaxis

A reminder that we have a number of students with severe and life-threatening nut allergies. We need everyone to ensure that no nuts or products containing nuts, are sent to school. "Wow Butter" is a product that is permitted. It is a peanut butter substitute that does not contain nuts or nut products. If your child is bringing this, please use a container and attach the "wow butter" labels to the container so there is no question of the contents.

Tobacco Free Schools

HWDSB has developed the Tobacco-Free Schools Protocol jointly with the City of Hamilton Public Health Services, designed to reflect the Smoke-Free Ontario Act. Parents/Guardians are reminded that it is illegal to smoke on school property. School property begins at the City sidewalks and fenced areas, inward to and including the school building. School staff and visitors are also reminded of this protocol.

Winter Weather



Benefits of outdoor play

Time spent outdoors is an integral part of the school day. There are great benefits when children experience **fresh air, exercise and time spent time outside**. Outdoor play is also a break from the structure of the classroom.

Preparing for the outdoors

It's important that children come to school **prepared for the cold**. This means boots, mittens/gloves, hats and even extra mittens and socks in case they are needed.

When is it too cold for outdoor play?

Principals decide whether to send students outside for recess. HWDSB asks Principals to follow the City of Hamilton guideline that we stay inside when it's at or **below -15C, or -20C with wind chill**.



*below -15C,
or -20C with
wind chill*

HWDSB

Snow-clearing at HWDSB Schools

A responsibility shared by Board staff, contractors and the City of Hamilton



HWDSB Staff

Clear, salt and/or sand...

- walkways from the city sidewalk to the school
- school steps and portable steps
- walkways to the portables
- ramps to schools and portables
- area outside entrances and Fire Exit Doors
- Fire Exit stairs & ramps



HWDSB Contractors

After 5cm+ of snow, will...

- Plow parking lots and sidewalks when HWDSB Facilities staff deem it necessary
- Salt and sand the parking lot before school starts
- If required, Head Caretakers may also salt or sand parts of the parking lot



City of Hamilton

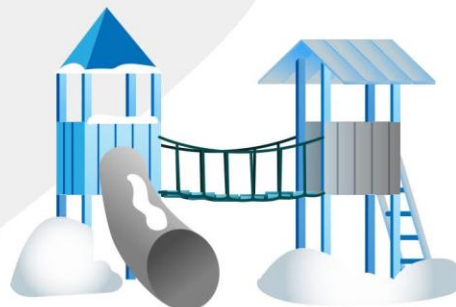
Responsible for clearing...

- Snow and ice from sidewalks directly in front of schools, a top priority for the City.
- **Note:** It may take up to 24 hours after a snowfall for sidewalks to be cleared. Report a sidewalk fronting a school in need of clearing at **905-546-CITY (2489)**

What about playgrounds?

Playgrounds **are not** plowed or cleared. Head Caretakers inspect playgrounds and sand and/or salt areas made slippery by changing temperatures.

Students, take extra caution when walking or playing on school property that may be slippery. Principals concerned about weather or playground conditions may hold indoor recesses and lunch/nutrition breaks.



Report Cards / Communication of Learning

This time of year many of us reflect and set goals for improvement - "resolutions". Goal setting for improvement is one of the learning skills students develop from as early as Grade 1 and continue to hone well into Grade 12. We look forward to continuing to work together with you to help your children make manageable and realistic goals (e.g., "practice reading 10 minutes each night" rather than "become a better reader").

Another year, lots of new dreams.

Ms. George

Understanding your child's report card Grades 1-5

Grade 1-5 students are assessed on a letter grade system.

"B" or Level 3	This is the provincial standard. Students achieving at this high level of achievement can be confident of being prepared for work in subsequent grades. They are able demonstrate this when working independently, with considerable effectiveness and giving complete explanations.
"C" or Level 2	This indicates that they are <i>approaching</i> the provincial standard. They are "almost there" demonstrated some or the required skills or knowledge.
"D" or Level 1	This indicates that students are only beginning to demonstrate a skill or do so in a limited way.
"A" or Level 4	Students achieving at this level are surpassing the provincial standard, working with a high degree of effectiveness, applying the concepts in a sophisticated way

Communication of Learning for Kindergarten Students

FDK students will once again receive a Communication of Learning, which describes learning in each of the four frames in the FDK program:

- Belonging and Contributing
- Self-regulation and well being
- Demonstrating Literacy and Mathematical Behaviours
- Problem Solving and Innovating.

Skating Days

Skating dates have been confirmed for February 22nd and March 1st. Please stay tuned for further details.



PRINCIPAL'S AWARDS



Congratulations to the following students who received Principal's Awards for the month of December.

ROOM	ACADEMIC	MOST IMPROVED	CHARACTER: EMPATHY
114	SOPHIE	TROY	GAVIN
118	HAYZN	OWEN	ELIZABETH
124	ISLA	LIAM D.	AVERY
131	RAHAF	JOCELYN	CHARLIE
208	MICHAEL	ADELLE	CHLOE
H113	RIVER	OWEN	CHARLENE
303	EMMA	AYDEN	DAHLIA
112	CLARA	-----	SOPHIE
209	CECILIA	NOAH	VERONICA
119	JUDE	DECKARD	ALI
206	NORAH	WYATT	BENJAMIN
203	STELLA	TRENT	JUSTIN
309	KATELYN	CONNER	JILLIAN
H070	ANA CLARA	WILLIAM	-----
H125	VICTORIA	SCARLETT	KARRINGTON
H201	JAKE	ADELAIDE	WYATT
310	TIAWNA	COLIN	NIMUE
304	WILLIAM	SOPHIA	SCARLETT
302	MARIA	CLAIRE	BEN

January's character trait is CITIZENSHIP.



