



A.M. Cunningham Elementary School

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October 2018 Newsletter



Dear Parents/Guardians:

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. I have enjoyed reading the information you wanted to share with me about the AMC community and goals for your child this year. It had helped me get a broader picture of the strong, supportive community that makes this school special.

We've had a few changes this year. A warm welcome to all of the new staff that have joined our growing community: Ms. Candlish, Ms. Witten, Ms. Cooper, Ms. McDonald, Ms. Szpak, Mlle. Lord, Mr. Ritchie, Ms. Patterson, Mlle Raynham, Mlle Lofthouse and Mrs. Ciannavei, Acting Principal.

Unfortunately, we also have a few staff members leaving us. M Denholm, who has only been with us a short time, will be leaving AMC for new adventures in Alberta. It has been great to have him her at A.M. Cunningham, even for such a short time. Mrs. Mantini, our wonderful Office Assistant, will be leaving AMC to begin a full-time position at Bellmoore School. She will be greatly missed. We are also sad to report that Mrs. Alford will be moving to another school, after teaching at AMC for 12 years. Mrs. Alford is sad to leave her students and colleagues, but is looking forward to being closer to home.

Our office door is always open, so please do not hesitate to call or visit us 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
Mrs. Ciannavei, Acting Principal



Schools have recently received their EQAO results. We are very excited about the improvements in all 3 areas, especially the Reading !! A.M. Cunningham's EQAO scores for 2018 were: Reading 73%, Writing 55%, Math 30%. 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



On Tuesday, October 2nd, students will participate in the Terry Fox run. This run celebrates the perseverance and courage of this great Canadian Hero. Students will be asked to bring a "Toonie For Terry" on that day. Many thanks in advance for all your support and to all volunteers who make this run possible.

Thank you for your support!

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.



SWIM TEAM

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.

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 Students train during Nutrition Breaks. The Area Cross Country Meet will be held on October 10th 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.

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 18.** 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.

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.

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 Tuesday, October 30th** and bring a Toonie to support Unicef. required for the safety of all passengers.

HALLOWE'EN ACTIVITIES



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

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. (i.e. bananas, plain cheerios, nut/peanut free granola bars)

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.



A.M. Cunningham Parent Council is excited to announce your child will now have the opportunity to enjoy a healthy snack with friends in a fun and convenient way! With support from Tastebuds, Hamilton's Student Nutrition Collaborative, we will be operating a morning snack program 5 times a week starting soon!

Research has found a strong relationship between nutrition and learning. Students who have access to a nutrition program in their school or community perform better in the classroom. The energy provided by nutritious food keeps children alert and able to learn, increases attention spans, and decreases disruptive behaviours. Nutrition programs also provide students with the chance to develop healthy eating habits that will stay with them in the years to come.

Your child will now have the opportunity to enjoy a healthy snack with friends in a fun and convenient way! With support from Tastebuds, Hamilton's Student Nutrition Collaborative, we will be operating a morning snack program 5 times a week starting soon!

As a parent, one way you can support our nutrition program is by donating your time. Even an hour per week will make a difference. Volunteer tasks can include picking up groceries, setup, cleaning, preparation. If you are interested in contributing to our student nutrition program, please contact our Program Coordinator, Heidi at amcsnackprogram@gmail.com or join our facebook group AMC Snack Program. Thank you for your consideration and helping us sprout healthy relationships with food!

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](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/amcunningham/subscribe) to enter your email address.

Going forward, monthly newsletters and calendars can be found on our school website. A limited number of hard copies will be available in the main office.



SCHOOL COUNCIL

Another school year is off to a busy start. We've had our first council meeting, where elections were held, and your new council has been formed.

A.M. Cunningham School Council for the 2018-2019 school year

Volunteer Coordinator: Rebecca Belforte
Secretaries: Kathleen Shannon and Meghan Parsons
Treasurer: Paige Campbell
Chair and Co-Chair: Sarah Coles and Jen Lenoir Moyer



Our next meeting is set for Thursday, October 18th at 6:15pm.

All are welcome to join, even if you don't want to be an official member of council.

As always you can send us an email at schoolcouncilamc@gmail.com to add your name to our email list for updates and news. Should you be interested in becoming a volunteer for one of the many events council plays a part in, please let us know and our volunteer coordinator will be in touch.

Pizza days have been set for the year and we can always use a few extra hands. The required time is roughly 45mins starting at 12:30pm. We'll even feed you pizza as thanks!

Here are the pizza days for the year:

Oct. 5th & 19th, Nov. 9th & 23rd, Dec. 14th, Jan. 18th, Feb. 1st & 15th, Mar. 8th & 22nd, Apr. 12th & 26th, May 10th & 24th, June 14th

Fundraising is off to an amazing start! Chocolate boxes were handed out Monday, Sept. 20th, and will wrap up Wednesday, Oct. 10th. Please return the \$90 for sold bars, in the envelope enclosed, to our office as soon as possible. Each returned envelope acts as a ballot into the prize draws held October 11th.

In the past, money has been used to purchase healthy snacks for the food box in the office, for those that require a little extra at nutrition breaks. Concerts, workshops and activities have been subsidized or covered by council, bussing to sporting events, stocking of library (both French and English books), GB+ / take home readers for all grades, graduation trip, and ceremony for our grade 5's, plus much, much more!

It is this amazing community that creates a memorable school year for our students, and so I thank all the families that are taking part in selling chocolate and to all those who have donated to this fundraiser. Once we have a final sales total, we'll update you on how the funds will be spent, and what we have planned for this school year.

Some more exciting news from School Council, is that we have been offered a wonderful music program from AIFEC.... An Instrument for Every Child for one class of Grade 1 students. A draw took place for all Grade 1 classes and Mme Quait's class was chosen !!!! Starting next week, the students in Mme Quait's class will have the opportunity to learn how to play an instrument of their choosing and will be given a 1 hour instruction each week until the end of the school year. What a great opportunity !!!

You can find us on facebook by searching A. M. Cunningham School, and our email is schoolcouncilamc@gmail.com.



25 Ways 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.