



Billy Green School

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PRINCIPAL: Mr. B. Berketa
VICE-PRINCIPAL: Mrs. C. Barwinski

April-May 2017

Principal's Message—Mr. Berketa

It's hard to believe that we are down to the last few months of the school year! The spring weather has brought about a sense of excitement and energy around the school with a wealth of exciting learning opportunities – both indoors and out, field trips, events, sports, and of course, preparation for the EQAO test for our Grade 3 and 6 students at the end of the May. Please mark your calendar for "Night at Billy Green" on Thursday May 4 from 4:30-6:30pm. This is an exciting evening for students to showcase their unique work to parents, guardians, relatives and caregivers in our gymnasium. A Book Fair will also be taking place that evening in the library.

Organization and staffing are currently underway for the 2017-2018 school year. Our enrollment is projected to be at 493 students for September and we will have 22 classes in total. Our class organization is as follows:

4 Kindergarten	2 Grade 1	1 Grade 1/2	1 Grade 2	1 Grade 2/3	1 Grade 3	1 Grade 3/4
2 Grade 4	1 Grade 5	1 Grade 5/6	1 Grade 6	1 Grade 6/7	1 Grade 7	1 Grade 7/8
1 Grade 8	2 Special Education					

Teacher names will be shared in the newsletter at the end of June when system staffing is finalized. **Please note that we do not take teacher requests.** Class building is a complex, multi-disciplinary team process where a variety of factors are considered including, but not limited to academic strengths and areas for growth, special education profiles, social/emotional considerations and knowledge of the student. The reality is that staff can and do change throughout the year. You will receive your child's class assignment and teacher in the term 2 report card at the end of June. Combined grade classes are very common in Ontario's schools and Billy Green is no exception. Over the course of your child's education at Billy Green it is most likely they will be in a combined grade class at various points in their education and this should be expected and should not be seen as a negative. Teaching and learning is significantly different than that of the previous generation and teachers are well prepared to ensure that your child is exposed to the same curriculum as they would be in a single grade classroom.

Please note that if you have children who do not take a bus or walk home at the end of the school day at 3:00 that they are promptly picked up. Please ensure that you have an emergency contact that you can call on to pick up your children should you not be able to make it to the school by that time. Please advise the office well in advance of dismissal time if someone other than a parent/guardian will be picking up your child. We will not release a child to someone who is not listed as an emergency contact with pick-up privileges in our student information system or whom you have not provided direct consent to the school to do so. If you need to change or update this information please contact the school office.

We are still experiencing a lot of congestion in the parking lot in the mornings during arrival which is compromising safety and preventing our buses from entering. Please **DO NOT drop your children off in the parking lock during school arrival (8:15-8:45).** It is expected that if you are driving your child to school that you park street-side and students enter using the sidewalks on the north and south sides of the school property. Crossing guards are present to assist in crossing the street if necessary. Walking, biking or use of the school bus (if eligible) is encouraged. Please ensure that you are obeying all signage and you are not compromising safety for convenience.



April 27 & May 25
School Council Meeting 6:30-8:30

May 4
Night at Billy Green (Open House) 4:30-6:30

May 12
Gr. 3-8 Track Day

May 24
Kindergarten Orientation 5:00-6:00

May 22
Victoria Day (School Closed)

May 23-June 5
Gr. 3 and 6 EQAO Test

The word "Kindergarten" is written in a colorful, playful font where each letter is a different color.The text "LEARN and GROW at HWDSB" is displayed in a clean, sans-serif font. "LEARN" and "GROW" are in purple, and "at HWDSB" is in a smaller, black font.

Kindergarten Registration

We have started registering Kindergarten students for September 2017. Please encourage anyone you know that is planning to register their child, who lives in the Billy Green Catchment area to come in as soon as possible to fill out the paperwork so we have an idea what enrollment will look like for September. Documents required for registration are proof of age, proof of address, guardianship/custodianship documents (if applicable), immunization records, health card number.

Eligibility for kindergarten registration is for children who will be age 4 or 5 by December 31, 2017.

Night at Billy Green Museum

On Thursday, May 4th, we will be hosting our first annual 'Night at the Billy Green Museum' starting at 4:30pm until 6:30pm. Students from all grades will have displays in the gymnasium. The Book Fair will be running in the library. Our School Council will be running a frozen yogurt sale. We look forward to seeing you there!

2017-2018 School Year

The Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board has attendance boundaries for each of its schools. All students are directed to attend their home school allowing the Board to make the most effective use of its schools and staff. In some cases, families want their child to attend a school that is not their "home school". Students attending an Out-of-Catchment school are not eligible for transportation services.

Billy Green School is closed to Out-of-Catchment and **does not** accept applications for Out-of-Catchment and **does not** generate a wait list.

If you are planning to move in the coming months and your new home falls outside Billy Green School boundaries, you will need to register your child(ren) at the school within the boundaries of your new home. If you would like to know the school that falls within your moving area go to the school locator site <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/find/> The School Locator site is designed to aid in the identification of school assignments. **Please take note that mobile devices and tablets are not supported by the School Locator.** For assistance, please contact 905-527-5092 ext. 2356.

If your family will be moving and not attending Billy Green for this coming fall, we would appreciate you letting Mrs. Humphreys know by either a note or phone call, so that we can be more accurate in our projections. As well if you know of families that will be registering for the fall we would also appreciate you providing that information also.

What is “School Council”?

School councils provide advice to the principal and school board. Every school must have a school council, and members include parents, the principal, a teacher, a student (optional), a non-teaching staff member and a community representative. The majority of members must be parents, and the chair must be a parent. Principals do not vote on school council decisions.

School councils are governed by Ontario Regulation 612, which sets out the purpose, membership and election requirements for school councils. Under section 2(1), the purpose of the school council is “through the active participation of parents, to improve pupil achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents.”

School councils are responsible for:

- Sharing information with parents and the community, and seeking their input on matters the council is discussing.
- Providing advice to the principal and school board on issues such as school year calendars, strategies to improve school performance, codes of conduct and dress, curriculum priorities, safe arrival programs, community use of schools and community programs provided at the school, selection criteria for principals and board policies that will affect the school.
- Many school councils are also actively involved in organizing social events for the school community and fundraising events.

It is a great way to keep up with what is happening in the school. You can also contact the school council if you have questions about how to get involved at the school or if you are looking for information from a parent perspective.

If you are interested in being a voting member of our 2017-2018 School Council please keep an eye out for the nomination for that will be sent home in early September. Please note that participation as a voting member requires a consistent time commitment for the entire school year. Meetings generally will be held one evening a month.

Council meetings are open to everyone in the community, so you do not have to be a member to attend. Visit the School Council website for meeting dates and minutes at <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/billygreen/parent-council/>

Our last School Council meeting of the year will be on Thursday May 25, 6:30-8:30 in the library. If you are curious about how School Council works please come out and join us!

Primary/Junior Music News

Ms. Miller-Boyes, our primary/junior Music teacher is very pleased to announce that we were awarded a \$1000.00 grant from the HWDSB Foundation through their School Support Fund. This Fund was developed to fund school projects that support student learning in all areas of the curriculum. The grant was used to purchase a xylophone, metallophone and a class set of bells. Students will be given the opportunity to explore, create and perform their music with our new instruments. Thank you to the Foundation for their support.

Ontario Early Years Centres

Billy Green School has an Early Years Centre located inside the school for families to bring their children from infants to 6 years of age. The program is a free service and the hours are as follows: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:30am to 12 noon. Wednesday from 8:30am to 7pm. Please feel free to visit the Centre and if you would like more information, call 905-512-5662 or 905-573-7905 Ext. 1. Thank you.

Students of the Week



March 2



March 31



March 10



Apr. 7



March 24



Apr. 21



Apr. 13