



Billy Green School

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PRINCIPAL: Mr. B. Berketa
VICE-PRINCIPAL: Mrs. J. Adler

December 2016



Please remember that if your child is going to be absent from school to contact the school office directly at 905-573-3505. You can leave a message after hours.

Important Dates

Dec. 2

PA Day (No School for Students)

Dec. 26—Jan. 6 Holiday Break (School Closed)

Parent Engagement Math Survey

We are looking forward to providing an opportunity to provide a math information session for parents.

Please take a few minutes to complete our survey by clicking on the link below before Dec. 16:

<https://bit.ly/BillyGreenParentSurvey>



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents:

With 3 months of the school year behind us already it is a great time to reflect on our progress thus far, make adjustments and set new goals. Student progress reports were distributed to students in Grade 1-8 on November 2. Hopefully you have taken an opportunity to review this with your child(ren) and discuss their progress to ensure that they are on track to achieving a positive term 1 report in February. If you have questions about your child's progress at any time please contact your child's teacher.

To improve the efficiency of our office we ask that if it is necessary to pick up your child before the end of the school day, or if you are changing your child's normal dismissal routine please ensure that you contact the school office prior to 1:30pm. Our office is extremely busy at the end of the day and for safety and security reasons it is essential that any change in plan is communicated to the office and your child's teacher well in advance. Please note that if someone other than the child's parent or guardian wishes to pick up a child from school we require authorization in writing or by phone from the custodial parent / guardian before we will release the child to that individual. Please make every effort to send your child's lunch with them in the morning rather than dropping it off during the day.

I continue to be grateful for the support of the Billy Green community. Thanks to our School Council for their recent efforts in organizing the Walk for Billy Green . Thank you to our parent volunteers who assist our staff and students in a variety of ways on a daily basis from providing extra academic support to students, assisting with class trips, helping with lunch days and assisting teachers and our office team . Prior to working in the school volunteers must complete a registration package, submit a police check including a vulnerable sector screening search and be approved by the principal or vice principal. As per the new HWDSB volunteer policy police checks are only valid for a maximum of 3 years and annual offence declarations are required.

As we approach the holiday season I am proud of the generosity demonstrated by our students, staff and community as we support those less fortunate. Mrs. Adler and I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy holiday!

Mr. Berketa



Pediculosis (Head Lice) Procedures at Billy Green

Billy Green follows our Board Policy Directive regarding Pediculosis/Lice. This policy can be found on the board website at <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Pediculosis-Management-Directive.pdf>

Key Procedures:

2.1 Parents/guardians of students identified with head lice will be notified by the school of that fact by letter, and will be required to seek treatment for the child. We will provide the parents/guardians with a treatment information sheet (Facts of Lice and Head Lice Treatment).

2.2 Parents/guardians are required to complete the Verification of Treatment form and return it to the school when the student returns following the first application of an approved treatment.

We pay for on-site head checks from Bayshore Home Health. Whole school checks are done at least twice per school year. All parents/guardians of students in a class in which a student or students are found to have head lice will be sent a letter informing them of that fact. (Letter of Attention).

If you suspect your child has head lice please contact the school immediately so we can follow-up with the class(es) and communicate as soon as possible to other families.

In addition to treatment, we are encouraging vacuuming/washing any contact areas. This may include car seats, sofa, pillows, cushions and bedding, and stuffed toys.

Key Points: It is very important that parent/caregivers check their children's heads once a week for head lice, do not wait for itchiness as a sign of head lice. Children can have head lice for many weeks before they feel itchy.

You know you have head lice if you see: Live lice in the hair. Head lice are tiny, wingless, greyish brown insects.

- They are difficult to see, as they move quickly when you part the hair.
- Freshly laid eggs are glued to the shaft of the hair and are laid very close to the scalp of the head. The eggs are smaller than the head of a pin, oval in shape and grey to brown in colour. These eggs will hatch in 7-10 days. Although head lice can lay eggs anywhere on the head, favourite spots are around the ears and the nape of the neck.—Public Health Nurse, Halton Public Health Dept.



Students of the Week



Cold Weather and Outdoor Play

Time spent outdoors is an integral part of the school day. Children need fresh air and exercise and time spent outside affords students an opportunity to break free from the structure of the classroom.



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 to school and it's a good idea to provide extra mittens, socks, etc. in the event they are needed.

As always, Principals can use their judgment in determining whether or not students remain inside during recess given the weather conditions. However, 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.

The Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board asks Principals to follow this recommendation and ensure children are not outside when it is that cold. Questions or concerns regarding outdoor activities in the winter should be directed to the school Principal.

Cancellation of School and Board 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.

We will make every effort to cancel all school and board administrative operations by **6:00 a.m.**

School Boards across Ontario have varying policies about the cancellation of schools. At HWDSB, the cancellation of transportation due to **inclement weather** immediately triggers the closure of our schools. However, at its meeting of November 17, 2014, the Board of Trustees approved a resolution that allows the Director, (or designate), the discretion to keep schools open in the event transportation is cancelled due to **extreme cold temperatures** for the 2014-2015 school year.

Please remember, as a parent/guardian you always have the choice on whether or not to send your child to school.

Hotline # 905.521.2535

HWDSB will NOT post a weather alert on its website to signal that schools are open. For more information on the Cancellation of School & Board Operations visit our Policy page at: <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/schools/inclement-weather/>

Please listen to stations indicated for cancellation information: KLITE FM 102.9 FM, CJXY-Y108 FM 107.8 FM, CHAM 820 AM, CHML 900 AM, Oldies 1150 1150 AM; CHKX-KX94.7.FM; CKPC Brantford 1380 AM, 92.1 FM, CHTV Hamilton, www.hwdsb.on.ca



Students in our Primary division will be learning about mindful attention through the use of MindUP curriculum. MindUp lessons foster the development of social and emotional awareness, enhance psychological well-being, and promote academic success. The MindUp classroom is an optimistic classroom that promotes and develops mindful attention to oneself and others, the tolerance of differences, and the capacity of each member of the community to grow as a human being and a learner. Our students will learn about the brain and how it functions, and in the process gain insight into their own minds and behaviours as well as those of people around them.

No Cheques Please

Our preferred method of payment for school items such as lunches, trips and other events is School Cash Online. Cash is also accepted.

<https://hwdsb.schoolcashionline.com/>



Hand Hygiene and Health



It is the time of year that various illnesses spread. Please review with your children (and practice yourself) correct handwashing procedures and emphasize the importance of doing so especially after using the washroom.

If your children are sick, and especially when they exhibit any of the following symptoms: fever, stomach upset, vomiting and/or diarrhea they need to stay home and remain at home until they have been symptom free for a full 24 hours. Please ensure that your emergency contact information is up to date at the school office and that you have a plan in place should your child(ren) need to be picked up from school if they are ill.

Stay healthy!