

HESS ST HAPPENINGS

December 2016

Principal's Message

In November, we have continued to work on deepening our understanding of mathematics, and developing strong literacy skills and a love of reading. Hess Street is a special school with a close-knit community around it. The news of the upcoming Accommodation Review has raised concerns about the future of Hess St and what it means for our students. At this point, no decision has been made. The review process involves an advisory committee as well as public meetings, to present all the relevant information to the Board Trustees. There will be two public meetings for the West Hamilton City Review (January 11, 2017 and March 8, 2017 at Sir John A. Macdonald). These meetings will provide the opportunities for parents and community members to share their concerns and ask questions.

On November 30, we had a very successful Scientists at School event after school. Thank you to all the families for participating, we were so pleased to have such interest and it was wonderful to see the children so engaged. Also, a special thank you to Mrs. Solano and the Junior Scientists.



Upcoming Clubs & Teams

- Homework club is now running every morning from 8:10 — 8:50 a.m. for students in Grades 6-8. Please have your child see Mrs. Solano if interested in attending..

Lost and found

Please remember to check for items that you are missing in the lost and found located in the front lobby. The cold weather is coming.



Pizza Days



Pizza day is a great day at Hess and one that the students really enjoy! A reminder that students order pizza through their teacher first thing in the morning and **no late orders will be allowed after 1st nutrition break**. Please be advised, that **we are UNABLE to provide** change in the office. Please ensure your child has the right amount of change to make their purchase.

HOLIDAY TURKEY LUNCH & PANCAKE BREAKFAST

It's that time of the year again! Time for wonderful holiday celebrations that the staff and students so look forward to every year. On December 7th. We would like to thank you to Hamilton Spectator and St. Charles Adult and Continuing Ed. Chef Training Program for the amazing feast we get to enjoy. Turkey, stuffing and all the trimmings and we feel wonderfully spoiled on this day. It is incredible how well run everything is and watching our students enjoy this meal and the joy it brings to the volunteers who come out on this day is so very rewarding.

Thank you the Rotary Club who will be making us delicious pancakes for our pancake breakfast on December 21. It is a magical morning to come into the school to see it set up so beautifully and have so many thoughtful Rotarians celebrating the season with us.

WINTER BREAK

There will be no school from December 26th to January 6th (inclusive). We hope that you all enjoy these two weeks with your family and wish you all the best in whatever your celebrations are for the season and wish you all a very Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing our students back at the school on January 9th, 2017.

WINTER WEATHER — SCHOOL CLOSING

We are now at that time of year where we may start to experience bad weather conditions. Severe winter storms may mean that schools are closed. The Hamilton Wentworth District School Board, not the school, makes the decision. If schools will be closed, public announcements will be made on the radio starting at 6:30 a.m. You can hear the announcement on any of these stations: **KLITE 102.9 FM—95.3 FM—OLDIES 1150—CHML 900 AM—CHAM 820 AM—or on TV CHCH.** Listen for an announcement that Hamilton Public city schools are closed. It is wise to listen to one of the radio stations on any winter day that has severe weather.

Mathies Parent Website

Looking to help your child(ren) with math and need some help? Take a look at <http://mathies.ca/parents.html>, Mathies is a very useful and informative website that you can use to help your child learn math. They offer help, activities you can do together and information on other supports you can access to help your child reach their full potential in math. Please see attached Hess Street's EQAO results from 2015/16 school year.



Important Dates

- Dec. 5th - Lockdown Drill
- Dec. 7th—Christmas Lunch
- Dec. 13th—Parent Council Meeting 2:30-3:30
- Dec. 16th—Kindness Assembly
- Dec. 21st—Pancake Breakfast 8-10am
- Dec. 23rd—Holiday Assembly & Last Day before Winter Break
- Dec. 24th—Christmas Eve.
- Dec. 25th—Christmas Day
- Dec. 26—Winter Break Begins
- Dec. 31st—New Year's Eve
- January 6th—Winter Break Ends
- January 9th—Back To School



Sign out ►

Sign in ►

Leaving School Property for Lunch / Prayer

All Students will need a permission form signed by your parent/guardian in order for them to leave school property.

(Forms will be handed out to SNR Teachers)

Leaving for Prayer: All Students leaving for prayer will need to sign out and back in when leaving for prayer.

(A sign out book will be provided at the office)

Did you know that when you go on the Hess Street School Website and Board's Public websites, at the top of the website pages it has "select language" option...you can then choose the language of your choice to view school and board information.



HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

TipOff

School safety starts with you!

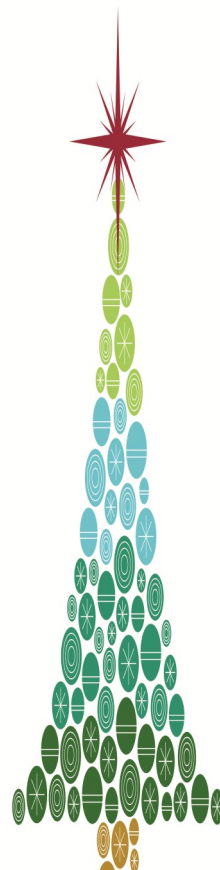
Get help or share anonymous tips on bullying & crime, text or call:

905-963-0066
(Standard text messaging rates apply.)
Download the free TipOff app

iPhone Android

If you have questions, contact your school principal.

Web chat also available at www.hwdsb.on.ca/schools/tipoff



Contact Us

If your child is going to be absent, please call the school and let us know.

Hess Street School
107 Hess Street North
Hamilton ON L8R 2T1

(905) 527-1439

hessstreet@hwdsb.on.ca

Visit us on the web at
<http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/hessstreet/>

HWDSB

MICHAEL PRENDERGAST
Superintendent of Leadership & Learning
Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board
20 Education Court, P.O. Box 2558
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905-527-5092

December 1, 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Student safety is a priority at Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board. Our goal is to make all schools safe, inclusive and respectful places for our students, staff and community.

With this goal in mind, we are excited to announce that your school will benefit from the latest mobile technology intended to encourage anonymous reporting of bullying and other incidents that may lead to unsafe conditions at our schools.

This service, called TipOff, is a way to receive anonymous messages by text, web chat, smartphone app or phone call. An operator gathers information about the tip and shares it with the appropriate school, where Board and school protocols will be followed. Each sender's phone number is scrambled to preserve their anonymity.

We expect that this will result in safer schools because students can share tips without the fear of reprisal, judgment or discovery. Research tells us that when students, staff and parents are all involved in promoting a positive school environment, school can become a safer and more welcoming place.

We have worked closely with the service provider so that this service reflects HWDSB's operating procedures and goals. We want to continue to make schools safer and more welcoming. Letting students anonymously share information is one way to do this.

It is important to note that TipOff will not provide counselling. It can, however, direct students in crisis to 911. It is not a substitute for school policies. Instead, it supports Board policies, such as the requirement that HWDSB have a way to receive anonymous reports of bullying. This information service will help schools collect tips and address them in the same way as they would a face-to-face tip.

You can learn more about TipOff at www.hwdsb.on.ca/schools/tipoff

If you have more questions, please feel free to contact your school's principal.

Sincerely,



Michael Prendergast
Superintendent of Leadership & Learning