



# Mount Albion Monthly News

[www.schools.hwdsb.on.ca/mountalbion](http://www.schools.hwdsb.on.ca/mountalbion)

**DECEMBER 2013**

24 Kennard Street  
Stoney Creek  
L8J 2E5  
905-560-0908  
[www.twitter.com/mountalbion](http://www.twitter.com/mountalbion)

## From the Principal's Desk

Season's Greetings to everyone at Mount Albion. In 2 short weeks we will all be enjoying our Winter Break holiday. We celebrate along with our entire school community with students from many cultures. Our Muslim students observed Eid-ul-Adha this fall. Our Hindu and Sikh students have observed Diwali, a Festival of Light. Hanukkah celebrations have just ended, and in December families may celebrate Kwanzaa. For our Christian students, the birth of Christ will be celebrated as Christmas. Whatever celebration you might be observing at this time of

year, we want to wish you and your family a very special holiday season and happiness and health for the new year.

### **NEW FRONT ENTRY and Bus Lane/Kiss and Drop lanes:**

Until I get official word from the board's project manager, the upper drive lanes and black top areas of the school are not yet available for our use. Although some days we look "open for business" - this area is still considered a construction zone. There are final stages of fencing, painting, and landscaping outside, as well as electrical and drywall work within the new lobby. Thanks for your patience. The ap-

pearance of our school is looking so wonderful with this new facelift! We hope that next week, we can start the trial run of the bus lanes only. **We need to practice student and bus traffic for a full week, prior to opening the parent Kiss and Drop zones.** This is to ensure accurate monitoring of student traffic flow, and bus traffic patterns. We also will be waiting for the installation of the new front door buzzer system. **Please wait for an official notice that will advise when and how to use the new Kiss and Drop lanes. THANKS!**  
*C. E. MacKenzie*

Principal:  
Mrs. C.E. MacKenzie  
Office Administrator:  
Ms. K. Hall  
Superintendent:  
Mrs. L. Romano  
(905-527-5092)  
Trustee:  
Mrs. S. Glauser

### **Upcoming Dates**

**DECEMBER 5th:**  
*School Council at 6:30 (Library) - everyone welcome.*

**DECEMBER 9th:**  
*Grade 7 and 8 immunizations*

**DECEMBER 11th:**  
*Spirit Day during the day (Pyjama day) and Family Movie Night at 6:00 in the gym: Arthur Christmas—refer to flyer sent home*

**DECEMBER 12th:** *Juniors and Intermediates walking to Saltfleet for Band concert (afternoon)*

**DECEMBER 17th:**  
*Primary Festive Concerts (K parents at 9:15 a.m., Gr 1 to 3 parents at 11:15 a.m.)*

**DECEMBER 19th:**  
**Last Instructional Day before the holidays—Nutrition Policy "free" day**

**DECEMBER 20th—P.A. DAY—no school for students.**

## School Council Corner!

Thanks to everyone who supported our SMART BETTY fundraiser. We raised \$406 and will continue to receive funds if people continue to shop at this on-line group coupon site!! The funds raised will go towards student awards, Grade 8 graduation, and events that support our students at school! We now have an opportunity to plan some

workshops, since we have access to a \$1000 grant (Parents Reaching Out grants) from the Ministry of Education. **At our School Council meeting this week (Dec 5th, @ 6:30)** please come out and help us brainstorm some topics that could be of interest to you! Your opinion is important to us. **Babysitting is always available at our meet-**

### **ings.**

Your School Council Executive:  
Kirsteen Cannell and Michelle Mutter (co-chairs)  
Chris Felker, Treasurer

Please feel free to contact anyone on council at any time!

**(January meeting is Jan. 9th, 2014 @ 6:30)**

## Festive Primary Concerts

On **December 17th**, our Primary Division will be presenting 2 assemblies, featuring our Kindergarten and Primary students in songs and presentation that will help welcome our Holiday season.

**Parents of children in Kindergarten will be invited to attend the first concert, at 9:15 in the gym.**

**Parents of children in Grades 1 to 3 will be invited to attend the second concert, at 11:15 in the gym.**

Please be advised that there will be **NO PARKING** within the school property. Please find a spot in the neighbourhood. THANKS.

Additional information will be sent soon from the K and Primary teachers!!!

We will be requesting donations of canned goods/non-perishable food items as part of the Food Drive. We will be gratefully accepting any monetary donations that you can offer, since we hope to start purchasing more chairs for our school rather than always having to borrow or rent for parent events!!

## Family Movie Night

You received a flyer this week that announces our movie night at Mount Albion (we had a great turn out for a movie night last spring!) Our "feature presentation" is the seasonal movie, **Arthur Christmas**. Please mark your calendars now for **Wednesday, December 11th @ 6:00 in the gym. Doors will open at 5:45. Please be sure to send in the form that indicates you are attending so that we can have enough snacks for sale.** There is not a set "admission" charge—instead we are implementing a "**Pay what you can**" admission fee. Snacks and Drinks will be available for sale (all items will be \$1 and \$2). Funds will support future student events and support Families in Need initiatives. **Children must be accompanied and supervised by their parents or guardians over the age of 18.**

## Food Drive at Mount Albion

Our **Me to We Committee** is organizing a Food Drive this month. Canned/non-perishable food items will be collected up until December 17th, and then they will be delivered to the Stoney Creek Food Bank on December 18th. Please be generous! Boxes are just outside "the old" front entrance, to collect your donations. You can also donate when attending any parent events at the school this month (Movie night, Primary concerts) THANKS for your generosity in advance!

## Cold Weather

Time spent outdoors is an integral part of the school day at Mount Albion. Children need fresh air and exercise and the opportunity to have a break from the structure of the classroom. With cold weather arriving, it's important for children to come to school prepared for the cold. 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** the wind chill. Please be aware as well, that if students are well enough to come to school, then they are well enough to go outside for the two 20 minute recesses per day.

There is no supervision for children inside when everyone else is outside.

Hats, mitts/gloves, boots, warm layers are very important!

A change of shoes should either be carried back and forth, or left at school, since children will not be permitted to wear boots/outer footwear inside the classroom.



## PARKING LOT WOES

Parents—if you are dropping children at school in the morning, or picking them up at the end of the day, please be reminded that **parking in the lower parking lot is on a first come/first served basis in designated spots only.** If there are no spots remaining when you arrive, please exit the parking lot, and find a spot on the road. **No cars should ever be parked around the periphery of the parking lot**—and with snow coming—this is even more important than ever. Once we open the "Kiss and Drop" lane at the upper level of the property, (again—no parking; just a quick stop to "drop"), this should relieve some congestion. We are working with the city to change the street signs on Kennard to allow stopping, once the buses start using our bus lanes. In the meantime, we need to prevent repeat episodes of cars getting stuck, drivers backing up in reverse to maneuver around other cars, cars blocking other cars from entering and exiting the parking lot, etc., and putting pedestrians at risk. Children are never to walk through the parking lot unattended. It is easy to remember—if it isn't a parking spot—then please **don't park**. We thank you for your understanding and cooperation!

## New for Winter 2014: Rapid Phone Messaging for Snow Days!

HWDSB is pleased to announce that it is now able to use an automated phone messaging system (called Synervoice) to contact all parents/guardians in the event of a school cancellation due to inclement weather. HWDSB will continue to make cancellation decisions by 6:00 a.m. But, starting immediately, the Board now has the ability to quickly call every parent immediately after a cancellation is required.

For more information on the Board's cancellation policy, visit:

<http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/schools/inclement-weather/>

## Trip to Saltfleet

Our junior and intermediate students will be heading over to Saltfleet High School on December the 12th to hear the Saltfleet bands as they present a seasonal concert. Some of our Grade 8 students are in the Reach ahead band program, and will be playing in these concerts as well!!!

## Remember to Visit our School website!

**SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEBSITE—GET AN AUTOMATIC E-MAIL ANY TIME THE WEBSITE IS UPDATED!**

Just go [www.schools.hwdsb.on.ca/mountalbion](http://www.schools.hwdsb.on.ca/mountalbion) and look for our subscription link in the left column. In addition to news updates, you will see pictures, videos, School Council news, and more!!! Some classes will have links to their own classroom websites as well.

This month's newsletter has been printed and sent home because of some important items (parking, bus lanes, etc.) that I needed to ensure were communicated to our families....but in January we will go back to our protocol of posting our newsletters on line. This saves an incredible amount of paper and expense. That being said—if you want a hard copy—please just send a note in your child's agenda—and one will be sent home. We always have a few printed copies available in the office for pick-up!!

## Let's Try "Litterless Lunches" and Re-cycling

Students from our **SIDD class, the Intermediate ASD class** and our **Grade 3 class**, under the leadership of their teachers and EA's have teamed up to look after paper re-cycling at Mount Albion school. This has been an enormous help to our school, and these students deserve a huge thanks for starting to "green up" Mount Albion. They are able to re-cycle paper and plastic containers that have lids on them. However, we are not equipped to re-cycle compostable items (e.g. food waste), or empty containers such as yogurt cups. With this in mind, **we are going to move towards LITTERLESS LUNCHES** at Mount Albion. This means that **starting in January, students will be asked to put waste items that cannot be recycled here at school back into their lunch boxes for more appropriate disposal at home.**

This may also help you be more aware as to what food items your child is or isn't eating at nutrition break (you might be surprised, for example, at how many sandwiches and pieces of fruit get thrown out with only one bite taken!!). Please help us be environmentally conscious at Mount Albion. Use containers for your child's lunches that will also be used to take everything back home (e.g. apple cores, empty yogurt cups, etc.). Work with your child on a system that will work for you! Discuss the importance of your child becoming more actively involved in stewardship for our planet.



## Homework Help

Did you know? We have a homework club at Mount Albion school every Tuesday at 1st nutrition break....Any students from grades 5 to 8 are encouraged to bring homework or their "unorganized binders and agendas full of papers" to the club. Our School Support EA (Ms. Zavarella has returned from Maternity Leave, and we have bid farewell to Ms. Sholar) will be there to support them. Also—**Valley Park Library** runs a homework club on Tuesdays from 4:30 to 6:30, and Wednesdays from 4:00 to 6:00. Call 905-573-3141 for more information.