



## **A message from Ms. Birch-Jones.....**

### **TERM 1 REPORT CARDS:**

Progress Reports went home in November and now Term 1 Report Cards are just around the corner. Report Cards will be going home for Gr. 1-5 students on Tuesday, February 13th and the JK-SK Term 1 reports will go home on Friday February 16th! As always, student success is dependent on the equal partnership and continued support and efforts of school, parent/ guardian and student. It is important that you as a parent /guardian review daily the upcoming due dates, discuss assignments and comments that are recorded in your child's agenda. **Please remember to take some time to help your child(ren) reflect on his/her best work and set a goal for improvement during Term 2, fill this in and sign page 3 of the report. As well, parents need to sign the report card envelope and comment on page 4 of the term 2 report. For Kindergarten parents student goal setting etc is filled in and returned on page 3 of the report card as well as signing and returning the report card envelope.** If you have any questions, concerns or would like to schedule an interview with your child's teacher(s) please indicate that at the bottom of page 4 of the report.

### **KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION:**

Just a reminder that **Kindergarten Registration** for JK and SK starts on Feb. 5th for September 2018. Please see Mrs. Piro for details and please share with family and friends with young children in our school catchment area.

### **PARKDALE HOLIDAY LUNCH:**

Thank you to all of our parents who volunteered to help with; set up, serving and clean up for our **2nd Annual Parkdale Holiday Lunch!** We definitely could not have done any of this without your help! Special thanks to Mr. Dave Prazeres from Mattina Mechanical for his generous donation to help offset the costs of our holiday lunch, to our Parkdale School Council for their financial support, Mrs. Piro who helped to keep all of our lunch forms organized etc. Thank you to our school neighbor; Ukrainian National Federation of Hamilton for renting us their hall at a very reduced cost to help us stay within our budget! It was a great success and hopefully we can do this again next year in December!

As the winter has arrived, please review with your child(ren) about snowballs and safety at school. The snow **MUST** stay on the ground for safety reasons of course and this is strictly enforced by all staff at the school. Your cooperation in enforcing this at home is greatly appreciated. Also, **students need to bring indoor shoes, no slippers to wear once at school,** boots are not allowed, nor are they safe and appropriate footwear for indoors or gym times. Please ensure that your child(ren) are dressed properly for the weather each day. We plan to go outside for recess as much as possible weather permitting. As well, outdoor play is a major component of the FDK program and their inquiry-based learning focus hence there is much learning, socializing and inquiry which takes place during the regular daily outdoor portion of the FDK program.

Welcome to; Ms. Clark who joins us till mid March in Rm.3 FDK and Mrs. Lucas who joins us as our 4hr afternoon caretaker.

Have a Great February!

*E. Birch-Jones*



**Food Drive Winners of Ice Cream Sundae Party**

- Room 8 - Miss Hunter's class
- Honourable mention to Room 16— Miss Cianciolo's class



**School Cancellation Hotline—(905) 521-2534**

Have you ever wondered if the weather is severe enough to cancel school? You can find out by calling the hotline by phone or on-line at [www.hwdsb.on.ca](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca). You can also tune into Hamilton radio or TV. HWSB also will send out a Synre-voice messages (an automated message) to inform parents of school closures.

If the weather is not bad enough to close the school and you decide to keep your child home, please call Mrs. Piro at (905) 545-6216 and let her know your child is safe at home. Thank you.

**No Smoking**

A reminder that smoking is **NOT** permitted on any school board property. This includes inside the school or on the grounds. (The fine is \$305 for smoking on the property and \$365 for providing or buying cigarettes to minors.) We understand that the enforcement division will be doing sporadic checks and issuing tickets.

Thank you for not smoking.



**Nut Free School**

We have students & staff with severe nut allergies. They require epipens and would need to go directly to the hospital after contact. Please make sure that you do not include nut products in your child's lunch or snacks

We must ensure our students are safe.



**Winter weather and school grounds care**

Staff from the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board will clear, salt and/or sand the following areas:

- The walkways from the City sidewalk to the school
- The school steps

When there is an accumulation of 5 cm of snow, parking lots are ploughed by approved



contractors arranged through Facilities Management. General salting and sanding of the parking lot is done by contracted staff prior to the commencement of the school day when deemed necessary by the Facility Management staff. Head caretakers may salt and sand isolated areas on the parking lot on an as needed basis. The city is responsible for clearing the perimeter sidewalks.

Playgrounds will not be plowed or otherwise cleared. Caretakers will check the condition of the grounds early in the morning and during the day to sand and/or salt isolated slippery areas that may occur due to changing temperatures.



**Attendance and Lates**

**A child's attendance and promptness at school is an extremely important part of their education. Please endeavour to have your child to school on time and if you know that they will be absent, please call the school to let us know @ 905-545-6216.**

**Congratulation to our Monthly Class Attendance Winner - Room #14 Mrs. Wilson's class for best attendance (class average Nov 27, 2017 to Jan 25, 2018.)**

*For your information....  
March Break is the  
week of  
March 12–16, 2018.*

Monday, February 19 is Family Day.  
There are no classes for students.  
Enjoy your long weekend!

**Kindergarten  
Registration**

**We will be accepting registration of students for next year's kindergarten class beginning February 5th.**

**If you have a child born in 2013 they can be registered in Senior Kindergarten.**

**J.K. registrants need to be born in 2014.**

**Contact the school at  
(905) 545-6216.**

Grades 1-5 Report Cards going home on Tuesday, February 13, 2018.

JK/SK Report Cards going home on Friday, February 16, 2018.

Kernels Popcorn will be available for sale at 2<sup>nd</sup> nutrition break for \$2.00 a bag (20 gram) in the Nutrition Room on **Wednesdays only** starting on Wednesday, February 7, 2018.

**Important Dates:**

- Friday, February 2 & Thurs. February 15, 2018—Pizza Days
- Tuesday, February 13, 2018—Grd 1-5 Report Cards Go Home
- Friday, February 16, 2018— JK/SK Report Cards Go Home
- Friday, February 16, 2018— Gr 3-5 Ski Trip
- Monday, February 19, 2018—Family Day No school
- Thursday, February 22, 2018— Sub Day
- Friday, March 2, 2018—PA Day No School
- Monday, March 12 to Friday, March 16, 2018—March Break No School



## Tree of Warmth—message from Mrs. Connon

I wish to extend a huge thank you to our Parkdale family and friends for once again making our “Tree of Warmth” an overwhelming success.

This was our fourteenth year and we generated many boxes of scarves, mittens, hats, slippers, socks and blankets which were delivered The Native Women’s Centre and Inasmuch House (shelters for abused women and children.) We received a Thank you note from the shelters saying the donations were greatly appreciated especially this year with the cold snap that we have had. In the warm summer months to come, perhaps you could keep our “tree” in mind and knit an article or two so that we may again increase our gifts of warmth next year. Contact me if you’re interested. I have access to yarn for knitting.

Once again, thank you for making this winter a warmer one for many students and residents of our community.

***The Parkdale community would also like to express our thanks to Mrs. Connon for carrying out this event each year. It would not happen without her!***

***Mrs. Connon was recognized for her hard work on the HWDSB Twitter feed featuring an interview with Mrs. Connon.***

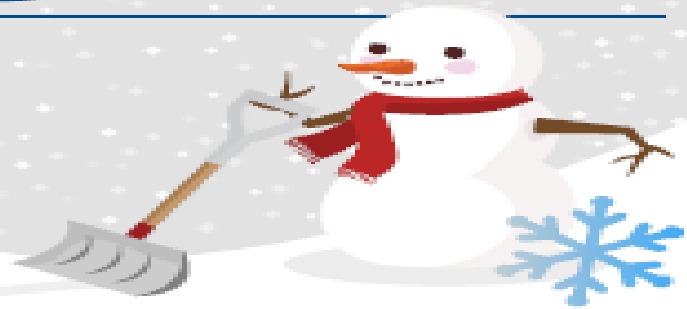


***Thank you to the following businesses for their donations to our School Holiday Lunch:***

- ***Mattina Mechanical Limited***
- ***Wholesale Club***
- ***Roma Bakery***
- ***Ukrainian National Federation***
- ***McNabb’s Distributing for the Chocolate Milk***

## Snow-clearing at HWDSB Schools

A responsibility shared by Board staff, contractors and the City of Hamilton



### HWDSB Staff

Clear, salt and/or sand...

- walkways from the city sidewalk to the school
- school steps and portable steps
- walkways to the portables
- ramps to schools and portables
- area outside entrances and Fire Exit Doors
- Fire Exit stairs & ramps



### HWDSB Contractors

After 5cm+ of snow, will...

- Plow parking lots and sidewalks when HWDSB Facilities staff deem it necessary
- Salt and sand the parking lot before school starts
- if required, Head Caretakers may also salt or sand parts of the parking lot



### City of Hamilton

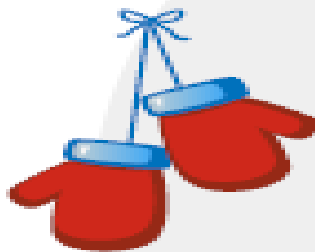
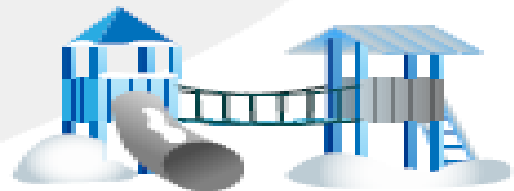
Responsible for clearing...

- Snow and ice from sidewalks directly in front of schools, a top priority for the City.
- Note: It may take up to 24 hours after a snowfall for sidewalks to be cleared. Report a sidewalk frosting a school in need of clearing at 905-546-CITY (2469)

## What about playgrounds?

Playgrounds are not plowed or cleared. Head Caretakers inspect playgrounds and sand and/or salt areas made slippery by changing temperatures.

Students, take some caution when walking or playing on school property that may be slippery. Principals concerned about weather or playground conditions may hold indoor recesses and lunch/nutrition breaks.



## Benefits of outdoor play

Time spent outdoors is an integral part of the school day. There are great benefits when children experience **fresh air, exercise and time spent time outside**. Outdoor play is also a break from the structure of the classroom.

## Preparing for the outdoors

It's important that children come to school **prepared for the cold**. This means boots, mittens/gloves, hats and even extra mittens and socks in case they are needed.

## When is it too cold for outdoor play?

Principals decide whether to send students outside for recess. HWDSB asks Principals to follow the City of Hamilton guideline that we stay inside when it's at or below **-15C, or -20C with wind chill**.



below -15C, or -20C with wind chill

## Learn more

Please direct questions or concerns about winter outdoor play to your school Principal.

Parents should check [www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca](http://www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca) for any potential transportation delays.