



January 2010

Principal's Message

At the start of February we start to plan ahead for the 2010 - 11 school year. Registration for Kindergarten begins Tuesday, February 16 for the 2010-2011 school year. This registration process only applies to students who are entering Junior Kindergarten and those students who did not attend a Junior Kindergarten program this year.

For our older students who are looking forward to going to Middle School next year, the usual school they will attend is G.L. Armstrong. Each year some students decide to attend one of H.W.D.S.B.'s Programs of Choice. These programs include the Sports Academy and SAGE Quest. More information about these programs and others is available on the board website. Applications for these programs need to be made during the month of February. Please let the school office know if you are submitting an application to one of these 'Programs of Choice'.

In March schools also try to project their enrolment for September of the following year. It is very important that these projections are as accurate as possible since staffing and class organization are determined by these numbers. If you are aware that you will be moving, or your child will not be attending Queensdale in September 2010 please make the school aware of this so that our projection can be as accurate as possible and thereby reduce the chances of having to reorganize the classes at the end of September.

We are very proud of our Grade Six classes and their efforts to support 'Social Justice' issues in our local and global community. They have already undertaken support for both 'Neighbour to Neighbour' Food Bank and 'City Kidz' Christmas Gift Program. They are currently working on a program to support 'Covenant Home' an orphanage in Kisumu, Kenya. They will also be attending the 'Me to We' event at Hamilton Place and will be looking for another way to support 'Free the Children.'

Many of the activities that we originally planned in the fall and were postponed due to the H1N1 Outbreak, are rescheduled for February. These include 'Me to We', the Elementary School Swim Meet, and our Family Movie Matinee. Details of these events have, or will be sent out shortly.

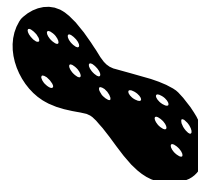
We are also very pleased to report that we have purchased our first 'SMART Board'. We hope to purchase one or two more this year. The funds for this purchase have been provided by the 'Nevada Lottery' at Big Bee Variety on Upper Wellington. If you purchase items at this store please be sure to mention how much we appreciate their support.

Canadian Tire

School Council has initiated a collection of Canadian Tire money to purchase playground equipment. There will be a tin available in the office for donations. Thank you for your assistance with this campaign.

Food Allergies

We have a number of students with life threatening allergies to nuts and nut products. Please check your child's food labels before sending them to school. **DO NOT** send products that contain nuts or nut byproducts i.e. oils.



Up Coming Dates to Remember:

February 9	"Me to We" Trip – Grade 6
February 10	Popcorn Day and School Speech Competition
February 11	Swim Meet- 9:30 Jimmy Thompson Pool
February 12	Olympic Assembly/Torch Run Spirit Day-Red, Junior Sock Hop Dance
February 14 th	Valentine Day
February 15 th	NO SCHOOL – Family Day
February 15 th -19 th	Teacher Appreciation Week
February 26 th	Pizza Day
March 15 th -19 th	March Break

Teacher Appreciation Week

Queensdales' Parent Council invites you to help us CELEBRATE TEACHER/STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK coming up the week of February 15th. Traditionally, each year we take the time and make the effort to show OUR STAFF HERE AT QUEENSDALE that we think they are something SPECIAL. We are planning special treats and lunches throughout the week and WE NEED YOUR HELP. Please consider a donation of some treats for break times (muffins, cookies) or possibly consider cooking up something to help out with a lunch meal. Jennifer Woodworth has agreed to coordinate the days' goodies, so please contact her at (905)575-0050 to let her know what you are bringing in, and on what day so she can make sure there is something special for each day. We will provide the treats from February 15-19th. Please let us know how you might like to show your appreciation, and possibly have your children work on something special for their teacher, at home, to give them that week as well!!

Thank you.

The following information is posted on the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board's Website:

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.**

Snow Days: School Closure Due to Inclement Weather

The season of cold weather, icy roads and "snow days" is upon us. The decision to cancel bussing and close schools is made by the Director of Education or a designate. The Board's current policy states that if bussing is cancelled, schools will be closed.

The decision to close schools will be made by 6:30 a.m. and communicated to the media by one of the Board's Public Relations Officers. To find out if the weather has resulted in a school closure watch the Morning Live program on CHTV or tune into one of the following radio stations: CHML (AM 900), Y108 (FM 107.9) Country 95 (FM 95.3), K- LITE (FM 102.9), Oldies 1150 (AM 1150), CHAM (AM 820) and WAVE Jazz (FM 94.7). Up to date information will also be available here, on our web site: www.hwdsb.on.ca. If the decision is made to cancel school during the school day, the Principal and adequate staff will remain at the school until they are reasonably sure that all students have arrived home safely. It is parents' responsibility to arrange alternative arrangements if their child is unable to go home during an unscheduled school closure. Please make sure your child and his or her school is aware of these arrangements. Questions or concerns regarding outdoor activities in the winter should be directed to the school Principal.

Movie Matinee

Sunday, February 21st at 4:00 p.m. is our Movie Matinee. Come and party exclusively with Queensdale family, friends and neighbours at the Movie Palace. Invite everyone you know. The movie is Alvin and the Chipmunks. More information to follow.

Kindergarten Registration

Information will be available in the near future for Kindergarten registration for 2010-2011. There will be an advertisement in the Hamilton Spectator, as well as a flyer sent home from the school. Students born in 2006 are eligible for Junior Kindergarten to begin in September, 2010 and students born in 2005 are eligible for Senior Kindergarten in September, 2010. Proof of birth and immunization are required. Please share this information with your neighbours as well as families new to the Queensdale community.

Winter Weather and School Grounds

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 and portable steps
- Walkways to the portables
- Ramps to schools and portables
- An area outside of entrances and Fire Exit doors
- Fire Exit stairs and ramps

When there is an accumulation of 5 cm of snow, parking lots and sidewalks are plowed by approved contractors arranged through Facilities Management. General salting and sanding of the parking lot is also done by contracted staff prior to the commencement of the school day when deemed necessary by the Facility Management staff. Head Caretakers may salt or sand isolated areas on the parking lot on an as needed basis.

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

Students should take extra caution when walking onto and leaving from school grounds. Caution must also be taken when playing on school grounds when conditions are slippery.

Principals may decide, dependent on weather and playground conditions, to have indoor recess and lunch/nutrition breaks.

Dogs

If you are walking your dog on school property, please do so during times when students are not present at school. If your dog drops a mess, please have the courtesy to pick it up as it presents both a school cleanliness and a student health concern. If you have neighbours who walk their dog on school property, please pass this message along.

Parking

The Queensdale staff, School Council, other parents and our community have expressed concerns about the safety of all members of our school community-particularly the students at arrival and dismissal time. I would like to take this opportunity to review the routines about drop-off and pick-up of students.

1. Prince George Street, at the west end of the school, and the intersection of Prince George St and Churchill Ave. are signed "NO STOPPING". This means no vehicle is allowed to stop and drop off, or pick up any individual. It also means that you cannot park along these streets. By-law Enforcement will ticket vehicles in this area. The fine is approx. \$100.00



2. Parents are reminded that school parking lots are for staff use, delivery, and contractors working in the school. We ask that parents **not** use the school parking lots to drop off or pick up students. These parking lot areas are always out of bounds to all students.

3. **The area at the front of the school on Queensdale Ave. is designated for School Bus and Disabled unloading only.** This zone is there to allow for the safe arrival and leaving of our special needs students. Should you be driving through this area at the beginning or end of the school day please exercise extreme caution as students are unloading or loading.

4. At no time should a vehicle be left running when the driver leaves the vehicle.

Please keep in mind some of the following suggestions if you find it necessary to drop off or pick up your son/daughter.

1. Park a little further away, then walk the block or so to pick up. Park along Inverness Ave. at the back of the school and enter at the back gate.
2. Car Pool with another family.
3. Walk to school.

Monthly Milk Order Form

There are 19 Instructional Days in February.
Total \$11.40 for one milk per day per student.

Name(s) _____ Room _____

If paying by cheque please make payable to Queensdale School.

**Please note that milk can still be purchased on a weekly basis on Monday and Tuesday mornings!!
Please Note: you are purchasing for the following week. If you have purchased milk and don't want to drink it, then take it home.**