

R.L. Hyslop Elementary School



NOVEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER



Upcoming Important Dates

November 7 - Photo Retake Day

November 9 – Remembrance Day Assembly (9:30 am)

November 13 – Grade 7 Vaccinations

November 22 – Orchard Park Gr 7&8 Information Night (6:30 – 8:30 pm)

December 10 – School Council Meeting (6:30 pm)

December 13 – Annual Bazaar

FROM THE DESK OF MR. HILL, VICE PRINCIPAL

Wow! I can hardly believe that two months of school have already gone by. We have seen drastic changes in the weather, sometimes within the same week! As the cooler weather is here students are reminded to dress appropriately for the weather and always wear the outer clothes they wear to school on the playground at nutrition breaks. It is also recommended that students wear a sweater within the school in case of any emergency that requires evacuation of the building (i.e. fire alarm). We have completed all of our required fire drills for the fall and will begin practicing our Secure Schools drills starting in November. Please see information regarding the upcoming lockdown drill later in this newsletter. It is important that all students, staff and volunteers who are regularly in the school are familiar with all of our Secure Schools procedures. If you have any questions, please contact me at the school office.

Congratulations to our Sr. Girls Volleyball team on their successful season so far! I know that their coaches are proud of how the girls are coming together as a team and supporting each other. The last two games of the season are home games and I am looking forward to watching our team compete. Thank you to all of the parents and fellow students who have attended the away games to support our team and share the RL Hyslop Hawks spirit!

We will be holding our annual Remembrance Day assembly on Friday November 9 at 9:30 am. Please join us if you are able as we remember those who fought and paid the ultimate sacrifice to secure and defend the freedoms we enjoy today. This year we will include a special memorial tribute to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War.

STAFFING UPDATE

We wish Ms. Vogt all the best as she moves from R.L. Hyslop to continue her teaching career at Tiffany Hills Elementary School in Ancaster. We appreciate all her hard work and the energy and enthusiasm she brought to our Junior/Intermediate Music Program. We would also like to welcome Ms. Tremain who will be starting as our new music teacher on November 5.

LIFETOUCH PHOTOGRAPHY - PICTURE TO PROTECT CARDS (P2P)

As you may know, Lifetouch Photography supplies free Picture to Protect cards with picture orders. Picture to Protect cards contain the information you need to make a phone call that will authorize Lifetouch to release a photo of your child to police in the event of an emergency. Lifetouch will never release a photo of your child unless you call the number on the P2P card. If you have any questions or concerns about P2P, please call the school or contact our Privacy Officer at privacy@hwdsb.on.ca or 905-527-5092 x2303.

ATTENDANCE CHECK – ABSENT OR LATE



Please call the school (905-662-8425) if your child is going to be absent or late. The answering machine at the school is on 24 hours. Help us to ensure the safety of your child.

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEXT MEETING – REVISED DATE

Please note that our next School Council Meeting will be held on **Monday December 10** (not December 3 as previously announced). Please join us at 6:30 pm in the library on Monday December 10 if you are interested in learning more about the work of School Council or if you want to become involved. A reminder that the annual bazaar will be held on Thursday December 13th. More information is coming soon!

ORCHARD PARK SECONDARY SCHOOL INFORMATION NIGHT

On November 22nd from 6:30-8:30pm Orchard Park will be hosting their annual Grade 7/8 Information Night. Both parents and students are welcome to attend and learn information about the Grade 9 program and high school life in general.

PIZZA, SMOOTHIES AND NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Our Taste Buds Nutrition Program is up and running for students who need an extra healthy snack at first nutrition break (e.g., fruit, veggies, yogurt, cheese, crackers) on Mondays and Thursdays.

Our Hungry Hawks Shop is open every Tuesday during first nutrition break where popcorn, baked Lays Chips, cookies and milk are sold. These items are all \$1.00. Frozen yogurt is also available at a cost of \$2.00.

Smoothie Days are on Wednesdays and Pizza Days are held on Fridays. Orders for these can be placed online.

VOLUNTEERS MUST HAVE POLICE CHECK - VULNERABLE SECTOR SCREENING



A reminder for anyone interested in volunteering in the school or attending class trips that as part of the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board's Volunteer Policy all volunteers must have obtained a Vulnerable Sector Screening Report. This is essentially a criminal record check and is put in place to protect our children. To

obtain such a report, application forms are available at the Police Station or on-line. Complete the form and submit either in person at the Hamilton Police Services Headquarters on King William Street in Hamilton or on-line. There is a cost for the check and it is valid for 3 years with the HWDSB. Returning volunteers must also sign an offence declaration each year. Please contact the school office for more information.

SECURE SCHOOLS

At R.L. Hyslop, we will be practicing our **Secure Schools Lockdown Procedure** with Constable Masters from the Hamilton Police Service on Monday, November 5. A Lockdown is used when there is a potential risk of harm to people within, or outside the school setting. Although one can never predict when a violent or potentially harmful situation may arise, schools can prepare for responding to such an incident through intentional, scheduled practices, much like what we do with Fire Drills or Emergency Evacuation Drills. The goal of the practice is to minimize the risk for staff and students during a time of crisis. In the event of a true lockdown, the Hamilton Police Services will be responding to the situation.

All staff, students and volunteers who are regularly in the school buildings are required to know the procedures. The students will have the Lockdown Procedures explained to them ahead of time and the school will practice this procedure twice per year.

The following terms and language will be used to ensure everyone is using the proper terminology:

“HOLD AND SECURE” – Used when the school is secured due to an ongoing situation outside and not related to the school (e.g. bank robbery near a school)

- The school continues to function normally, with the exterior doors locked until the situation is resolved
- Staff member posted at each entrance
- All movement in and out of the school is restricted
- Exterior facing windows should be covered or blinds drawn, lights dimmed, where possible
- School most likely to be notified by Hamilton Police Services

“SHELTER IN PLACE” – Used for an environmental, or weather related situation, where it is necessary to keep all occupants within the school to protect them (May be recommended by HES-Fire). Examples may include chemical spills, blackouts, explosions or extreme weather conditions

- People enter and remain in a building with the doors and windows closed
- Fans including heating and air conditioning units, should be turned off to prevent air from outside entering the building
- Normal operations may continue within the building

“LOCKDOWN” – Used when there is a major incident or threat of violence within the school, or in relation to the school

- Threat is inside the school, or is on school property, and poses an immediate threat to the students and staff
- Follow current lockdown procedures
- All movement in and out of the school and within the school is restricted
- Doors remain open to permit police immediate entry

- The “Safe Location” for our school is the Stoney Creek Recreation Centre on King St.

The above terminology is used to ensure consistency across the province. Common language across the province allows for easy integration when staff, students and other emergency service personnel are transferred from one jurisdiction to another.

Along with this information being presented at school, we encourage parents to talk with their children about the need to always be safe and well prepared for an emergency situation. If you have any questions, please speak with your child's teacher or contact the school office.