

Dalewood Golden Hawks

December,
2017

PARENTS, STUDENTS, AND STAFF: WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE DALEWOOD BETTER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Parents,/Guardians:

The weather has finally changed and the autumnal chill (and rain) is now upon us. Henry David Thoreau, the American author and naturalist, once said he "would rather sit on a pumpkin, and have it all to myself, than be crowded on a velvet cushion." At this time of year that is an interesting thought, but I still think the velvet cushion sounds good (though heated, of course).

Grade 8 Ottawa Trip: Students can register for the year-end Grade 8 Ottawa trip up until April. The December "deadline" for deposits is simply a way for us to gauge interest in the trip. If you have not paid your deposit by December 1st, please don't worry. It is our hope that all students will go on the trip. If you have any questions, or concerns about the cost of the trip, please contact me (905-528-8631) at the school.

School Improvement Plan The school improvement plan will focus on three areas. The first is parent involvement. It is our goal to have at least 75% of parents knowing what their child is learning in class by accessing their child's class through The Hub. The second is Math. Aligning ourselves with the board focus, we will dig deeper into Operations and Quantity. In Literacy, the focus will be based on student need.

School Fundraising Plan Fundraising has been set for the year. Following the board's and ministry's focus on equity, funds raised from pizza sales, popcorn/yogurt, subs, and dances will be used to subsidize trips for all students as well as contribute to the cost of new stage curtains. Money raised from monthly Spirit Days will go to various charities, and any funds raised from the holiday concert and other evening concerts will go towards the music program.

Remembrance Day Thank you to all our students and staff for a respectful Remembrance Day assembly. A special thank you to the students who participated in the assembly and to Mr. Wheeldon and Ms. McAuslan for organizing it and preparing the students.

Movie/Book/Poem/TV series /article reviews: Would you like to let the Dalewood community know about a movie, book, poem, article, TV show that you have read/watched? If so, please send me a review and we'll see about putting it in the newsletter. You can email it to me at egrattan@hwdsb.on.ca I've included my own movie review at the end of this newsletter. Happy writing.

Mr. Grattan

Cancellation of School and Board Operations – due to inclement weather

Severe Weather Conditions – Severe weather across the District or in any part of the District may result in the cancellation of transportation services to the entire District. If the weather is severe enough, the General Manager of the Hamilton-Wentworth Student Transportation System will advise the Director or Designate of the road conditions and weather conditions. The Director of Education or Designate will then decide whether or not to cancel all school and board administrative operations. If the conditions are determined to be unsafe, The Director of Education or Designate will then inform Corporate Communications and the General Manager of Hamilton-Wentworth Student Transportation System of the cancellation of all school and board administrative operations. Corporate Communications will inform the community by contacting the media, the City of Hamilton, school-based child care providers and by posting cancellation information on the website and on a School Cancellation "Hotline". The Director or Designate will make every effort to cancel all school and board administrative operations by 6:00 a.m.

For more information on the Cancellation of School & Board Operations visit our Policy page at:

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



MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

With the cold and flu season coming, this is a reminder that the school cannot dispense medications without the signed authorization of **both** a parent/guardian **and** physician. This includes such items as cough syrup, Tylenol and other over-the-counter medications.

Please ask Mrs. Mason or Mrs. Galer for the proper form for your doctor to complete for this purpose. We are sorry for any inconvenience or added expense this may cause;

*****Inclement Weather*****

Rapid Phone Messaging for Snow Days/School

Cancellation!

HWDSB is pleased to announce that it is now able to use an automated phone messaging system (called Synrevoice) 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 a.m. However, the Board now has the ability to quickly call every parent immediately after a cancellation is required.

Please do not call the school.

Article copied from Public Health Services

When should I keep my child home from school?

Your children should stay home if they...



- vomit or have diarrhea through the night or in the morning (within the last 24 hours)
- have a temperature of 38° C (100.4° F) or higher. See the doctor if fever continues
- have any discharge from the ear or an earache. Go to the doctor same day
- have pink eyes or yellow discharge from the eyes. See the doctor
- have a runny nose with thick mucous, a night cough, or any continuous cough
- have a stomachache or headache. Go to the doctor if symptoms continue or happen often
- have a sore throat
- have a toothache. See a dentist as soon as possible
- have a skin rash of unknown cause. Go to the doctor.

Be sure your current home, work, and emergency contact phone numbers are on file at the school.

Call the school when your children are absent.

For more information:

call Telehealth Ontario 1.866.797.0000

visit the City of Hamilton, Public Health Services website

www.hamilton.ca/HealthandSocialServices.

Dalewood School is collecting items for the Good Shepherd

In effort to help families in need in our community over the holiday season Dalewood School is collecting items for Good Shepherd. Suggested items are:

- **Gift cards that tweens and teens would enjoy in \$5, \$10, or \$15 amounts (e.g. Starbucks iTunes, Wal-Mart, Old Navy, Dollarama, McDonalds, Chapters, Subway, etc.), and**
- **Underwear (kids and adult sizes)**

Also , each grade will compete to see how many of the following items they can connect:

- **Grade 6—Socks**
- **Grade 7—Hats**
- **Grade 8—Mittens or Gloves**



Items can be sent in with your child or dropped off at the school from now until December 15th.

If you prefer to make a tax deductible donation directly to Good Shepherd, you can donate online at <http://www.goodshepherdcentres.ca/donate-now> (minimum \$15 donation to receive a tax receipt). Please indicate Dalewood School in the comments as Good Shepherd will acknowledge all the funds and items collected from the Dalewood School community .

We thank you in advance for your support.

Jennifer Gautrey (School Council Chair)

Eddie Grattan (Principal)

Science Fair



Dalewood Science Fair is fast approaching! It will be held at Dalewood, on Thursday, February 8th, 2017, from 3pm to about 6:30pm. Next step – BASEF (Bay Area Science and Engineering Fair at Mohawk College). The students whose projects receive the median mark of 80% or over at the school fair are eligible to participate in BASEF (up to 12 projects per school are permitted this year). Like BASEF, the Dalewood Science Fair is open only to the Gr. 7 and 8 students.

By now students have received the “Science Fair Information Package for Dalewood Students”. The package contains the following sections:

Information about the BASEF web pages,
Science Fair TIMELINE,
Parts of a Complete Science Fair Project,
Dalewood Science Fair Judging Form.

Additional copies of the information package are available from Mrs. Diacon (rm.106).

On November 17th students will have a chance to see the Science Fair Information Session (presentation). During this Information Session students hear lots of valuable information: project evaluation and requirements, useful web sites, time lines, etc. A summary of some of this information is contained in the “Science Fair Information Package for Dalewood Students”.

The PowerPoint summary of the Information Session will be posted on Mrs. Diacon’s Website at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/mrsdiaconswebpage/dalewood-science-fair>

Students who are not able to attend the Information Session can also participate in the Dalewood Science Fair. Dalewood Science Fair participants are asked to make transportation arrangements after the school fair, if needed. Last year the school fair ended after 6:30 p.m. Science Fair is a wonderful opportunity for students to expand their Science horizons. Have fun and best of luck.

Mrs. Diacon

Sport Shorts—By Mr. DiFelice

Curricular....

In late October, students finished the outdoor football and soccer units before completing their first health unit on Healthy Eating. Indoor volleyball and another health unit on Personal Safety will take us into December. Furthermore, on Monday December 4th, our swimming unit will begin and run until the Christmas break. Please help prepare your child with a bathing suit, towel and a plastic bag for wet clothes. The swimming dates are posted inside the gym, on our website, and also on our P.E. bulletin board.

Extracurricular....

Congratulations to Dalewood’s Junior and Senior Girls and Boys Volleyball teams! The regular season has just ended and the playoffs have begun. Please check the P.E. bulletin board for upcoming home and away games.

Intramurals...

Any students who would like to participate in Intramural Volleyball are asked to listen to the announcements for upcoming dates. To take part in this lunch hour opportunity, students must change and have appropriate footwear.

Important Reminder...

With the changing weather, we are asking students to please bring an indoor pair of running shoes to participate in Physical Education class. For the safety of our Dalewood students, we must take pride to keep our area safe and tidy for all. Also, please ensure your son or



The Holiday Concert

Mark your calendar, the Dalewood Holiday Concert is on Wednesday, December 20th @6:30pm. Dalewood students will be performing a Musical called North Pole Exposure. The School Band will be playing holiday music along festive songs from the Choir.





Our Souls at Night

Kent Haruf is an American writer who sets all his stories in the fictional town of Holt, Colorado. His stories deal with the everyday lives of ordinary characters. In his last book, *Our Souls at Night*, he looks at the relationship between two elderly widows, Addie Moore and Louis Waters. One day Addie decides to visit Louis to ask if he will sleep with her at night. Louis, initially intrigued, is put straight by Addie's reassurance that the relationship will be a platonic one.

As Addie and Louis embark on their nights together, tongues wag and the locals are certain Addie and Louis are more involved than they let on. Initially they find the attention and gossip rather fun, but slowly their treatment by the locals, as well as their own family members, appears to make the relationship doomed.

Their nights together are spent looking back on their lives, reflecting on moments when things could have been done differently, when wrong decisions were made and opportunities missed. There is a sadness and wistfulness about these exchanges, along with a depth and poignancy that makes *Our Souls at Night* not only a novel to enjoy curled up in front of the fire, but one that acts as a meditation on life and the intricacies of everyday situations. It also reveals that the weight of time and past events often make growing older a time of regret and agonized reflection. Haruf is always gentle in his portrayal of his characters, seeing in all of them something redeemable. This tenderness is evident throughout the book, the author recognising that life and relationships are complex and not prone to easy resolution, and that sometimes good people make honest mistakes, ones they have to live with until the end.

Eddie Grattan

Proper Clothing

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. In the cold weather it is important children come to school prepared. Boots, mittens or gloves and hats should be worn to school and it is a good idea to provide extra mittens, socks, etc. in the event they are needed.

Thanks for Helping Keep HWDSB Schools Safe!

There are some school safety policies that we would like to review in this month's newsletter. While we strive to be a welcoming school, we also must be a safe school. According to HWDSB policy, all parents and visitors MUST report to the office upon entry to the building. The only entrance for parents and visitors is through the main front doors during the school day. Also, at the end of the day, students should be met outside of the Main doors..