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Principal's Message January 2020

Welcome back everyone! As the calendar turns to January, we want to remind everyone of the importance of being on time for school. The bell rings at 8:50 and students are expected to enter promptly at that time. Students that are late miss important work and disturb the learning of others. With the cold weather please ensure that your student leaves early enough to arrive on time. Thanks for your help with this issue.

Winter is upon us and I would ask that you please remember to ensure an ample supply of hats, mitts, dry socks and scarves for your children, in case of emergency we do have some extras in the office. Please put names on the clothing so that lost items can be returned to the rightful owners. If the temperature is above -20 degrees Celsius we will be going out doors for recess.

The New Year is a time for setting goals and making positive changes in our lives. I would like to see each of our students **make a goal to be a better friend**. The complaint I hear most from our students is about bullying. Unfortunately, this is a problem throughout our society. It can only change if all of us agree to make a difference. We depend on our students to report bullying to the teachers and to stand by their friends.

The second goal I would hope that our students will make is to **work on their Home Reading log each evening**. If your child reports that they do not have homework remind them that every night, they have Home reading to do and report on. We expect that our younger children read with an adult for approximately 10 minutes each evening. If they are struggling, it is great to share the reading with an adult. By the time that our students reach grade 8 we hope that they are spending at least 30 minutes each day reading outside of school.



Upcoming Events

January 24

PA Day – No School

February 17

Family Day – No School

March 6

PA Day – No School

Terminology to be used:

“Hold and Secure” is used when the school is secured due to an ongoing situation outside of and not related to the school (e.g. bank robbery near the school).

“Shelter in Place” is used for an environmental, or weather related situation, where it is necessary to keep all occupants within the school to protect them (e.g. chemical spills, blackouts, explosions or extreme weather conditions)

“Lockdown” is used when there is a major incident or threat of violence within the school or in relation to the school that poses an immediate threat to the students and staff.

DID YOU KNOW???

Junior and Senior Kindergarten Registration for the upcoming
2020-21 School Year

If your child was born in **2016**

Registration starts February 3rd and continues until the end of June.

Registration forms are available to fill out at your area school. Parents **must** provide the necessary documentation when they are registering. Please bring the following:

- Immunization * Immigration status * Proof of age * Confirmation of home address (lease, hydro bill, etc.)
- Check in at the main office for more registration information

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

If at any time you or your Emergency Contacts change cell phones or update home phone numbers, please contact the school ASAP. We require this information in order to be able to get in touch with you in the event of any Emergency situations.

More Important News

The First Term Report Cards will be given to our students in grades JK to 8 on **February 13th**. The report card covers your child's progress from **September until January**.

There are now two sections that need to be filled out and returned to the school. There is a section on Page 3 for students to fill out. This will be most effective if it is done with a parent. Students been setting goals when conferencing with their teachers. The second section on Page 4 is for the parent to fill out. It has an area where parents can comment on their child's progress. Thank you for taking the time to discuss the report with your child. Please remember to fill out and return the designated sections.

Snow Removal

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



Religious Days of Significance

January 6

Epiphany

January 7

Christmas/Feast of Nativity

January 10-12

Mahayana New Year

January 28

Tu B'Shevat

February 5

Lunar New Year

February 18

Louis Riel Day

February 22

Maha Shivratri

- 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. "Particular caution must be used on our play structures when conditions are wet or icy".

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

Head Lice - The Facts: Tiny Ugly Creatures but Nothing to Be Afraid of!

- Lice are transmitted as easily as the common cold
- Head lice are transmitted mainly through close head to head contact.
- Children working or playing in small groups are all at risk for transmitting head lice: - elementary school day cares- play groups- parties
- Head lice may also be transmitted by sharing personal items such as: - combs- brushes- towels- earphones- hats- stuffed toys- pillows- clothing (especially sweaters or fleeces with hoods)
- Parents, care-givers, and siblings may acquire head lice from younger children through sharing or pillows, beds, towels, and brushes or combs.
- Head lice are not related in any way to cleanliness and anyone can become infested by them.
- To look for lice examine the head for lice or nits by parting the hair in narrow, vertical sections with a comb or toothpick. Look carefully behind the ears and in the nape of the neck.
- Home remedies have not been clinically proven to work
- There are a number of lice products on the market. Pharmaceutical treatment shampoo or crème rinse products are the most proven method for getting rid of lice.
- Home remedies or frequent washing with regular shampoo are **not** effective in getting rid of head lice.
- Only treat people with live lice, not just people who have been exposed to lice.
- Product choices: - R&CTM 2in 1 Shampoo - Conditioner (a single-step product) - Kwellada-P® Creme Rinse- Nix™ Crème Rinse
- Follow the treatment instructions exactly. Some lice products are applied to dry hair and others to wet and/or washed hair.
- Leave the product on the hair for the exact length of time indicated in the instructions, no more and no less.
- Remove the nits. This is a time-consuming task but must be done.
- It can take up to 24 hours for lice to die following treatment.
- Apply a second application of the lice product 7-10 days after the first treatment to kill any newly hatched lice.

"If you want something you've never had, then you've got to do something you've never done."

Family Literacy Day

January 27th

Here are some activities that you can do with your child to spend some family literacy time together this month!

Family Literacy Tips from A to Z

Ask your child questions about the story you are reading to develop comprehension.

Book family time to read with your children every day.

Create a special reading place in your home.

Develop a love for reading by being a reading role model.

Engage in sing-along sessions with your children.

Follow a recipe with your child. This is a yummy way to practice reading and math skills.

Give the gift of time and read stories with your child.

Have a word contest. For example, challenge your child to orally make rhyming words or to name a word that has the same meaning as one you name. Then it's your turn.

Introduce a family board game night.

Keeep books, magazines and other reading materials in a bag so that you child can read on trips.

Look up the meaning of funny words like 'onomatopoeia' and 'Chinook'.

Make a family journal, together, about special days and celebrations.

Navigate the Internet with your child to find fun and educational web sites.

Organize a children's book club.

Pick one day or night a week to visit your local library or book store.

Quote from some of your favourite rhymes and poems.

Read stories out loud together. This helps with fluency skills.

Start reading early! Infants enjoy hearing the rhythm of language spoken by their parents.

Treat your child to a story a day.

Use your reading time to discuss the story with your child.

Volunteer in your school or tutor adults with their reading skills.

Write a letter or story with your child.

X-ercise your mind by doing cross words and playing word games.

You are the reading role model.

Zap off the television and computer so that you both can read a book.