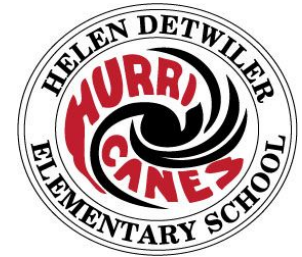




Helen Detwiler School



Hamilton Wentworth District School Board - Respect, Creativity, Excellence, Citizenship



From the Principal & Vice-Principal's Desk

As we enter the month of February we mark the midpoint in the school year. With report cards going home on Tuesday February 12th, we encourage our students to reflect on their successes, achievements and set goals for the second term of the school year. We strongly encourage that you sit down with your child and go over the report card to help set reasonable goals for the remainder of the school year. Please ensure that you send the feedback page back to school with your child to build the home school connection and work collaboratively with your child's teacher to ensure consistency with goal setting and a successful term to follow. We value the impact that you as parents have in supporting your child's success at school and appreciate your efforts to enhance your child's skill development through their academic and learning skills.

Over the last few weeks we have had a full school contest where students have had the opportunity to identify staff members through their Bitmoji's. There has been a lot of excitement about this seen and heard as you walk through the school. The goal of this activity was to help support our school annual plan focusing on ensuring all students can identify caring adults at school. Our Bitmoji board was one of many ways that we are working on this initiative. We know that when students can identify at least two caring adults in their school they are more likely to have a positive school experience.



February is also Black History Month across Canada. It provides us with an opportunity to honour the legacy of Black Canadians, past and present. But it is also a reminder to us that schools, like our great country, are multicultural communities. At Helen Detwiler, we have a duty to teach students to respect differences, see issues from different points of view, and create inclusive classrooms.

Our Character Education trait for this month is "Empathy". Our focus will be to help students care about and understand how someone else is feeling. We will be focusing on the question: "Can you put yourself in someone else's shoes?"

We hope you and your family enjoy the upcoming Family Day on Monday February 18.

Sincerely, Ms. Radojevic & Ms. Francis

FEBRUARY 2019

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twitter.com/HDHurricanes

Ms. Radojevic - Principal
Ms. Francis - Vice-Principal

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, February 4th

Kindergarten Registration Begins
Character Education Assembly with
Special Visit from Ukelele Kids

Wednesday, February 6th

Winter Wear Yellow and Walk to School
Day

Tuesday, February 12th

Report Cards Sent Home
Playground Committee Meeting - 6:30

Thursday, February 14th

*Special Event Day - Valentine's Day
Sweet Treats are welcome!

Monday, February 18th

Family Day - No School

Friday, February 22nd

Pita Pit Lunch

Thursday, February 28th

Seussell the Musical Gr. 6-8 Trip
10:00 - 1:30 Ancaster High School
School Council Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

Looking Ahead

Friday, March 1st

P A Day - No School

Monday, March 4th

*Character Ed. Assembly, 11:15 a.m.
Parents are welcome!

Monday, March 11 - Friday, March 15

March Break - No School



Character Builds - THE WORD ON THE STREET!



In order to build upon our students Character development, at Helen Detwiler we are focusing on educating our school community on the Character Traits that will support our students success in life and build upon a positive school culture. Last month

our Character focus was Responsibility. This month's Character Focus is Empathy.

Monthly Focus

September - **Respect & Belonging**

February - **Empathy**

October - **Self Regulation**

March - **Honesty**

November - **Courage**

April - **Acceptance**

December - **Caring**

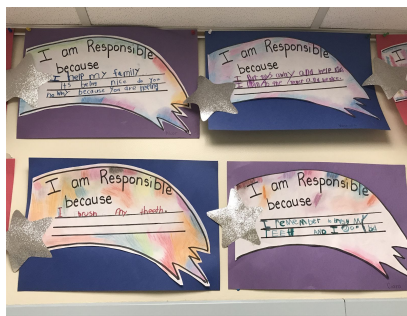
May - **Integrity**

January - **Responsibility**

June - **Citizenship**

Sharing our Work on Responsibility

Over the month of January we worked on being responsible. Being responsible means taking ownership for your actions, doing your best and finishing what you start. Our Grade one students in 1A and 1B introduced the trait to us with a song about ways to show responsibility at school.



Inclement Weather

The decision to cancel School and Board Administrative Operations is often a difficult call to make. Please be assured that the decision to remain open or to close is always made with the safety and security of our students and staff in mind. Please check the Board's Website (www.hwdsb.on.ca) or listen to local media (CHML900/K-Lite/CHCHTV) for notice of school closure. **School Closure Hotline # 905.521.2535**. The board's commitment is to have families informed as early as possible on the days that school will be closed.

Kindergarten Registration



If you have a child who is eligible for Kindergarten in September, please check out the Kindergarten registration website or come into the school to register in person.

Our program helps students get off to the best possible start. Your child will be challenged and encouraged to do his or her very best. Our caring educators are with them every step of the way!

Please share this website with friends/neighbours with children who will be eligible for Kindergarten in September. Thanks!

Growing Together - Workshops

Growing Together is a community education guide for parents, children and youth listing courses, groups and workshops available in Hamilton from January to August 2019. Check out the link below to access the guide. A hard copy of this guide was sent home with all students



Offered by a variety of local community agencies, the programs and services published in this guide are designed to help parents, children, youth and others learn new skills to better meet the challenges facing today's families. <http://www.mchcommunityed.ca/files/GTGGuideJanAug2019FinalWebsite.pdf>

Attendance Reminder

This is a reminder for parents to please call the school at 905-574-2662 to report an absence. If, however, you have not had an opportunity to do so and you receive a call from our automated machine, would you please call the school ASAP so that we may update your child's attendance to reflect the correct reason for the absence and know your child is present at school. Please insure we have your most up-to-date contact information. Thank you on behalf of our office administrative team.

Partnership with Mohawk College

We have welcomed 14 students from Mohawk College to do their placements in our school for the Winter Term. These students are working on becoming Child and Youth Workers, Educational Assistants, Social Service Workers and Early Childhood Educators. Our students and staff are very fortunate to have the additional support of these Mohawk students in our school. Helen Detwiler is a great place for all to learn.

Don't Hibernate... Participate!

Winter Wear Yellow Day on Wed., February 6, 2019



Calling all students, parents, and staff! Wear yellow and walk or wheel to and from school. Let's show the world that Hamilton cares about the environment and our health! All year, HWDSB promotes and encourages its communities to utilize active and sustainable transportation. On Winter Wear Yellow Day, HWDSB is challenging its communities to step up to the plate by wearing yellow and using active transportation on their trip to school. The awareness day works in support of Active and Sustainable School Transportation (ASST). HWDSB prioritizes ASST because it increases physical activity, reduces traffic congestion, improves air quality, enhances neighbourhood safety and instills a greater sense of community.

To learn more and to register
smartcommute.ca/hamilton/schools/wear-yellow-day/
Don't forget to send your pictures to Kelly.Scott@Hamilton.ca
For more prizes and ideas, also register with our provincial partners: Ontario Active School Travel at
ontarioactiveschooltravel.ca/winter-walk-day/

Fundraising Update

We want to thank our school council who have donated money to our Nutrition program in order to help provide students with daily healthy snacks. The teamwork and partnership between school council and the school helps all of our students to start their day off with healthy food in their stomach!



Hello parents. Just a heads up that our Plumpy Nut fundraiser will begin with chocolate milk sales. Starting on Friday, February 1, we will be selling small chocolate milk cartons each Friday for \$2. All proceeds will be going to malnourished children. Chocolate milk sales will continue through February and into March. All you need to do is send a toonie with your child on Fridays if you wish them to receive a chocolate milk. Thank you for your support and stay tuned for other fundraising initiatives that will be taking place. Feel free on YouTube, to Google "Plumpy Nut Anderson Cooper 60 minutes." It is a great informational piece on the product and how it helps children.

Ukulele Kids



We will be starting a Ukulele Club in February. Students who sign up will receive a ukulele (the colour of their choice,) 10 lessons and a songbook, for a one-time fee. Fun songs, with chords and strumming patterns will be taught, with lessons taking place on nutrition breaks. The term will end with an assembly, where the students will perform what they've learned. The club will be open to students from Grades 1-5.

The ukulele is a fun and easy instrument for children to learn, and it's a great introduction to instrumental music for our younger students. The students will attend an assembly on February 4, in which they will be introduced to the instrument, given a brief history of it, and a live presentation of some great, fun songs. A flyer will go home with the Grade 1-5 students following the presentation. We hope you will consider trying it out, and seeing why the ukulele is the fastest growing instrument in the world!

Council Corner

Our next school council meeting will be held on Thurs. Feb. 28th at 6:00 pm in the library. Our next playground committee meeting will be held on Tuesday February 12th at 6:30 pm in the library. All are welcome to attend!



Caring Cookies

Every thursday during the month of February we will be selling heart shaped cookies and gluten free chocolate chip cookies for \$1 during second nutrition break. Money raised will go toward improving our playgrounds.

