



HOLBROOK HAPPENINGS

450 Sanatorium Rd. Hamilton L9C 2B1 905-385-5369

Notes from the Principal...



Vision:

“Working together to provide program and service to our community”

December is a time of celebration around the world. Many of us are familiar with the Christian celebration of **Christmas, December 25**, where Christians around the world rejoice in the birth of Jesus, as sung in many familiar carols. The Christian Bible tells the story that the virgin Mary gave birth to a baby boy in a stable in Bethlehem and named him Jesus. In our culturally diverse community, it is important to note that some of our neighbours recognize the feasts and Holy Days of other faith traditions.

Muslim’s Hajj started on Wednesday, August 30th 2017. Once a year, Muslims of every ethnic group, colour, social status, and culture gather together in Mecca and stand before the Kaaba praising Allah together. The Hajj makes Muslims feel the real importance of life here on earth, and the afterlife, by stripping away all markers of social status, wealth, and pride. In the Hajj all are truly equal.

Eid-al-Adha was September 2, 2017 . Each Muslim, as they celebrate, reminds themselves of their own submission to God, and their own willingness to sacrifice anything to God’s wishes.

Diwali, the “Festival of Lights” began October 19th and is a five day celebration. Diwali celebrates to victory of the Good over the Evil and Light over Darkness. It has a major religious significance for Hindus, Sikhs and Jains alike.

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Hanukkah begins December 12th and ends December 20th. Hanukkah or Chanukah is the Jewish Festival of Lights. It dates back to two centuries before the beginning of Christianity. The word Hanukkah means rededication and commemorates the Jews’ struggle for religious freedom. Jews remember “the miracle of the oil”. It is because of this miracle that candles are lit, as a reminder, during Hanukkah.

On December 21st, Pagans celebrate Winter Solstice. The Pagan celebration of Winter Solstice (also known as Yule) is one of the oldest winter celebrations in the world. The festival involved decorating houses with greenery, lighting candles, holding processions and giving presents.

Kwanzaa is a week-long African American holiday observance held from December 26 to January 1. Timed to serve as an alternative to the growing commercialism of Christmas, it was founded in 1966 by Ron Everett. Kwanzaa is not a religious holiday but a cultural one based on various elements of the first harvest celebrations widely celebrated in Africa around the 10th month of the year.

Commonalities - What is most interesting about the celebrations of these different faiths is the commonalities. These celebrations are time for families to gather and remember their traditions. Special decorations festoon their homes and traditional meals are enjoyed. Family and friends exchange gifts and participate in special rituals such as attending religious services or singing seasonal songs. Although we have our differences, families around the world all celebrate and value family, friends and traditions.

We will be creating a Holbrook “Peace Tree” in the library. It will show the various celebrations our students participate in. Please come and see it. Also, it would be great to see you at one of our Holiday Concerts. Please see the flyer sent home. Wishing a happy and joyful celebration to all! Mrs. Lemmond

Mrs. C. Lemmond— Principal
Mrs. L. Millar — Office Administrator
Mrs. L. Romano— Superintendent
Mr. W. Hicks — School Trustee

Attention:

- **CHOCOLATE BAR FUNDRAISER!**
- **PLEASE BRING IN YOUR \$ OR LEFT-OVERS DECEMBER 4**

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Please remember the allergy alert in our school!

Please subscribe to

the Holbrook School website

And Twitter

For updated information.

BULLYING ... WHAT CAN A PARENT DO?

At HWDSB, research is telling us that about 30 per cent of students are bullied on a regular basis, 20 per cent of students admit to bullying others on a regular basis and that, 85 per cent of the time, bullying happens with other people watching. This must stop –and it can.

HWDSB joined Ontario school boards to recognize Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week from Nov. 18 to 22, 2013. We continue to use peer mediation and restorative justice in our schools. HWDSB is expanding its mobile phone app TipOff to support even more schools with a tool for receiving anonymous bullying reports.

Here are some useful tips from HWDSB Social Work Services
What can I do if my child is the victim of bullying?

- Ask your child directly.
- Listen.
- Tell the school or childcare facility immediately.
- Resist being overprotective.
- Teach your child the social skills he/she needs to make friends.
- Encourage your child to seek spare time activities.
- Teach children ways to resolve arguments without violent words or actions.
- Talk about and practice assertiveness skills.

Seek help from school social workers or psychologists via your school principal; reach children's mental health facilities by calling CONTACT Hamilton at (905) 570-8888 or info@contacthamilton.ca

Stand Up and Speak Out against Bullying

Last week at Holbrook, students completed ballots that included completing sentences about how we can stop bullying. Student responses included many ideas of stepping up against bullying. Also, we considered how we can show kindness. If we show kindness and respect, bullying will become a thing of the past. Congratulations to Blake in grade 4 who, brought a friend to eat lunch with the principal.

What can I do if I suspect my child may be bullying others?

- Take the problem seriously.
- Talk to your child.
- Tell your child that you will not tolerate this kind of behavior.
- Arrange for an effective, non-violent consequence.
- Establish a few family rules and stick to them.
- Spend more time with your child.
- Increase your supervision of your child's activities and whereabouts.
- Talk to his/her teacher and or principal.

Seek help from school social workers or psychologists via your school principal; reach children's mental health facilities by calling CONTACT Hamilton at (905) 570-8888 or info@contacthamilton.ca





What can I do if I suspect my child may be a bystander to bullying?

- Encourage your child to empathize with the victim; step into their shoes.
- Help your child to understand that there is a difference between 'tattling' and 'reporting'.
- Accompany your child to the teacher or principal if they decide to report what they have witnessed.
- Encourage your child to mobilize his/her friends to join together to protect the victim.
- Explain to your child that bullying does not 'toughen people up' but can cause real emotional and physical harm.
- Encourage your child to find friends who value kindness and integrity.
- Behave with kindness, integrity and courage yourself, whenever you have the opportunity.
- ◇ Encourage your child when they accept responsibility for their own behaviour

At Holbrook, we continue to build a positive school environment using TRIBES and a variety of other positive initiatives. Our students continue to show respect and responsibility. Thank you for your continued support.



DECEMBER

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
4—DAY 1 “Peace Tree” 	5—DAY 2 “Neighbour to Neighbour” Food drive begins	6-DAY 3 Pizza Forms due today.	7—DAY 4	8—DAY 5 
11—DAY 1	12—DAY 2	13-DAY 3	14—DAY 4 “PEACE BREAKFAST” Please let the office know if you would like to volunteer. 8:00 AM—10:30 AM	15—DAY 5  Holiday Show Rehearsal
18—DAY 1 Holiday Show 1:45 PM Primary Choir performing. All classes participating.	19—DAY 2 Holiday Show 9:00 AM French Choir performing. All classes participating.	20-DAY 3	21—DAY 4 TREAT DAY \$2 for TCBY or Kernels popcorn	22—DAY 5  Happy Holidays!

Neighbour to Neighbour Food Drive: Please consider how you can contribute to this worthwhile cause. All of us giving a little, makes a big difference. Dry goods will be collected and given to this organization. To encourage participation, students will be given a ballot for each item they bring in. There will be a school draw and the prize will be a Pizza Lunch with the Principal for the class and an extra treat for the winner. Thanks for your help!

FUTURE DATES:

- Monday, January 8—First day back to school in 2018
- Thursday, January 18—School Council 2 6:00 pm in the Library
- Friday, January 26—P.D. Day, no school for students
- Tuesday, February 13—1st Term Report Cards home
- Monday, February 19—Family Day, no school for students
- March 12—16—March Break, no school for students





School Council Adventures



Games night was a huge success with lots of families participating and once again pie in the face was the biggest hit with young and old alike.

Our chocolate bar campaign is the best one we have run to date. We had students asking for more to sell and we were out of Chocolate Bars. To all the students & parents who helped sell thank you very much, really Good Show. Top three sellers & top selling class will be announced at an assembly coming soon. First place will receive a \$100.00 gift card of the students choosing, Second place 50.00 gift card of the students choosing, Third place movie passes. Class selling the most receives a 5 pound chocolate bar.

Peace breakfast will be held on Thursday 14 December this year. We are looking for volunteers to help out. Require 1 pancake cook, 1 pancake batter mixer, 8 people to help set and clear the tables. Usually runs from 9am until 11am. Cooks arrive at 8am.

If you're interested please contact Mike at holbrookschoolcouncil@gmail.com.

Up & Coming Events:

Peace Breakfast Thursday 14 December 2017; Movie Night Friday 19 January 2018; Snuggle Up & Read Monday 29 January 2018; Family Dance Night Friday 9 February 2018; Anti - Bullying Magic Show Friday 23 March 2018; Parent Reaching Out Grant April 2018 TBD; Family Meal Thursday 3 May 2018; Summer Carnival Thursday 7 June 2018; Groove Edgucation Thursday 21 June 2018.

More information will be sent home as events get closer.

As the Holiday Season fast approaches School Council wishes everyone A Safe, Happy & Joy Filled Holiday Season.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, Season greetings, I'd miilad said oua sana saida, De Christmas akhtar de bakhtawar au newai kal de mubarak sha, Feliz Navidad, Sretam Bozic, Hristos se rodi, Joyeux Noel, Sheng Tan Kuai Loh, Vesele Vanoce, Frohliche Weihnachten, Boldog Karácsonyt, Mo'adim Lesimkha, Shub Christu Jayanti, Merii Kurisumasu, Maligayang Pasko, Mboni Chrismen, Idah Saidan Wasanah Jadidah, Happy Christmas ...

Mike Palma (What you do today can improve all your tomorrows.)

Reading Specialists and "Every Child Reading by the end of Grade 1"

At Holbrook, we're committed to supporting a goal where every child is reading by the end of Grade 1, where developmentally appropriate. A child who is reading by the end of Grade 1 is set up for positive academic outcomes and future success. In September 2017, HWDSB celebrated the deployment of 48 Reading Specialists across the district to work directly with students and educators in all Kindergarten and Grade 1 classrooms. Reading Specialists are working with children within classrooms, alongside classroom educators, to deliver appropriate strategies and/or interventions. They support reading acquisition and respond to student learning needs. We're pleased to welcome, Mrs. Johnson, our Reading Specialist, in our school this year. If you have any questions about the Reading Specialists and their role in your child's class, please contact the school.