

September 10, 2017

**Welcome back!**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

On behalf of the staff of James MacDonald School and the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board, we want to welcome everyone to another great year at our school. We had a great first week back. In fact quite an exciting one due to the special assembly we had on Friday celebrating The Canadian Country Music Association Awards. We were lucky enough to play host to Meghan Patrick, this year's female artist of the year, and she wowed us all with a performance in our gym.

We are going to be using the school website as our primary method to communicate information to our families. I encourage you to subscribe to our website so you can receive email notification of any new information that is posted there. To subscribe, visit [www.hwdsb.on.ca/jamesmacdonald/](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/jamesmacdonald/)

On the home page, there is a **Subscribe** section. Please click on Subscribe and simply fill in the email address you would like notification of updates to be sent to. You may also choose to opt out of the school board updates by selecting NO to the dropdowns in the subscribe screen, if you leave these as YES you will also receive notices of updates from the school board when available. **Once you have filled in this subscription and click on submit, you will receive an email from the school board that you must open and acknowledge to activate your subscription.** After completing this, whenever anything new is posted to the James MacDonald school website you will receive an email notification.

Our Grade 1 to 6 students were provided with a **school agenda** on their first day of school. There is **no cost** for families for this agenda. There are **several pages** at the front of the agenda with information families will want to check out. Agendas are an excellent tool for school/home communication. James MacDonald staff take time each school day to review important news items, homework and other reminders. One way that you can support your child's learning is to allow opportunities for him or her to talk about what was learned at school each day. For this reason, **a daily review of the agenda at home is encouraged. Some suggestions for conversation starters were sent home with the agendas.**

Our **classroom staff** have prepared our classrooms to create a warm and welcoming environment for all of our students. The caretaking team of **Mr. Divinski and Mr. Griese** have done a wonderful job preparing our school for our return from the summer holidays. **Mrs. Baker**, our Office Administrator, has been busy preparing the office for the return to school, including preparing all the forms that accompany the beginning of school. **Thank you** to everyone for completing and returning all of these forms. **It is important that they be returned to the school as they contain key information that we need about each child.**

For students that will be walking to school, we have confirmed that a **crossing guard** is scheduled to be on duty at West 5th and Chester from 8:30 until 8:50, and again from 3:15 to 3:35 each school day.

Parents and Guardians are a critical part of students' learning experience. We are grateful for any time that you can give: before, during or after school. Whether it's on a field trip or in our classrooms - we can really use the help! Please contact a staff member or the office if you are interested in joining our team of **volunteers.**

**(OVER)**

Another way that some parents choose to be involved at the school is to join our **School (Parent) Council**. School Council meetings will not only provide parents and community members with updated information about James MacDonald School but will also provide opportunities for input about school and HWDSB policies. If you are interested in joining the Council, please contact the office for a nomination form and have your child return it to the office.

**Some upcoming dates that you might want to be aware of are:**

September 19- First School Council meeting (see attached info for details)

September 20- Meet and Greet classrooms open 5:30 to 7:00

September 21- PA Day (no school for students)

September 27- Terry Fox School Run

October 2- Photo Day

We welcome all of our parents and guardians to be part of the life at the school. We ask that when you are visiting James MacDonald School, that you please remember to **check in** at the office so we know who is in the building. Thank you for helping to keep our students **safe** at school.

We hope to see you at our **Meet and Greet** on Thursday September 20, if not before,

**R. Maudsley**

Principal

**J. Leyzer**

Principal