



# Mary Hopkins News

<http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/maryhopkins>

Twitter @ Mary\_Hopkins\_K\_5

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SPRING 2019

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## *Message from the Principal*

Welcome back from March Break. Spring is around the corner and we are gearing up for a lot of events and activities at Mary Hopkins. Over the past month it was great to see the children so engaged and active in student life. Our students were kept busy with activities such as Intermural Hockey, Eco Team and Dancefest. We are always proud of their effort and how well the students represent our school when they are out in the community.

Kindergarten registration is well on its way, we are currently in the midst of our planning for September 2019. If you have a child who is turning 4 in 2019, be sure to visit our school office to register them for September.

Every year parents ask how students are assigned to classes. This is an in-depth and time consuming process that we engage in each year. Every attempt is made to balance each class, combined or straight, by gender, ability level and personalities to create a positive learning environment for all. While staff are well informed about each student's strengths and needs, we know that parents have additional information about their children that may benefit our decision making. If there is particular information regarding the learning needs that you would like us to consider in placing your child, please advise the principal ([cbuck@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:cbuck@hwdsb.on.ca)) through email. This information will then be brought to our class building discussions. **Please do not request specific teachers as these requests will not be considered.**

Please note that we will continue to have many classes with combined grades next year. This is a reality of our class sizes restraints, but it is also encouraged as a positive practice. The teachers at Mary Hopkins are well equipped to provide the best learning opportunities for their students, in combined or straight grade classrooms.

With the cold weather behind us, we can hopefully look forward to the warmer spring weather. As we look ahead on the calendar, we ask that you mark May 9th. This will be our date of the annual Open House evening. We look forward to showcasing our classrooms and meeting the families who attend.



## Eco Store Comes to Mary Hopkins

On April 5th the Eco Club will be hosting an special event, creating an Eco Store in the gymnasium. We are asking for gently used items for our store to be donated.

So if you are starting your spring cleaning or want to inspire your child to recycle some of their toys and belongings, we will be looking for gently used items such as plastic toys, books, DVDs, board games and puzzles, unused crafts or art supplies (no plush toys or stuffies).

Our collection will begin this week and end on April 1st. Money raised from the Eco Store will be used to help supplement the costs of some of the club's initiatives and to support Eco efforts worldwide. We are hoping everyone will take advantage of this opportunity to participate in both donating items and purchasing "new" items to take home and enjoy. When you buy items second hand, you are making good use of something that may otherwise have been thrown away. A great lesson for future consumers!

## A MARY HOPKINS SCHOOL FUNDRAISER



Join us for dinner and silent auction

Boston Pizza Waterdown  
**Thursday March 28<sup>th</sup>**  
4 Horseshoe Crescent  
**5 – 8 pm**

10% of sales go to support our school  
Includes dine in, take out & delivery

Funds raised from the night will go to support our Music and Arts programs

## ABSENCE REPORTING

HWDSB policy dictates that attendance calls must be made when we have not been notified of a students absence. These calls are made to assure the safe arrival of all students.

Parents are asked to contact the school prior by 9:00 if their child will be absent. After this time, attendance calls are triggered to each contact number.

Beginning April, parents will have additional methods of reporting their child's absence via a website or app. More information will be coming to families shortly.

## Mary Hopkins Morning Drop Off and Kiss & Ride Starts April 1st

Many school communities struggle with traffic and safety at drop off and pick up. We understand that parents often feel the pressure of time and their commitments in the morning, however we remind you that safety is always a top priority.

Beginning April 1, we will be introducing a morning Kiss and Ride drop-off from 8:55 am - 9:10 am each day for Grade 1-5 students. Look for the pylons to indicate the safe drop off area and follow the procedures outlined below.

This option is not available for our Kindergarten students, as dropped off and pick up must be directly to and from the classroom educators. Parents who need to walk their child to the school or school yard, must use street parking.

Please remember that **families should not be parking or walking through our lot from 8:40 am – 3:45 pm.**



## DOGS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

With the nicer weather, many families may see pick up or drop off as an opportunity to give the family dog some fresh air. However, please be reminded that some caregivers and children are very afraid of dogs, while other children show no fear and approach dogs with no hesitation. It is for these reasons that dogs should not be on the school grounds during the school day, or during admission or dismissal when large numbers of children are around. We ask for your cooperation in this matter and ask you to leave your pet at home.