



# APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER

## Mary Hopkins Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

PRINCIPAL: Susete Bloom VICE PRINCIPAL: Paula Thomas

HUMBLE

AMBITIOUS

WISE

KIND

STRONG

### Principal's Message

With warmer and sunnier days upon us, I reflect on our continued growth as a school community. As principal I take great pride in the sense of community we have built within our school and the warm, welcoming environment we have created for both current and future families that walk through our doors. As Mary Hopkins educators, our goal is to provide a safe, supportive and cooperative place of learning for all of our students. An environment where we celebrate our student diversity and develop a climate of respect, while encouraging our students to continuously strive for their personal best.

I am also a firm believer that the parents and guardians of our students play an equally important role in every child's learning experience. I encourage parents and guardians to be active participants in the daily learning activities and school experiences of their children. The trick is to ask about things that are specific, but still open-ended. Move beyond "fine" and "nothing" by asking your child to describe their world. It's also great to start the conversation with an anecdote from your own day. Try one of these conversation-starters:

1. Tell me about the best part of your day.
2. What was the hardest thing you had to do today?
3. Tell me about what you read in class.
4. Who did you play with today? What did you play?
5. Can you show me something you learned (or did) today?

While the slower paced days of summer beckon us, we are mindful of the significance of this last stretch of the school year. A time when new learning is consolidated, areas of challenge revisited and student inquiry ignited. We appreciate your support in ensuring that students attend regularly, arriving on time for the start of the instructional day.



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**Twitter:** @MaryHopkinsPS  
**Website:** [Mary Hopkins Elementary School \(hwdsb.on.ca\)](http://MaryHopkinsElementarySchool(hwdsb.on.ca))

## April Showers

Spring weather comes with its own challenges at school. We recognize the benefits that daily exercise, fresh air and the opportunity to socialize with peers has on student well being, engagement and learning. Please note that students will go outside for recess, DPA, entry and dismissal even in light drizzle. We will remain indoors during inclement weather (e.g., active thunderstorm, heavy rain, extreme temperatures, etc.) Parents, please remind your children to wear boots on rainy or muddy days and have a pair of indoor shoes, if possible. Just like at home, we do not want outdoor shoes tracking in mud. Please remember to label your children's items for easy identification. Students are encouraged to check our Lost and Found for any missing/lost items.

## Author Visits at Mary Hopkins

We are very fortunate to have 3 different local authors come to visit Mary Hopkins School this spring! Nicole de Nobriga visited our FDKs on March 22, Jennifer Mook-Sang visited our Grade 1's and 2's on March 28, and Sylvia McNicoll will be presenting to Grades 3-5 on April 15th. Each author has shared their passion for writing, described the process of going from an idea to a published book, and answered questions that the students had about being an author. It was so wonderful to see the children meet these authors in person and become inspired knowing that what is in their imaginations could be published in books one day!



## Popcorn Days

Popcorn Days are returning to Mary Hopkins for the month of May! Our popcorn days were a huge success earlier this year and funds raised assist us in bringing exciting learning opportunities to students. All purchases must be made through School Cash Online by May 2<sup>nd</sup>; choice of Butter & Salt, White Cheddar, and NEW this Spring...Sweet & Salty. Thank you for your support and generosity!

## X Movement

We are so excited to welcome the team from X Movement to Mary Hopkins, May 6-10th, as part of our 2024 Education Week celebrations. X Movement has delivered programs to over 1.5M children worldwide with a unique approach that merges physical activity, mindfulness, and social-emotional learning in an experiential learning journey. Throughout the week, all students K-Gr5 will have the opportunity to participate in 2-3 engaging sessions with their teachers and X Movement leaders. For additional details, please visit School Cash Online. Associated costs are graciously subsidized by our School Council.



## Kindergarten Registration Continues

Children born in 2020 or 2019 who are not currently registered at school are now eligible to register for JK (2020) or SK (2021). Registration is online but if you need assistance, please contact the school at 905 689 7905. Please visit <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/kindergarten/> for more details and online registration information. Register early so you will receive information about our Kindergarten Orientation this spring!

## Visitors to Mary Hopkins

Throughout the instructional day, access to our building is limited to students and staff of the HWDSB. To assist us in ensuring the safety of all:

- Enter through the front door only, unless specified (i.e., presentation in our gymnasium)
- Make sure to buzz the office before entering, as doors are locked
- Report to the office and sign in
- Have a classroom visit pre-arranged with the teacher, school educator or staff, typically outside of instructional time
- Not enter the hallways or classrooms without prior authorization
- Not allow others to catch the entry door to avoid the risk of students/adults not checking in at the office

## Daily Attendance Reminders

If your child is going to be absent, needs to be picked up early, or will be coming into school late, please make sure to record that information in Safe Arrival. There are multiple ways families can access Safe Arrival, for details, please see: <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/secondary/supports/safearrival/>

Planned absences can be put in as far in advance as you are able. Same day absences, however, need to be put in the system by 10 a.m. for the system to pick them up.

Please note, while office and school staff do our best to call down children for early pick up, at times this can take some time for the student to actually arrive at the front door. Please also note that early pick ups result in the disruption of learning to your child and to the other students in the class, particularly the 3:00 to 3:30 pick-ups. Please consider these factors when determining when/if to pick your child up early.

## April School Council Meeting

Our next School Council meeting is scheduled for **Thursday April 25<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m.** This month's meeting will be held solely on Microsoft TEAMS (link to follow). Our meetings are open to all and new faces are always welcome.

## Looking Forward:

Apr 9 Eid al Fitr begins at sundown  
Apr 15 Gr3-5 Author Visit  
Apr 16 Lifetouch Spring Picture Day  
BARC Workshops (1A, 1B, 1C, 2A)  
Apr 22 Earth Day (wear blue and/or green)  
Apr 24 Jump Rope for Heart Kick-off Assemblies  
Go for Grains Presentation (Gr3 classes)  
Apr 25 School Council Virtual Meeting

### SAVE THE DATE

May 6-10	HWDSB Education Week
May 9	Open House 5:30pm – 7:30pm
May 20	Victoria Day (School Closed)
May 23	Welcome to Kindergarten 6:00pm – 7:30pm
June 13	Mary Hopkins Inaugural Spring Fling <i>Present by School Council</i>
June 25	Celebrating Student Success <i>(am) Grade 5</i> <i>(pm) Grade 4</i>