



Mount Albion Monthly Newsletter

www.schools.hwdsb.on.ca/mountalbion

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From the Principal's Desk:

The Groundhog told us we are to hang tight, as we will be facing a longer winter than we've been accustomed to in Hamilton!! We just want to remind our students to dress appropriately for outdoor play. Hats, mittens, boots are essential for warmth in addition to winter coats and snow pants. On days that temperatures drop below minus 15 degrees, or minus 20 degrees with the windchill, the children will stay indoors. We certainly have been challenged with icy conditions this year as well, so please walk carefully in our parking lot and on sidewalks. We try to get salting looked after in a timely fashion but a shortage of salt has sometimes limited the amount that we receive at the school! Proper footwear certainly helps! And finally, I feel it is important to review the following information that has previously been shared:

Lower parking lot: Parents are to park in designated parking spots only. If the lot is full, please exit and find a spot on the street. For parents of Kindergarteners, you may stop briefly along the back fence line only to pass your children through the gate to waiting staff who are on supervision duty at 8:25 a.m., or at 3:00 p.m. However – do not “park” and then leave your vehicle in this area. This is a brief stopping zone only. At all times, if you are creating a barrier/blocking traffic in this area, please move your car to another area. Drive with care at all times. At the end of the day, please get out of your vehicle and meet your children on the school playground. Never ask your child to navigate the traffic in the parking lot on their own. Thanks!

PLEASE BE ADVISED: The paved black top area that can be accessed through the second laneway into the school, that you see just in front of the Kindergarten windows is NOT a parking area – and is out of bounds to vehicles. It is also one of our Fire Safety zones, and you could be ticketed if you use this area. This is a walking and standing path for our students. If a staff member asks you to move, please respect the request. We must remember that this is for the safety of our students.

Upper driveway and “Kiss and Drop” zone: THANK-YOU to all parents who have patiently worked with the school team as we learn how to properly use this drive-by area for cars and buses – sharing the space! I thank those of you who have been courteous and understanding when staff members have waved you on to pull up to the indented drop zone – rather than stopping in the middle of the driving lane! It has been fun to be out there waving good-morning to you, and we appreciate your efforts to figure this area out (without the signs and painting that will be put into place in the spring!) To drop your children off in any area other than the drop-off zone puts them at risk for injury. So as a reminder, please remember to go “around the bend” to the drop-off area, pulling ahead so that other cars can pull in as well. Please avoid “lining up and waiting” for that first spot – as this blocks buses and other cars trying to exit. Instead, please pull up to the first available opening. Remind your children to exit the cars from the passenger side onto the sidewalk. At the end of the day – when picking up your child, this area will “fill up” around 3:00. If you arrive and there are no more spots to pull into, simply head out, wait a few minutes, on the street, and then re-enter, as spots open up quickly. Do not block the bus lanes!

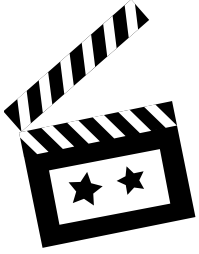
The upper parking lot is available to parents “mid-day” only – between the hours of 9:00 a.m., and 2:30 p.m. This parking lot is out of bounds for morning or after school drop-off/pick-up.

I thank you so much for your understanding of all these “rules and regulations”. Please know that everything has been considered very carefully and has been designed with one thing in mind: the safety of our students and parents/staff walking on the property.

SAFE and SECURE ACCESS:

As you are aware, the new Safe Schools protocol for secure access to our schools is now operational at our new front door. All entry doors to the school are open in the morning until 8:50 a.m., (which is 10 minutes after the start of the instructional day). Students and parents arriving late will now need to head up to the front doors and ring the buzzer. The office administrator will admit you. You can drop your child at the office, and we will then ensure they safely get to their classroom. School staff members have been advised not to leave their classrooms to open up other doors for you. This is for the safety of our children. Arriving at school on time in the morning will ensure easier access for your children at the beginning of the day. If you are picking your child up mid-day for an appointment, or to take them home early, you are now requested to come into the office and sign your child out.

THANK-YOU.



SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

“Thank you to all the parents and students who supported our first Hot Dog day. The School council raised \$214. We are thinking of making this a monthly event. The next Hot Dog Day will be Feb. 21st.

We are planning another fun filled movie night, on the 20th of March. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be on sale, as well as snacks and drinks. Supper and a movie, mark it in your calendar, it is sure to be a great night! More details to follow.

Please mark your calendars now for an exciting parent night! Nationally renowned math educator and author Marian Small will be at Mount Albion on the evening of April 3rd to present a workshop to help parents understand and navigate math education today! A movie and child-care will be provided for your children so that you can attend this informative and motivating workshop for parents! More details to follow – but save the date now!

REPORT CARDS:

Report cards will be sent home on Thursday, February 13th. Please take some time to review these with your child(ren). Please feel free to set up an interview if you have any concerns or questions! Please complete the parent page, and return it to the school in the envelope provided.



STRANGER DANGER!

As parents and educators, we know the importance of teaching our children ways to stay safe, and never go to a stranger. I just want to put out a friendly reminder to all of our parents to review with your child(ren) about never getting into a vehicle if they do not know the driver. And as drivers out there, even when you are doing a kind deed in this frigid weather by offering a ride to child, please remember that you might in fact be confusing or startling them, since they are only doing what they have been taught – “don’t get into a car with a stranger”! It takes a community to raise a child.



Kindergarten Registration 2014

We are now accepting registrations for Kindergarten for September 2014. If your child will be four years of age or older by December 31 of this year, you may enrol your child for attendance this September for Jr. Kindergarten. If your child will be five years of age or older by December 31 of this year, you may enrol your child for attendance this September for Sr. Kindergarten. Our programs run full days, 5 days per week.

You may register by either picking up a registration form from the school between 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. or by downloading a registration form www.hwdsb.on.ca/schools/kindergarten. Once your form is completed, please contact the school (905) 560-0908 to arrange a time to drop off your registration. Along with your completed registration form you will need to bring in the following documents:

- Proof of current address (i.e. – Driver’s Licence, utility bill)
- Birth Certificate
- Health Card

MS. BACA – CLASS 1/2 FROSTY THE SNOWMAN READ ALOUD

After a 'Frosty the Snowman' read aloud, this is what two students in Gr. 1 wrote as response letters to Frosty.



Jan. 14, 2014

Dear Frosty,

I really liked your book. It had many rhyming words. How did the hat have magic? How are you? Did you make the book? It was really funny. I hope you like my letter.

From,
Urja

Tues. Jan.14, 2014

Dear Frosty,

You are a funny snowman. I liked your story. Where did the kids find your hat? I like it when you have fun.

From,
Rose

ME TO WE Team Gets Grant to Improve our Library

Mount Albion has been given 'Speak Up' grant money from the Ministry of Education to help make our library even better! This money will go towards purchasing items that will make visiting the library even more exciting! All the students in the school were able to brainstorm ideas such as new seating, new shelves, an aquarium, etc. in hopes that their 'dream library item' may appear.



We would like to continue to find new seating for our library and we thought that we could ask the community to help! If anyone has and is willing to



donate a gently-used rocking chair, we would love to accept your donation. Please contact the school. We can't wait for the new additions!

Written by: Tristy Przybysz, Tristyn O'Neill
and Nicki Reid ☺

Upcoming Dates:

Feb. 13 - **Reports go home**

Feb. 14 - **Valentine's Dance**
Gr. 6-8 @ 1:30 p.m.

Feb. 17 - **Family Day Holiday**

Feb. 19 - **Spirit Day**
Wear your Favorite Jersey

Feb. 21 - **Hot Dog Day**

Feb. 27 - **Gr. 6-8 Ski Trip to Chicopee**
Depart school 7:30 a.m. and
approx. time back at school
4:00-4:30 p.m.

Feb. 28 - **Immunizations**
Gr. 7-8 – 2nd dose

Mar. 6 - **Mount Albion Winter Fun Day**
- **School Council @ 6:30 p.m.**

Mar. 7 - **Unpaid Day – Elem. Teachers**
No school for students.

Mar. 10 - 14 (inclusive) - March Break ☺