



Mount Albion Elementary School

NEWSLETTER

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Follow us on Twitter (@mountalbion)

Principal - A. Giardino

Vice-Principal - L. van der Put

Office Administrator - L. Quinn

Office Assistants - A. Fracassi and A. Morrison

Superintendent of Student Achievement—E. Jones

School Trustee - C. Galindo

FEBRUARY 2021 — PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Mount Albion Families,

We continue to navigate distance learning for our students during our province's lockdown and I would like to begin this newsletter by thanking you for your patience as we work through issues with technology, connectivity and engaging with our students. We recognize how difficult these times are for our families and we appreciate how difficult these times are for many of our staff and students.

As you may be aware, **our schools will be reopening on February 8th**. Students who are moving to remote school will be contacted by their new teachers next week. If your child is returning to in person learning, more information will be shared with you in the coming weeks.

Report cards are being prepared by our teachers this month. Parents will be able to access electronic versions of student report cards through School Messenger on February 19th. Please ensure that you have signed up for School Messenger in order to access the report cards. Printed and signed copies of the Report Cards will be sent home to parents early in March. Teachers will use assessment data prior to our Winter Break as well as some assessment data that has been gathered during our remote learning sessions.

I am happy to announce that our South Addition of ten classrooms is complete. We will be moving some of our classes into the new addition over the next few weeks. For the time being we will need to keep some classes in portables. It is my hope that by the end of June, we will be able to move almost all classes into our main building. Information about further moves will be communicated to you in a timely manner. In order to continue work on our North Addition (our new gymnasium and our Child Care Centre), we will need to temporarily relocate the three kindergarten classes on the lower floor of the school. Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Cook and Mrs. Fair, along with Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Fielding and Mrs. Flis will be moving into classrooms on the main floor of our school until the end of June. This will allow for our contractors to safely continue their work connecting our new build to the existing areas on the lower floor. We will still have access to the FDK play area adjacent to the parking lot and parents will still be able to drop off their children in that area each morning. Pick up location information will be sent out by our individual FDK teams.

Looking forward to seeing our students back in our building on Monday!

Sincerely,

Mrs. A. Giardino, Principal



From the Vice Principal

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S MENTAL WELL-BEING DURING COVID-19

- **Stay calm.** Children look to us for how to respond to stressful situations. Remember that when you are calm, you help your child to remain calm. If you are feeling overwhelmed or extremely worried, you too might need some additional support. Think about ways to manage your stress.
- **Keep it simple.** The COVID-19 situation can feel overwhelming and complex. Information has been coming quickly. Break it down for your child/youth by focussing on what is most important to them. For example, explaining that cancellations are happening to help keep them and others in the community safe, telling them that by washing their hands regularly they are helping everyone, etc.
- **Listen.** Let your child express how they are feeling by validating their emotions and helping label them i.e. "I can see you're feeling worried" or "it is okay to feel angry that you can't go to your friends house today." Some children might not know the words to identify their different feelings and so you can help them by saying "I wonder if you might be feeling worried, or sad?" and, "what might help you feel better?"
- **Keep information age-appropriate.** Answer their questions as factually as possible but keep responses age-appropriate. Balance the facts with reassurance. Your child needs to know that they, and you, are safe.
- **Limit exposure.** Avoid listening/watching news coverage or having adult conversations with young children around. Encourage older children to be aware of their social media use and to take breaks. Help them sorting rumours from facts.
- **Try to establish a flexible routine for your child.** This might include a regular, but relaxed, time for waking and sleeping, and perhaps for meals and snacks. Playing and talking together can help everyone to feel more relaxed.
- **Be patient and understanding.** You may notice behaviour changes in your child. Children react differently to changes in routine and stress. They may become frustrated or more emotional, or engage in things they did at a much younger age. Your child may just need more reassurance and calm during this time.

Please continue to check the HWDSB website regularly for information pertaining to school opening, protocols and learning.

www.hwdsb.on.ca



SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

Greetings Mount Albion Families,

We hope everyone is keeping well.

Parent council met virtually on Jan 21, 2021 and while we are not physically at the school, there are many exciting things underway at Mount Albion. Remote learning continues and both staff and students have shown great resilience and perseverance in the face of these uncertain times.

The construction project is ongoing with many exciting things to report. The new classrooms have been completed and teachers are working to relocate into the new rooms at the school. We hope to have students returning to school soon and moving directly into our new learning spaces. Work continues at the front of the school on the new school gymnasium and the walls have begun to take shape.

Our next virtual council meeting will take place on February 18, 2021 at 6:30pm. If you would like to join please email mountalbionsc@hwdsb.on.ca to request a meeting link. We wish you a fabulous Family Day and hope to see everyone for in person learning soon.

Warmest regards,

Melissa Smith,
School Council Chair



Thank you to all the workers who come to our school every day and work in the cold!

We are excited about the changes you are making and look forward to our new rooms!



Learn. Disrupt. Rebuild.

@HWDSB

Learn: "Who I am is important for my wellbeing and learning."

Disrupt: "I notice and name things that are unfair for myself and others."

Rebuild: "I am an ally in progress. I work to create a safe and fair learning experience for everyone."

Information about HWDSB's culturally-responsive-equity-diversity-inclusion curriculum will be shared in upcoming School Council meetings.

Kindergarten Registration

for September 2021 is now open!

Kindergarten is a full day two year program for 4 and 5 year old's.

All public Kindergarten documents for families can be found at

www.hwdsb.on.ca/kindergarten

To our families and neighbours

Please remember that our school grounds are not open to the public during school hours. Dogs are not allowed on school property even if on a leash.
Thank you!



What's special about February?

It is the shortest month of the year with exactly 4 weeks or 28 days.

February and March are month twins! - The dates are the same for the days of the week in both months (unless it is a Leap Year)

It is Black History month.

It is the only month that can pass without a full moon.

We celebrate Family Day!

HERE'S THE IMPACT OF READING 20 MINUTES PER DAY!

A student who reads

20:00

minutes per day

will be exposed to
1.8 MILLION
words per year
and is more likely
to score in the
90th PERCENTILE
on standardized tests

A student who reads

5:00

minutes per day

will be exposed to
282,000
words per year
and is more likely
to score in the
50th PERCENTILE
on standardized tests

A student who reads

1:00

minute per day

will be exposed to
8,000
words per year
and is more likely
to score in the
10th PERCENTILE
on standardized tests

Source: Nagy, Anderson and Herman, 1987

 SCHOLASTIC

If you read just **one** book
a day to your child, they will
have been read **1825** books
by their 5th birthday.

Every Day Counts.

Every Book Counts.

**WE ARE
TEACHERS**

NO SMOKING PLEASE



Just a reminder that smoking is not permitted anywhere on School or Board property at any time of the day or night. This by-law applies to staff, students, visitors and parents. It also includes the interior of your vehicle. The parking lot is considered school property according to the by-law. We want to maintain a smoke-free environment to keep our students healthy.

Is your child leaving

early for an appointment?

Please remember to record this information in School

Messenger/Safe Arrivals and to tell your child about the appointment.



SUPPORTING WELL-BEING DURING COVID 19

SELF-CARE AND COPING FOR ADULTS

- **Remember, you are a role model for your children. How you handle this stressful situation can affect how your children manage their worries.**
- **Modify your daily activities to meet the current reality of the situation and focus on what you can accomplish.**
- **Shift expectations and priorities to focus more on what gives you meaning, purpose, or fulfillment.**
- **Give yourself small breaks from the stress of the situation**
- **Try to control self-defeating statements and replace them with more helpful thoughts.**

HWDSB



French Immersion Application

HWDSB uses an application process for entry into French Immersion for children born in 2015.

A Grade 1 system-wide application process for entry to French Immersion allows for program placement of students, monitoring of accommodations, balance of enrolment, and long-term stability of the French Immersion program.

We guarantee an offer of placement within the French Immersion program to all applicants – not necessarily the neighbourhood school.

Please take note of the important dates:

Monday, November 30, 2020	Application process opens for Senior Kindergarten students
Sunday, January 24, 2021	Deadline for applications
Friday, February 26, 2021	Program location offered to Parent/Guardian
Friday, March 12, 2021	Deadline for program acceptance

Please note: Families with an older sibling currently in French Immersion are still required to complete an online application for the new student.

Further information about French Immersion, the application process and the online application is available at: www.hwdsb.on.ca/fi

curiosity.

creativity.

possibility.

HWDSB

Our grade 1 teacher Mrs. Bujara, received the following letter from the Terry Fox Foundation:



Dear Mrs. Bujara,

We are proud to announce that Mount Albion Public School's Terry Fox School Run collected \$260.00 for cancer research!

The Terry Fox Foundation extends their heartfelt thanks for your generosity and support in this very challenging year. Terry's message of hope lives on and remains strong! If you didn't get a chance to donate, our school donation link is still

open: [http://www.terryfox.ca/
MountAlbionPSSStoneyCreek](http://www.terryfox.ca/MountAlbionPSSStoneyCreek) #tryliketerry

Thank you for your commitment to continue Terry's legacy.

Stay safe,
Lisa, Hilary, Nishi, Katie, Wendy

HWDSB

Covid Symptom Checklist



sore throat



cough



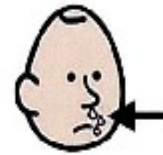
fever



nausea or vomit



headache



runny nose or
congestion



tired



muscle ache



diarrhea



loss of smell



loss of taste



FEBRUARY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 (2)	2 (3)	3 (4)	4 (5)	5 (1)	6
7	8 (2) <i>In School Learning Resumes</i>	9 (3)	10 (4)	11 (5)	12 (1)	13
14	15 (2)  <i>FAMILY DAY - NO SCHOOL</i>	16 (3)	17 (4)	18 (5) <i>School Council meets 6:30 pm</i>	19 (1) <i>Term 1 Report Cards sent home</i>	20
21	22 (1)	23 (2)	24 (3)	25 (4)	26 (5) <i>Tie Dye/ Neon Spirit Day</i>	27
28						