



Mount Albion Elementary School

NEWSLETTER

24 Kennard Street, Stoney Creek L8J 2E5 905-560-0908

mountalbion@hwdsb.on.ca

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

SUMMER 2021 — PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Mount Albion Families,

As we approach the final days of this school year, I would like to take some time to thank you for your ongoing support. It has been a challenging year for our students and families. We have transitioned in and out of school several times and this has been difficult for all of us. I am proud of the way our staff and students have handled the many challenges this year and I know that September will bring us a new normal in our schools.

I would like to take some time to wish the staff who are leaving us the best of luck as they move on to new schools. This month we say farewell to the following teachers: Mr. Corey Ellis, Miss Brewer, Miss Carter, Mrs. McColman, Miss Blackley, Mr. Hines, Mr. Breceovich, Mrs. Ranjith and Mr. Bob Ellis who has been part of the Mount Albion team for over twenty years! We also say farewell to Miss A. Morrison who has supported our front office all year. We wish her all the best!

We also say farewell to Mr. Duffy who is retiring at the end of this month. I know that our Mount Albion School community will miss Mr. Duffy's energy and friendly greetings every morning during his bus duty! He has been an integral part of our school community for several years and we wish him the best of luck in his retirement!

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Our Vice Principal, Mrs. van der Put is also moving on at the end of this month. Mrs. van der Put arrived at Mount Albion in January during our school closure period and has worked with staff and students during our difficult transitions this year. Mrs. van der Put will be missed by many at Mount Albion. Shannen Koostachin School is very fortunate to have her full-time next year!

We welcome Mrs. Del Mastro as our new Vice Principal in September. Mrs. Del Mastro is coming to us from South Meadow School and will be shared with Billy Green School. I am sure you will have the opportunity to meet Mrs. Del Mastro in September! We also welcome some new teachers to our staff. We welcome Mrs. B. Kauth to our grade 5 class, Mr. A. Mlekuz and Mrs. R. Rock to grade 7, Mrs. C. Ogden to our SIDD class, Ms. A. Forbeck as our new ESL teacher and Ms. J. Silva as a new Educational Assistant to our team.

Report cards will be available to families after June 28th. Please make sure that your updated email address is available to the school so that you may access the report cards. Monday and Tuesday are designated as pick up days for student belongings and days to return borrowed electronic devices. All iPads, charge blocks and cables must be returned to the school on these days.

Please connect with your child's teacher for the scheduled time allotted to your child's class. Families will only be permitted to pick up during their scheduled time. Public Health protocols must be followed. Please wear masks when on school property and ensure that you are social distancing.

The first day of school for students is **Wednesday, September 8th, 2021**. Please refer to the school calendar attached to this newsletter for school holidays. FDK teachers will connect with families about Kindergarten visits before the Labour Day weekend.

I hope that you all have a safe and restful summer. Enjoy the warm weather - spend time outdoors. We look forward to having our students return to school in September. Our major construction project will be completed and our school will look amazing!

Sincerely,

Mrs. A. Giardino Principal

From our Vice Principals

Hello!

I am Mrs. Del Mastro and I am thrilled to be joining you in September as Vice Principal. Currently, I am in the Vice Principal role at the new South Meadow Elementary school and assisted with the merger of Mountain View and Memorial school communities this year.

I look forward to getting to know everyone and getting past the many restrictions and difficulties brought on by the pandemic. Together we will endeavour to make 2021-22 the best possible year for your child, and look forward to restarting many of the activities and events that couldn't take place over the last eighteen months. As always, we are here to make the school a safe and positive learning environment!

Please enjoy the summer months and I will see you in September.

Kind Regards,

Mrs. Del Mastro

To the wonderful Mount Albion Community,

What a marvelous, short ride this has been, my 6-month tenure as part-time Vice Principal of Mount Albion. I joined Mount Albion January 5 when most of our staff and students were still working online. I think many of you would agree with me when I say, things got much better when we were all able to resume in-class learning in February. Many students I spoke to said that after spending so much time at home learning online, made them realize just how much they missed the connection they feel when they are actually with their peers and the many caring adults in our building. Isn't that what school and life is all about? It's about feeling welcome and finding your place in a supportive community. It's about being able to show up as yourself, and being accepted for who you are. Many staff and students began to unpack the lessons in the *HWDSB Learn. Disrupt. Rebuild* resource and explored concepts of building a community of care, identity and race, diverse families and gender affirming pronouns to name a few.



I wish to thank the many parents/guardians, students and staff who welcomed me into the Mount Albion community of care. I am grateful for having made connections with students whether it was having a brief conversation about what they were learning, sharing a laugh about a silly joke or riddle or having a reflective chat about a poor choice made and how to make things right moving forward. Thanks also to our hard-working families who persevered as they did the 'Pivot Dance' with teachers and students shifting from online to in-school learning to online to in-school to online to.....And how about our team of dedicated teachers, educational assistants, early childhood educators, office staff and custodians? It has been a pleasure learning with you as we adjusted to the new working realities brought on by the pandemic. It has been great getting to know each and every one of you. Last but not least, I wish to acknowledge just how much I appreciate Principal Giardino. Her ability to show up daily with a smile on her face and deal with the usual tasks of a school administrator in addition to overseeing the complex renovation projects underway, is truly remarkable! Thank you for helping me to fine tune my relatively newly acquired administrator skills. I am energized to have worked alongside an administrator who has the ability to centre her decisions with her kind heart. So it's off to Shannen Koostachin for me in September. Before my last day in June, I will do my very best to transition your new part-time Vice Principal, Mrs. Sherry Del Mastro into her role beginning September 2021.

Farewell (not good bye!) *Ms. Louise van der Put*

Hello Mount Albion Families,

Just like that another year at Mount Albion is coming to a close. Thank you to all staff and parents who worked so hard to engage our children and make the best of the situation we faced.

Parent council supported our students this year through the student snack program, supplies for various school spirit events, literacy, French and technology and commemorating our grade 8 graduates. No school fundraising was permitted this year but we were able to support the school due to the hard work in fundraising that took place last year.



We had a Nintendo Switch game console to be used as a prize from last year for a fundraising event which was unable to take place. Our parent council stepped up and graciously donated the Nintendo Switch to McMaster Sick Kids Children's Hospital on behalf of Mount Albion School. The hospital was thankful for the donation and appreciated the kind gesture!

Thank you to all families for your support this year and we wish you all a safe and happy summer. We look forward to seeing everyone again in September.

Thank you,

Melissa Smith

Melissa Smith
Parent Council Chair





This artwork is by Calum, a 10 year old patient who creates art using only his eyes to control brush strokes on a computer

May 28, 2021

Dear Mount Albion Parent Council,

On behalf of the patients, families and staff at McMaster Children's Hospital, we want to thank you so much for your donation of a Nintendo Switch. Your generosity is appreciated as we rely heavily on donations to be able to provide our patients with an enhanced hospital experience.

This past year has been challenging for everyone whether you were at home or going into work every day, balancing at-home school, life or career changes, or learning how to love staying at home. It is especially difficult for hospitalized families. They are living through a world pandemic while also navigating their child's hospitalization. We are so grateful that despite everything you may be going through, you thought about our families and offered your generous support.

Thank you for helping to provide our patients with a positive experience in the hospital.

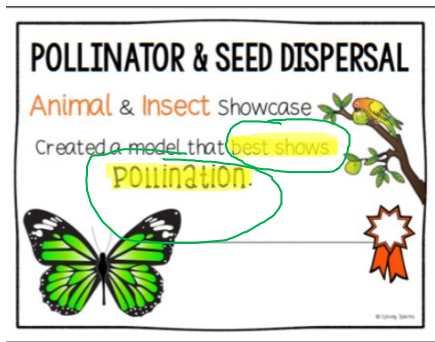
Sincerely,

Tracy Akitt
Clinical Leader of Child Life
McMaster Children's Hospital
Hamilton Health Sciences
akitt@hhsc.ca



Class 1B learns about Pollinators

Watch our PowerPoint presentation!



We are looking for...

- something big enough to see
- the correct body parts
- something that shows effort



We are looking for...

- something from imagination
- different colours
- different materials
- something that shows effort

Ms. Bujara's class 1B recently had two guest speakers talk to the students about pollinators and their effect on the environment. Students had the task of creating a pollinator to go in a "museum" to teach other people. They had to include how the pollinator moves (to pollinate other flowers) and where the pollen is stored.

To view the Power Point presentation, please click on the [Pollinator Museum pdf](#) under Newsletters on the Mount Albion website. You will be able to see the student's work. Nicely done class 1B!

The school calendar for next year
can be found on the main page of the HWDSB website
www.hwdsb.on.ca

****School begins****

Wednesday, September 8, 2021

At our new bell time

9:15 a.m.

SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!

