

Dear Mount Hope Parents/Caregivers,

With the warmer weather and longer daylight hours, it has been nice to welcome Spring like temperatures in the month of May! To start off the month we welcomed our new Character trait of Acceptance to our students for character development over the coming weeks. The month of May begins with Education Week and Mental Health awareness to help our students appreciate the love for learning and develop their skills on understanding concepts that relate to mental health & well-being. Teachers have been provided with resources to support their programming in these areas. To support the love of reading all classes from FDK to Grade 8 will take part in an outdoor story time trail that will be guided by homeroom teachers. Students will have the opportunity to draw themes and connections from the story trail that will help develop their skills as readers and promote the joy of reading.

We also are looking forward to Mount Hope Gr. 3-8 Track & Field event that will take place on Tuesday May 10th in our back field with 8 different events for students to work through throughout the day. We thank our Phys. Ed team of educators, parent & student volunteers for their support to run our school wide event. Please remind your child to dress appropriately, have their water bottles to hydrate and sunscreen to protect them while spending the day outdoors.

As we prepare for year end, we do want to share that the Provincial wide EQAO assessment for our Grade 3 & 6 students will be taking place this year. Our Grade 3 students will be writing the assessment during the week of May 24th – May 29th, and our Grade 6 students will be writing the assessment the week to follow from May 30th – June 2nd. Parent letters were sent home to all of our Grade 3 & 6 families on Monday May 2nd with information regarding the assessment. Parents, we ask that you do your best to schedule appointments outside of the assessment writing days for your child to have the opportunity to complete all sections of the assessment. Ensuring your child has a good night's rest and is fuel up for the day with their water bottle will help them maintain their focus & concentration for the assessments that will take place daily in their classroom.

We are pleased to announce our Big Box of Cards fundraiser success to support our technology vision at Mount Hope! Thanks to all of our families, Mount Hope sold over 300 boxes of cards to the community with us fundraising over \$3 000 to equip our classroom environments with technology that will promote unique ways of learning. We had student draws for \$25 gift cards to honour those students who participated in the fundraiser, sold 3 or more boxes and Ms. Gater's 1/2 class earned a pizza party for the class selling the most boxes! A big thank you to our Parent Council for leading the fundraiser, its organization and for supporting our school initiative! As a result of the fundraiser, we have been able to purchase I-Pads & accessories in the classroom that support learning through technology.

It is great to see the technology & accessories being used in the classrooms to engage & provide students with the skills they require for their future! School Council has also been integral in supporting our School Annual Plan by offering to support resources in the classroom in the areas of Literacy, Numeracy or Mental Emotional Well Being. We have been fortunate to

provide our Primary classes with classroom libraries, math manipulatives and read alouds that educate students about diversity, equity & well-being.

We also have some staffing updates to share at Mount Hope. We have welcomed Ms. Trajkovska, Ms. Nahimana and Ms. Patterson as our Educational Assistants supporting our school team. Ms. Ahtisham our occasional teacher for Class 4/5, Ms. Tancredi teaching middle school music along with Mr. Waterhouse as our occasional teacher in Class 5A have all been welcomed to the Mount Hope School community. Our head custodian Mr. Dambrosio has transitioned to Mount Hope and is getting to know our school plant and daily routines.

On behalf of everyone at Mount Hope we hope you enjoy the upcoming long weekend in May, spending time outdoors enjoying the Victoria Day holiday.

Sincerely, *Ms. Radojevic - Principal*