

HAZEL M. KELLINGTON SCHOOL

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Newsletter #3

Dear Parents

November 2nd, 2017

Although Halloween was a cool evening, everyone out and about seemed to be having lots of fun! As we head into November, our thoughts now look ahead to Remembrance Day and the upcoming report cards. Teachers are currently busy assessing students' learning from the first term, and will soon be writing report cards in preparation for parent teacher conferences on November 29th and 30th. In approximately a week and a half, you will receive a sheet on which you will indicate your preferred conference times. It is extremely important that the sheet come back right away, as teachers will need time to schedule interviews in such a way as to accommodate as many people as possible. Once you receive your confirmed conference time, please make note of the start time and end time, as interviews need to stay on time – for everyone's sake. If you feel you need more time, please talk to your child's teacher about arranging another time to meet, so the parents following you are able to maintain their scheduled times.

One of our goals at HMK is to promote inclusion for all. One idea that we are going to implement is to create an easier way for families to communicate with each other outside of school. You will soon receive a letter from the school discussing our "HMK Phonebook" initiative. It will look a little different for the younger students (K-2) than it will for the older students (gr 3-5), but the idea is the same for all. For those who choose to participate, we are going to facilitate sharing contact information. When you see the letter, please be sure to read it carefully, and if you have any questions, please contact the school. There is a slip to return indicating whether or not you would like to participate in this initiative, and we would like these slips back as soon as possible. If you have any additional ideas to promote communication, or inclusion, please be sure to drop by the school to share them with us!

As parents, it is sometimes uncomfortable knowing what to do when we see children we do not know who are misbehaving outside of school hours. If you find yourself in this situation, we ask that you give a gentle reminder to the child or children in question. Something as simple as "Would your teacher/parent allow you to do that?" might be all it takes. Another line that often helps children make good choices – especially around the school – is "I'm going to check with Mr. Hanke or Mr. Freeman to see if this is OK." The saying "It takes a village to raise a child" is one that we believe in, and hope that all adults will continue to interact with children in a positive way in helping them to make good choices!

We are excited that our noon skating program will be starting again in November. This program provides an opportunity for kids to skate during their lunch hour once per week. A letter will be coming out shortly with more information, including how you can have your child borrow skates and/or a helmet for the year. This year's schedule will have grades 4 and 5 skate Wednesdays from 11:40-12:40; Gr 1 will skate Wednesdays from 12:10 – 1:10; and grades 2 and 3 will skate Thursdays from 12:10-1:10. Kindergarten kids will skate from 12:10-1:10 on either Wednesday or Thursday (whichever day they come that week). We are looking forward to another fun year of noon skating!

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday, Nov 3 rd	Two grade 5 classes to Country Meadows
Tuesday, Nov 7 th	Grade 1 Parent Meeting at 6:30 in Ms. Taylor's room
Friday, Nov 10 th	Remembrance Day service at 11:00
Monday, Nov 13 th	Lifetouch Picture retake day Parent Teacher sign-up sheets sent home
Tuesday, Nov 14 th	Pickup for Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes
Wednesday, Nov 15 th	Noon skating begins for K-gr 1, and gr 4-5 (Wednesdays until March)
Thursday, Nov 16 th	Noon skating begins for K, gr 2-3 (Thursdays until March) Parent Teacher sign-up sheets due back Two grade 5 classes to Country Meadows
Friday Nov 17 th	NO CLASSES – Teacher Professional Development / Administration Day
Tuesday, Nov 21 st	Parent Council Meeting at 7:00 pm in HMK staff room
Tuesday, Nov 28 th	Report cards sent home
Nov 29 th & 30 th	Parent teacher conferences 4:30 – 6:30
Friday, Dec 1 st	NO CLASSES – Administration Day
Early December	HMK Clothing Order arrives at school
Dec 14 th & 15 th	Christmas Play rehearsals in gym
Dec 18 th and 19 th	Christmas Plays (daytime and evening performances)
Friday, Dec 22 nd	Last day before Christmas Holidays
Monday, Jan 8 th	School starts after Christmas Holidays (Day 3)
Friday, Jan 12 th	Hot dog days begin (Fridays until March 9 th)

FCC Drive Away Hunger

Our school participated in FCC's "Drive Away Hunger" food drive. We would like to thank everyone for their support – our school collected and donated enough food for 465 meals!!

Yard Raking

This past month our grade 5 classes all worked together to rake our neighbors' yards. This is an annual tradition that our oldest students take on each year. A big thank you to Mr. Joye, Mrs. Tomoniko, Miss Mabon, and Mrs. Boyle for being in charge of the grade 5's for this task, and also to Mr. Murray for picking up all of our bags of leaves and taking them to the compost site!

Flag Football

This fall our grade 5 students had the opportunity to participate in flag football intramurals after school. There were enough signed up that boys and girls played on different days. Everyone learned some football skills, and had lots of fun doing so! A big thank you goes out to Mr. Joye, Mrs. Douglas, and Mr. Freeman for organizing and running flag football. The next sport the grade 5's will have the chance to participate in is volleyball – keep an eye out for a sign-up sheet that will be coming home soon!



Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child is an initiative sponsored by Samaritan's Purse in which people pack shoeboxes with small gifts to be sent to children overseas who may not receive any other gifts. Our school will once again be participating in Operation Christmas Child this year. Students will be grouped together to pack a shoebox – we are NOT asking each child to fill an entire box! We ask that you encourage your child(ren) to think about what things they would like to bring to pack in the shoebox that they are part of. More specific information regarding the kinds of things to send will come out through classroom teachers, but a few things to avoid include toothpaste, anything that will freeze or melt, food or soft candy (including gum), used items, playing cards, and anything that might scare or harm a child (e.g. toy guns). Boxes will be picked up November 14th, so supplies will need to come in prior to that. Classroom teachers will let you know when to send supplies so they can be packed into boxes. Thank you for your ongoing support of this very worthwhile project. We hope that by participating in this project, kids are able to understand how lucky they are compared to children in many countries, and to let them know that they can make a difference in someone else's life!



Parent Council



This year we wanted to thank local businesses for their support towards the new playground by supporting them.

We will be doing a raffle for local prizes that have been purchased by parent council. Prizes include: a stay at Elkhorn resort, a gift basket with gift cards for local businesses, Neepawa Leisure dollars, a customized snack fridge, and VIP front row seating at the HMK Christmas concert!

Tickets will be \$5 each or 3 for \$10.

Tickets will be on sale starting November 8th. Tickets and money will have to be turned in by December 7th, with draws taking place December 13th.

Thank you in advance for your support. The money raised by Parent Council goes toward initiatives that benefit the whole school.

**Our next meeting will be November 21st at 7p.m. in the staff room.
Baby-sitters and coffee will be provided!**



REMINDER:

Please remember to check all labels before sending anything to school. With Halloween treats being plentiful, it is important to check all labels for nuts and peanuts (school wide), as well as any specific allergens that may be in your child's class (eggs, sesame, legumes, green peas, sunflower seeds, fish, seafood, etc). With so many different allergies in the school, it is important to make sure treats are given only to those who for sure do not have an allergy. Although most people want to show kindness and share their treats, we need to educate our children (and ourselves!) so that all kids remain safe! With several life threatening allergies in the school – and no way for kids to know who is allergic and who is not – it is important that we all do our part in keeping everyone safe!

Storm Days

Listen to CJ 97(Neepawa), 101 The Farm (Brandon), CKLQ (Brandon), Star 94 (Brandon), or Bob FM (96.1 Brandon) for early morning notices regarding weather advisories, bus cancellations, and/or school closings. You can also check the divisional website for updated information at:

<http://www.beautifulplainssd.ca/> .

These same stations will be notified if busses happen to be cancelled during the day.



Transportation Policy

In the case of hazardous weather, the transportation department may cancel bus transportation and the driver will notify parents. If this happens while students are in school, students will be billeted at the storm billet that was noted on the registration form, unless parents choose to pick their child(ren) up. If a family member is picking up your child, the school must be notified, so we can keep track of all students' whereabouts.

If transportation is cancelled during a school day, when there is school the next day, the bus will not make its usual morning trip, but will make the usual afternoon trip if weather permits. If transportation is cancelled on a day when there is no school the next day (i.e. Friday), individual families are responsible for arranging transportation home.

Every year there are concerns about students not being adequately dressed for winter travel. In the Beautiful Plains policy manual, it states that students are expected to be "adequately clothed to cope safely with severe seasonal weather conditions". In the event that a student persists in not being adequately dressed, transportation privileges may be denied (you can check out the actual policy (E.E.B.) at <http://www.bpsd.mb.ca/PDF/EEB-Dress.pdf>).

Students need to be prepared for the weather in the event of a stalled or stuck school bus in the middle of winter. We thank you for your ongoing cooperation.

THANKS TO:

Classroom Volunteers: Gail Wutke.

Vision Screening volunteers: Julie Boxall, Shanna Foster, Sherrie Hockin, Leslie Pearson, Cherie Thomson, Pat Fedoruk, Heidi Wohlgemuth, Monica Poettcker, and Jacqui Acree.

Sharon and Chris Kulbacki of Kulbacki Seeds for sponsoring HMK to receive a donation from Pioneer Seeds to help support making lunches for kids who need one!



Public Service



Health, Seniors and Active Living
Active Living, Population and Public Health Branch
Communicable Disease Control
4th Floor – 300 Carlton, Winnipeg MB R3B 3M9
T 204-788-6737 F 204-948-2190
Website: www.gov.mb.ca/health/

19 October 2017

Attention: Parents and Guardians

RE: Mumps Disease Prevention

As a new school year begins, illnesses, including mumps, can be spread easily between children and their families. Manitoba continues to see mumps disease circulating, with 1057 confirmed cases as of October 6, 2017. Mumps has been seen in all populations, including pre-school and school-aged children.

Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living (MHSAL) would like to ensure all parents and guardians are aware that the mumps outbreak continues, how to recognize its symptoms, how to prevent its spread and what to do if they suspect they or their child(ren) may be infected with mumps.

The mumps virus can be spread to others two to three days before the appearance of symptoms until four to five days after symptoms appear. Some people infected with mumps may not have any symptoms at all, but can still spread the virus to other people.

What are the signs and symptoms of mumps?

Mumps often starts with cold-like symptoms, including:

- swollen and tender glands at the jaw line on one or both sides of the face;
- fever; and,
- headache and muscle aches.

Although there can be rare complications from mumps, such as hearing loss and sterility, the vast majority of cases are mild, with full recovery in one to two weeks.

How is mumps spread?

Mumps is spread by direct contact with the saliva of an infected person, such as through coughing, sneezing, sharing drinks (such as water bottles, straws) or kissing.

A person with no symptoms can transmit infection. Individuals with mumps will be asked to restrict their contact with others to reduce the possible spread of mumps.

Mumps prevention

Immunization against mumps is the best way to protect yourself and others from contracting mumps and its potential complications. Mumps-containing vaccine (MMRV or MMR) is available free-of-charge to Manitobans as part of Manitoba's Routine Immunization Schedule with the following eligibility criteria:

- All children 12 months of age or older are eligible to receive two (2) doses of MMRV vaccine. Doses are offered at 12 months and 4 to 6 years of age.
- Those born during or after 1985 are eligible for two (2) doses of MMR vaccine;
- Non-immune Manitobans born between 1970 and 1984 are eligible for one (1) dose of MMR vaccine;
- Non-immune health care workers, regardless of age, are eligible for two (2) doses of MMR vaccine; and,
- Non-immune students born before 1970 are eligible for one (1) dose; students born in 1970 or later are eligible for 2 doses of MMR vaccine.

Contact your health care provider to determine if you need to be immunized against mumps.

To reduce the spread of mumps, people should:

- wash their hands often with soap and water or use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available;
- avoid sharing drinking glasses or eating utensils;
- cover coughs and sneezes with the forearm or a tissue; and,
- STAY HOME** when sick.

What to do if you think you or your child(ren) have mumps

People who think they might have mumps, or have been in close contact with someone who has been diagnosed with mumps, should phone their health care provider or Health Links - Info Santé at 204-788-8200 or 1-888-315-9257 (toll-free) for more information.

If visiting a physician or health care provider, it is best to call ahead and make an appointment so health care staff can take steps to reduce the exposure of other people to the virus.

For more information about mumps, visit the MHSAL mumps disease webpage at:

www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/diseases/mumps.html

Sincerely,

"Original Signed By"

Richard Baydack, PhD
Director, Communicable Disease Control

Richard Rusk, DVM, MD, CCFP, MPH
Medical Officer of Health, CDC

Calling out to all girls from Neepawa and surrounding areas that are grade 3 – 5 and interested in participating in an introduction to basketball! This program will introduce players to the fundamentals of basketball in a fun and exciting manner. The program will run once a week on Wednesday from 5:00 – 6:00 starting on Nov 8th till December 20th. All you need to bring is some indoor shoes, a water bottle and an interest in learning the game of basketball. For more information, contact Paul Koshel at 204-476-3084 or pkoshel@pinecreeksd.mb.ca . Hope to see you out.

Mr. Roe

Mr. Koshel



Planning ahead... Minnedosa Youth basketball camp. Grades 3-6. Free. Saturdays mid-January to late February. Contact Paul at minnedosaybc@gmail.com for more information

STUDENTS: Return this slip by Monday, November 6th signed by your parents to be eligible for newsletter draws!!

Student: _____

Parent: _____