



# HAZEL M. KELLINGTON SCHOOL

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Dear Parents

With the 1<sup>st</sup> of December upon us, one can feel a certain buzz in the air! We hope that your first official parent teacher conference of the year has been a valuable experience – one in which you, your child, and your child’s teacher were able to look at all of the progress that has been made thus far.

Although conversations between teachers and parents are welcome at any time, parent-teacher is a time that is set aside to formally check in on each student’s progress, and to discuss the next steps in your child’s learning.

Ideally, parent teacher conferences are a time to celebrate all of the great things that have happened throughout the term! We do realize, however, that there may be situations in which the desired progress has not yet been achieved. In these instances, it is still important to focus on the gains that have been made, even if they are smaller than desired. Your parent teacher conference will be an important part of planning together for your child’s next steps. In some cases, you may find that more time is needed than was originally allotted on the parent-teacher schedule. If this happens, please do not be offended if your child’s teacher reminds you that the next appointment is scheduled to start right away – with so many conferences scheduled, teachers will need to keep an eye on the clock in order to keep everyone on schedule. If more time is needed, take the last few minutes of your scheduled time to agree on when you can next meet to continue the conversation. The time that is spent talking about progress, as well as next steps, is extremely important in your child’s education!

**Parent Council fundraising raffle reminder: Please return all tickets and money by Thursday, Dec 7<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!**

This month we were pleased to roll out the HMK “phone books”. All families taking part in kindergarten – grade 2 received a paper copy containing contact information for each child taking part in that grade. Grade 3 – 5 students who are taking part have a large sticker on the inside front cover of the child’s organizer. The older children can then exchange contact information as they would like. Our hope in doing this (at all grade levels), is to make it easier for families to get in touch with each other outside of school. Whether it is for an outside of school get together, or a special occasion such as a birthday party, making contact information more accessible will hopefully make things much easier for families. With contact information now being more accessible, we are going to ask that things such as birthday party invitations be taken care of outside of school. It can be very sad for children who are not invited – and no matter how discreet someone tries to be when handing out invitations, it seems that kids often find out. We are also going to ask families not to bring in treats or food to celebrate their child’s birthday. Although we appreciate the kind gesture, we do not want to start setting a precedent that makes other families feel that they also need to send something when it is their child’s birthday. For many families this would be an excessive expense, so we do not want to have anyone feel pressured in this way. The second reason we are asking families not to send cakes or food to school is due to allergies. We have mentioned several times in the past that there are life threatening allergies to several different foods in the school. In addition to life threatening allergies, there are several non-life threatening allergies. Sending something to school is not only dangerous for these children, it is also not fair to have them sit and watch all of their classmates enjoy a treat that they are not allowed to have!

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation with these initiatives!





## Important Dates

Friday, Dec 1 <sup>st</sup>	NO CLASSES – Administration Day
Early December	HMK Clothing Order arrives at school
Wednesday, Dec 13 <sup>th</sup>	Stage set up in gym after school
Dec 14 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Play rehearsals in gym
Monday, Dec 18 <sup>th</sup>	*Cast 1: "Paint the Town December" 11:00 and 7:00 4 Pudlo "Santa's Holiday Playlist" 1:20 School performance
Tuesday, Dec 19 <sup>th</sup>	**Cast 2: "Paint the Town December" 11:00 and 7:00 4 Pudlo "Santa's Holiday Playlist" 1:00 Parent performance 2:35 School performance
Friday, Dec 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Last day before Christmas Holidays
Monday, Jan 8 <sup>th</sup>	School starts after Christmas Holidays (Day 3)
Friday, Jan 12 <sup>th</sup>	Hot dog days begin (Fridays until March 9 <sup>th</sup> )
Tuesday, Jan 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Parent Council Meeting
February	I Love to Read Month
Monday, Feb 12 <sup>th</sup>	NO CLASSES – Division wide in-service
Tuesday, Feb 13 <sup>th</sup>	MTYP performance of "The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe" at 9:30
Monday, Feb 19 <sup>th</sup>	NO SCHOOL – Louis Riel Day
Wednesday, Feb 28 <sup>th</sup>	Wear Pink to Stop Bullying Day

\*Cast 1 for "Paint the Town December" (Dec 18<sup>th</sup>):

K Brister (2,4,6), K Poncsak

Grade 1 – 3: students whose last names start with A – L

4 Farquhar and 4 Kerkowich (half of class)

\*\*Cast 2 for "Paint the Town December" (Dec 19<sup>th</sup>):

K Brister (1,3,5), K Byram

Grade 1 – 3: students whose last names start with M – Z

4 Rainka and 4 Kerkowich (other half of class)

**Christmas Play update:** Please note that for the evening performances of "Paint the Town December", the doors will open at **6:40**. We would like all of the students who are performing that night in their designated classrooms by 6:50. At the end of the play, we ask that one parent or guardian go to the designated classroom to pick up each child. This will help reduce confusion after the play - with so many people around, children can have a very hard time finding their parents if they are not picked up at the classroom!

## Chess Club

A chess club will soon be starting for grade 5 students. On Mondays during the lunch break, starting this coming Monday (December 4<sup>th</sup>), interested students will be able to sign up, learn the game of chess, and play against other students. A big thank you to Mr. Brad Mummery for offering to run the chess club and work with the grade 5 students who are interested in learning the game of chess!





## Remembrance Day

Our Remembrance Day service was held on November 10<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Freeman was in charge of the program, and did a great job making sure that everything was organized and ready to go. There were multi-media presentations, songs by the HMK choir, readings, a grade 5 musical presentation, a live bagpipe performance, and a soldier from CFB Shilo as our guest speaker. Everyone involved did an excellent job with the Remembrance Day service, demonstrating that HMK does remember.



Special thanks goes out to Pte Jonathan Storing of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion PPCLI from CFB Shilo for coming to speak to the students at our service. We would also like to thank Dawson Jakubowski for playing the bagpipes, Mrs. McCaskill for reading "Why Wear a Poppy", all of the classes who provided artwork to decorate the gym, the choir and grade 5 classes for their musical contributions, and Mr. Freeman for doing such a great job of coordinating the entire service!



## Operation Christmas Child

Our students were busy this month filling shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. This program gives groups of kids the opportunity to pack a shoe box that travels overseas to be distributed to children who may not be as fortunate as we are here. We are very proud of our students as this year they packed and sent 98 boxes!



We would like to thank the local Baptist Church for picking up and delivering our shoeboxes this year. This is such a great project that helps our children develop a sense of empathy towards others who may not be as fortunate as we are. Thank you to everyone who helped make Operation Christmas Child such a great success!





## Noon Skating

Our noon skating program has now been going for three weeks, and there has been a fantastic turnout thus far! We are still looking for a few pair of skates – ideally in the size 12 – 2 range, as well as a few helmets that are still in good shape. If you have any extras that you no longer need, please drop them by the school office. We very much appreciate the help that parents have provided during the noon skating program – helping get skates tied, lunches eaten, and supplies kept in order is a big job! If your child



has borrowed skates from the school, they likely need to be sharpened. Skate sharpening requires a special machine – it is not something that is easily done at home! There is a skate sharpening booth at the Yellowhead Centre and sharpening costs \$5 per pair of skates. It is important that kids do not walk on cement, pavement, metal, or gravel with their skates on, as this dulls the blades very quickly. You will notice that the Yellowhead Centre has special rubberized flooring that is made for skates to walk on (the red rubbery flooring or the black rubber matting). Once kids get their skates on at the Yellowhead they need to try to only walk on the red or black flooring (and not the grey cement). We have also been asked to try to limit the number of people on the ice in their shoes/boots. If your child needs help, please feel free to have one parent go out on the ice to help them. If your child does not need help, we ask that you watch from the stands or waiting room. Parents and younger siblings are always welcome to skate with their children, but we would like to limit the number of people on the ice with shoes/boots. Thank you for your cooperation with this! If you have any questions about skates, helmets, or skating in general, please do not hesitate to talk to us at the school – we would be happy to help you and your family with any questions you might have!



## Winter Updates

Whenever possible, we will send the kids outside for recesses as the fresh air and exercise are both extremely beneficial to their overall development and well-being! Having said that, we realize there will be times that the kids do have to stay indoors for recesses due to extreme cold. We have set a  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$  wind-chill temperature as the temperature that kids will not be allowed outside for recesses. This is also the temperature at which we will cancel the grade 5 patrols. We know that having wind-chill values in the upper  $-20$ 's is quite cold, but as long as the kids are properly dressed, they will be fine for the short amount of time they are out during recesses! Please be sure that your children come to school dressed to play outside – warm parka, snow boots, ski pants, toque and mitts will be a necessity! Thank you!!





We would also like to remind parents that our general policy is that if a child is well enough to be in school, they are well enough to go out for recess. If you feel that your child is not well enough to go outside for recess, chances are they should not be in school that day! Of course there are obvious exceptions to this (e.g. broken leg causing loss of mobility as well as problems getting dressed/undressed for outside; cold induced asthma, etc). If you are unsure, please contact the school office and ask to speak to one of the administrators prior to sending your child to school. With so many people in the school, the last thing we want is to spread germs which will make other people sick! We appreciate your cooperation with this, as we want our kids staying as healthy as possible!

## Parent Council

Our most recent parent council meeting was November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017.

Minutes are available on the HMK website. Meeting attendees were able to view a slideshow presentation of the future middle school.

At our next meeting we will be planning for Teacher Appreciation in February, as well as the Spring Fling. If you are interested in helping with these activities, please pass your name on to the Parent Council through the school office.

The next Parent Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 at 7:00 pm in the staff room.

Coffee and babysitters will be provided.

## Cub of the Week

Our Cub of the Week program continues and it is going strong. Our HMK students have been noticing their fellow Cubs doing many acts of kindness and filling out PAWSITIVE CUB NOMINEE slips. Our winners to date are Siri Warwaruk and Omer Battad from grade four, Andi Noriega from grade two and Carter Cruickshanks from grade three. Congratulations to all winners and a big thank you to all our Cubs for continuing to see the good in each other every day. We have seen lots of cubs becoming problem solvers and we encourage them to continue to use our HMK TADDA method!

*Kids can solve problems. And solving problems is as easy as TADDA!*

**T – Talk** about it. Use a calm voice and look the person in the eye. Try an “I statement”.

**A – Ask** questions. Are you almost finished with that skipping rope? How much longer will you be? Did you know I was here waiting for you? Have I done something to upset you? Remember to use a calm voice!!





**D- Don't** call names. It makes the problem worse and makes you the mean one!

**D- Try Different** things. Take turns. Share. Think win-win. Take a break. Write down the rules.

**A – Ask** an adult for help. (But always ask if there is danger or injury!)

On the playground and in class, students will be expected to play a greater role in solving their smaller conflicts. You can also help with this at home! Make sure to ask what they have tried before intervening. "Have you talked to her?" "What questions did you ask?" "What different things have you tried?" We hope that over time, this will make HMK students more resilient and better problem solvers for life.



**Reminders:**

- Please remember to check all food labels before sending items to school. One item that we see at school from time to time is Nutella. Please do not send anything with Nutella in it (including Nutella snack packs), as this contains nuts. Thank you.
- Please leave gym clothes at school. They only need to go home at Christmas Break to be washed! Thank you.
- Please be sure to send a spoon in your child's lunch kit if there is anything that needs to be eaten with a spoon. Thank you!



**SPECIAL THANKS TO:**

Library and Classroom Volunteers: **Donna Huck and Gail Wutke.**

**All parents** who come out to help with the noon skating program. The extra hands tying skates helps them get out on the ice a little sooner!! Thank you!

The **Neepawa Natives** for coming to talk to Mrs. Rainka's class about recycling.



The grade 9 students who joined our staff on November 1<sup>st</sup> for "Take Your Kid to Work Day"!

Norma Kerkowich for coming and talking to Mrs. Kerkowich's grade 1 class about dental hygiene!





## PUBLIC SERVICE

Neepawa District Fine Arts Festival will be taking place from April 8-11, 2018 at the Knox Presbyterian Church. Piano, vocal, and speech adjudication will be available. The deadline for entries is February 1, 2018. If you have any questions, please contact your music teacher, go to Arts Forward, or contact us through our Facebook page.



**JAN 20<sup>TH</sup> 10AM - NOON** (CONTINUES SATURDAYS FOR 6 WEEKS)  
**MINNEDOSA YOUTH BASKETBALL CAMP**

**FREE!!**

Open to all kids in grades 3-6

Limited space available so register early

Includes free t-shirt

Join us in attending the Brandon Bobcats season finale January 27th

EMAIL [minnedosaybc@gmail.com](mailto:minnedosaybc@gmail.com) to register or for more information

Students: Return this slip by Wednesday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> signed by your parents and be eligible for our newsletter draw!

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent: \_\_\_\_\_

**REMINDER:** Please return your Parent Council raffle tickets – even if the book is not completely sold – by Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, along with all money. Thank you!

