

HAZEL M. KELLINGTON SCHOOL

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Newsletter #3

Dear Parents

November 1st, 2018

As another month passes, it is time for another newsletter. With Thanksgiving and Halloween having come and gone, our focus now turns to Remembrance Day, Operation Christmas Child, and then reporting. Our first round of parent teacher conferences is less than a month away now. In the time between now and then, teachers will be assessing students, writing report cards, and preparing for parent teacher conferences. Conferences are a special time of year – a time for parents, teachers, and students to meet and reflect on the progress that has been made, as well as the next steps for learning. In the next couple of weeks you will receive a sheet from your child's teacher which will allow you to choose your preferred times for potential parent teacher conferences. Please look over the options, fill in the ones that would work best for you, and return it right away. Teachers will arrange the schedule and let you know the time of your conference. Please be sure to arrive a few minutes before the conference is scheduled, and be aware of the time that it is scheduled to wrap up. If you feel you need additional time, talk to your child's teacher about scheduling a follow up appointment. It is important that each conference wraps up in the allotted time, as others are waiting for their turn, and may need to connect with another teacher after that. We look forward to our first parent teacher conferences of the year, and the opportunity to talk about the progress that has been made!

One of the topics we review with children every school year is that of personal safety, and in particular how to deal with strangers. This is a tricky topic for children to understand, as even though safety is first and foremost, we do encourage kids to be friendly and kind to others. The message we give kids at school is to **NOT** talk with strangers. If a stranger starts talking with a student, we tell them to say they have been told not to talk to strangers, and then walk away. We also tell them that if a stranger offers something (e.g. something to eat, a ride, to come see a pet, etc), they are to say no thank you and then walk away. Other strategies we recommend include walking with a friend, making sure to stay at arm's length from strangers, and to never go anywhere with someone you don't know. Kids are also told to report to a trusted adult if a stranger starts talking with them, is offering them something, or tries to get them to go somewhere with them. The other side of this message, one that we don't often talk with parents about, is that adults should **not** be offering rides, food, etc, to children who do not know them. Thank you for your cooperation in helping to keep all of our kids as safe as they can possibly be!

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 came out earlier this week with information on the noon skating program, 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 at the rink Wednesdays from 11:40-12:40; Gr 1 will be there Wednesdays from 12:10 – 1:10; and grades 2 and 3 will go Thursdays from 12:10-1:10. Kindergarten kids will go to the rink 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

Tuesday, Nov 6 th	Lifetouch Picture retake day
Friday, Nov 9 th	Remembrance Day service at 11:00
Monday, Nov 12 th	Parent Teacher sign-up sheets sent home
Monday, Nov 12 th	Pickup for Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes
Wednesday, Nov 14 th	Noon skating begins for K-gr 1, and gr 4-5 (Wednesdays until March)
Thursday, Nov 15 th	Noon skating begins for K, gr 2-3 (Thursdays until March) Parent Teacher sign-up sheets due back
Friday Nov 16 th	NO CLASSES – Professional Development / Administration Day
Tuesday, Nov 20 th	Parent Council Meeting at 7:00 pm in HMK staff room
Tuesday, Nov 27 th	Report cards sent home
Nov 28 th & 29 th	Parent teacher conferences 4:00 – 6:00 (All teachers in school for these times)
Friday, Nov 30 th	NO CLASSES – Administration Day
Early December	HMK Clothing Order arrives at school
Dec 17 th and 18 th	HMK K-4 Christmas Plays
Friday, Dec 21 st	Last day before Christmas Holidays
Monday, Jan 7 th	School starts after Christmas Holidays (Day 3)
Wednesday, Jan 9 th	Money collection for hot dog day (Wednesdays until March 7th)
Friday, Jan 11 th	Hot dog days begin (Fridays until March 9th)

Playing Together at HMK

At HMK, we try to make everyone – students, parents, and staff – feel that they are part of the school community. One does not have to spend much time on our playground before seeing kids of various ages, cultures, and countries of origin all playing together. We continue to encourage kids to be kind and helpful citizens, and to focus on the things we have in common, rather than our differences. One thing that we have in common, is the need for friendship. No one wants to be the person who is being left out, or is told they can not join the group. For this reason, we teach our kids that when they are playing on the playground, there will always be room for another student to join the game. We encourage kids to ask others to play, especially those who look like they may be too shy to ask, or who find making friends harder. This is a message that, as a school, we feel quite strongly about. If you hear your child talking about another child who may not have many friends, encourage them to be kind, and try to include that child in their play. The other child may decline the offer, but even being asked to play may be the highlight of a recess for some children!

On a similar theme, HMK has “Buddy Benches” on both sides of the playground. The idea behind the Buddy Bench is that if a student is feeling lonely, or has no one to play with, they can go sit on the Buddy Bench. When children see someone sitting on the Buddy Bench, it is a signal to ask them to play. For kids who might be too shy to ask, it is a great way for them to get asked to join a group who are playing. If you have any other ideas to help get kids involved, please do not hesitate to contact us. We would love to hear from you!

Grade 5 Friendship Soccer Tournament

This year our grade 5's travelled to Carberry on October 12th for the annual Beautiful Plains Friendship Soccer Day. The day involves students from across the division participating in a day of soccer and friendship. Although the weather did not cooperate with us on the first two days it was scheduled, the kids ended up with a beautiful day for soccer! We would like to thank our grade 5 teachers for organizing the kids and providing the opportunity for them to participate in this fun event – it is a great way for grade 5 students from across the division to get to know each other!

Grade 1 Outdoor Adventures

On September 25th the grade one classes went to Gardenview Farm for a day of fall activities. Although it was a cold morning they were able to get to one station each before it began to rain. Stations included leaf exploration, seed mosaics,

animal tracks, and garden harvest / veggie creatures. Unfortunately, cold fingers and wet feet meant they needed to cut their day short. Fortunately, there was time to harvest some veggies from the garden during their first station. These veggies were used the next day back at the school as the grade 1 classes made stone soup!

On October 16th three of the classes went on a senses walk to Park Lake. They saw, smelled and heard many signs of fall along the way.

Grade 1 Thanksgiving

On Thursday, October 4th the grade one classes came together to share a traditional Canadian Thanksgiving meal. Each class helped to prepare an item to be shared with all of the grade one students. Mrs. MacPhee and Mrs. Kerkowich's class made pumpkin tarts, Mrs. Doerksen's class prepared the stuffing, Ms. Taylor's class made the potatoes, and Ms. Evecsyn's class contributed the turkey. They all came together in Ms. Taylor's room to share the meal, and celebrate all that they are thankful for. For many of our students, this was the first time they had tried these yummy dishes! The students took great pride in helping their classmates prepare food for all of their friends.



How many seeds are in a big pumpkin?? Our grade 1's counted 582 in one pumpkin!



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 486 meals!!

Scholastic Book Fair

This year's Book Fair was an overwhelming success, with over \$5000 in sales! Profits from the Fair were split among the classrooms, with each class receiving a selection of new books to enjoy. It would not be possible to have such a great Fair without the volunteers. We had Mr. Pudlo, Mrs. MacDiarmid, Presley Kuharski, Jayden Hanke, Mrs. Ernest, Mrs. Glenda MacPhee, and Mrs. Doble all helping out at various times. Thanks to everyone who helped out with setup and take down, as well as to everyone who supported our Book Fair!

A big thank you goes out to Mrs. Kuharski for all of the time that she puts into organizing the entire Book Fair, selecting such great books, and helping to turn our kids on to reading!

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 pack into their shoebox, something that a child around their age might like to receive. 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 12th, 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 we are to live where we live, and to let them know that they can make a difference in someone else's life!

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!

Halloween

Here are some pictures of the characters and creatures that graced the halls of HMK this Halloween! The kids had a great time showing off their costumes!



Problem Solving at HMK

One of the things we work on at HMK throughout the entire year is problem solving strategies. Whenever people are around other people, there is the possibility that disagreements or conflicts may arise. When this happens, one of the strategies that we use across the entire school is called TADDA! Each class has been taught the TADDA strategy, and we continuously reinforce it as issues arise. Of course, if there is a serious problem where something is unsafe, or if someone is hurt, the students are told to go directly to an adult for help (rather than using TADDA). Below is a brief overview of what TADDA stands for, and the strategies involved.

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?

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 ask right away if there is danger or injury!)



Parent Council

Parent Council had our first meeting on September 18th.

Thank you to Darcy Woods and Leah Sumner as past members of our board. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to be on the board this year:

- Leslie Dyke - President
- Larissa Koshel - Vice President
- Sarah Rose – Secretary
- Treasurer - we have an interested candidate, we will vote next meeting
- Erin Warwaruk – Fundraising

Check out the H.M.K. website for posted minutes from our meetings (<http://hazelmkellington.weebly.com/parent-council.html>) and upcoming events. Parent council is a place to talk with other parents and administration about what is important for our children by allocating fundraising funds, giving feedback about different programs within the school, and taking action to make the school a great place to learn.

We do coordinate two major events during the school year – one fundraiser and teacher appreciation week.

If parents come to the meetings, they are not obligated to volunteer. Getting parent feedback is the most important part of Parent Council.

Our next meeting will be November 20th at 7:00 pm in the HMK staff room.

Baby-sitters and coffee will be provided!

Storm Days and Weather Related Transportation Policy

In the case of hazardous weather, the transportation department may cancel bus transportation. This could happen overnight, in the morning before school starts, or during the day when kids are at school. Listen to CJ 97(Neepawa), 101 The Farm (Brandon), CKLQ 880 AM (Brandon), Star 94 (Brandon), Bob FM (96.1 Brandon), CBC 990/Radio 1, or CFRY (Portage) for 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/>.

When busses are cancelled through the night, or before they have started their morning run, things are very straight forward – drivers notify parents and the busses do not run that day.

If, however, the weather worsens during the school day, to the point that conditions will not allow busses to run at 3:30, the school will go into "Storm Billet" mode and will attempt to contact all bus parents to see what their wishes are for dismissal time. If we cannot get in touch with a parent, we will expect the child to go to the home of the designated storm billet on file. NOTE: if anyone other than a parent is picking up a child, the school must be notified **by a parent** before the student will be released.

The day following a "Storm Billet" day also has some procedures to note. When busses get cancelled during the school day, they will not run the very next morning (e.g. if busses get cancelled during the day Tuesday, they would not run Wednesday morning). In this instance, even though busses did not run Wednesday morning, they would still make the trip home Wednesday afternoon (providing the storm has stopped, roads have been cleared, etc). The reason for this is that when busses get cancelled during the day, kids have "in town" storm billets, and thus would not need to take the bus the next morning. They would however still need to get home at the end of the next school day. Another benefit to not running the busses the next morning is that it provides additional time for the roads to get cleared before sending busses out on them again.

Please note that every year there are also concerns about students not being adequately dressed for winter travel. The Beautiful Plains policy manual 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 the entire 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.**

Public Service

The Secret Garden

Our story begins in a land far far away in a time long long ago.

In a place where there is a great kingdom a King and many people who live in the kingdom and many peasants who live outside of the kingdom and farm.

Our King is a very gentle King he loves to sing and dance and rule over the land.

He loves his Son very much and his Lords are his friends with whom he trusts all his secrets and tasks at hand. Two farmers children meet a prince and together they get help for the farmers from a Magical Secret Garden

Rehearsals start Monday 5th November 2018

Anyone interested in taking part in this play to be performed January 19th and 20th 2019

Please call Pauline at 204-212-3162

STUDENTS: Return this slip by Friday, November 9th signed by your parents to be eligible for newsletter draws!!

Student: _____

Parent: _____