

Humber Park Elementary School January Newsletter 2019

<http://humberpark.ednet.ns.ca>

Principal's Message



Welcome back! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday with family and friends! I would like to express our sincere appreciation to those who have supported our school during the busy month of December. Thank you to the students and staff who made our December concert such a fabulous success, to parents/guardians who supported Gift Day and to the volunteers who helped make the day possible, to those whose coin donations at the Christmas Concert help support Families in Need during the holiday season and to the families who contributed donations to Feed Nova Scotia.

It's hard to believe that we are almost half way through the school year! We look forward to engaging your child/children to discover and learn more new things as the year progresses. We invite you to stay in close communication with your child's teacher(s) and encourage all of you to explore the many different ways that you can contribute to your child's success. I know the school year will continue to offer our students many rich learning experiences! Please take time to share this newsletter with your child/children and find out what is happening at Humber Park Elementary. There is a calendar at the back of the newsletter listing the events for your convenience. Remember to check out Humber Park's website at <http://humberpark.ednet.ns.ca>. Please feel free to make an appointment or drop by the office if you have any questions or concerns or just to say hello. My door is always open! All the best in 2016!

Wishing you all a "Happy New Year",

Mrs. Thistle

Dates to Remember:

- Jan. 4 – Back to school
- Jan. 4 – Milk program begins
- Jan. – Home and School 6:30pm
- Jan. 18 – Martin Luther King Day
- Jan. 19 - SAC Meeting 6pm
- Jan. 19 – Awesome Lunch Orders for Feb. go home
- Jan. 27 – Awesome Lunch Orders Due
- Jan. 27 - Ribbon Assembly - pm
- Feb. 1 – Early Registration for 2016-17 Begins
- Feb. 11 – Valentine Dance
- Feb. 13 – PD Day – no classes
- Feb. 15 – Joseph Howe Day – no classes
- Mar 14-18 – March Break
- March 25 – Good Friday –no classes
- March 28 Easter Monday – no classes



Early School Registration 2016-2017

Registration for students who will be starting school in Sept. 2016 runs from Feb. 1 to 29. Children must be five years old on or before Dec. 31, 2016, to begin

primary. Please visit the school between 9:00-11:30 and 1:00 to 3:00 to register your child. It is important that all new students be registered in February as the number of students registered is used to determine the number of teachers our school will have next fall. If you know of children in our neighbourhood who will be eligible for school, please inform them to come to the school to register before the end of February. Parents/ guardians must present the child's original birth certificate, health card, and proof of residence within the school boundary (such as a power bill, driver's license or a copy of your lease) to successfully register their child(ren).

School Closure Information



In the event of school cancellation, please call **464-INFO** or check the front page of the Halifax Regional School Board website: www.hrsb.ns.ca. If you would like to receive text message notification of school closure, visit www.hrsb.ns.ca. Look for the icon at the left of the web page and follow the steps! Please be sure to keep the emergency dismissal information on file at the school for your child up to date for ease and speed of contacting you in the event of a school closure during the day. Please note that Humber Park belongs to the "Auburn" family of schools.

Gift Day

Gift Day was a big success! The students had lots of fun and were very excited choosing their presents for their families. We would like to thank everyone who sent in gifts and those who volunteered. This event could not take place without our volunteers and your donations. We hope you enjoyed opening your gifts Christmas morning!

Chair Configurations at Concerts/Assemblies - FYI



At this year's Christmas Concert you may have noticed that the chairs were secured together with ty-wraps. This is called "ganging" the chairs. The Halifax Regional School Board must comply with NS Fire Safety Act and National Fire Code requirements for safe assembly during school events. When setting up chairs for assemblies, the act requires that non-fixed chairs within a row must be secured or clamped together when setting up in a space that is rated for occupancy of two hundred or more, regardless of the number of actual attendees (i.e. If you have a total of 100 chairs set up for assembly in a space that has an approved occupant load of 250 people, the chairs in

each row need to be ganged). Schools will receive fines if they do not comply with these regulations.

February is Book Month!

During the month of February, we will be participating in 'Tattletales Coins for Books Campaign' **and** we will be having a book fair from February ____ & _____. All money raised from these events will go to our school library so new books can be purchased for the students to enjoy. Last year Humber Park students raised \$537.14 So please start saving your loose change! The Coin drive will begin February 1st. A notice containing more information will be going home in the near future. Let's spread the joy of reading!

Student/Parent Portal – Power School

You have real time access to your child's grades and attendance through the Internet using the Student-Parent Portal. You may access information about your child(ren) at any time once you have signed up on the Student-Parent Portal website. If you have more than one child in the same school or at different schools, you can link all of your children to your web account. If you have any questions or request paper copies of the Quick Reference Guides, please contact us at hps@hrsb.ns.ca or call (902) 464-5177.

Visitors/Volunteers/Students–Signing In/Out

When you come to the school to visit or volunteer, it is important to remember to sign in and out on the clipboards in the office. Also, students must be signed in if they are late arriving to school (and receive a late slip from the office) and signed out if they leave during school hours. Likewise, it is important to wear a volunteer or visitor badge while you are in the school so that staff can recognize you as an adult who has signed in at the office. This is a fire and student safety issue. We very much appreciate your cooperation and understanding as we try to provide the safest environment possible for your children.

Safe Arrival Line

If your child is going to be late or absent, please call 464-5179 and leave a message. This line is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Messages are picked up between 7:30 and 8am school mornings. If you do not call to say your child is going to be late or absent, you will receive a phone call from the school to be sure the child's whereabouts are known. Thank you for your help to ensure the safety of all our students.

Changes to your child's end of day routine:

We acknowledge that, from time to time, **emergencies** make it necessary to make changes as to how your child will be going home at the end of the day. However, please make every effort to send a note to your child's teacher if there is an anticipated change (you may also send a fax to the school at 464-5182). **Written notice** of these changes ensures the child, the teacher, and the office are all aware of a

change in a student's regular routine. Please ensure this note is dated and signed by the parent/guardian. ***Mid-day changes are very challenging and should only be requested in an emergency, please. We do our very best to ensure the safety of all our students.***

Late

Please help and encourage your child(ren) to come to school on time each day. When students arrive on time, it alleviates the interruptions to the class morning routines and students will not miss important morning announcements. It is also important for students to learn the social responsibility of being on time. Playground supervision begins at 7:40, the bell to bring students into the school rings at 8am and all students should be in their seats and ready for morning announcements and the singing of O'Canada at 8:10am. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Everyday Lunches

Please remember to send **cutlery** for your children's lunch if it is needed. This will save our having to purchase plastic cutlery.



Get in the Know

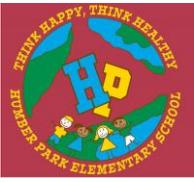
Literacy - Book Walks

The children learn how to do a book walk and now they can teach you what they have been practicing!

A Book Walk is simply going through the pages of the book before reading it aloud with the child and using the illustrations to determine what is happening on each page of the book. Book Walks are an important pre-reading comprehension strategy that we do so the child can begin to draw connections between the pictures and the text on the page. As they grow familiar, they will use the illustrations to help them recall information about what is happening in the book or what the words say in the book. They also begin to gain meaning from the pages of the book and learn how to express their own thoughts or share their own experiences in connection to the story, which develops reading comprehension skills. This will help them gain confidence to try new books with more text and so the reading journey begins!

How are Book Walks done?

Start by looking at the cover of the book. Ask the child what he/she sees on the cover. Ask what he/she thinks the story might be about. Proceed through the pages of the book, in order, looking carefully at the



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details in each picture. Ask the child who, what, where, when, why and how questions about the pictures. When you are ready to begin with the text, make sure your child is pointing to the *first* letter of each word and using that sound to look at the word and sound out what they see. As they become comfortable with the order of text, go back and point to specific words to ensure they are using the *first* letter sound in the word to help them read the word, rather than memorization.

Happy Reading!

What Is Physical Literacy And Why Does It Matter?

Just as we teach reading and math, we must support and nurture children in learning how to be physically literate. We would never give a child a book and expect the child to read before she/he knew how to make sounds or recognize letters—we need to think the same way when it comes to physical literacy. Children or adults who are physically literate can *move with competence in a wide variety of physical activities that benefit the development of the whole person*. Physical literacy has many benefits—not just in the obvious areas of health and well-being. Research shows that without the development of physical literacy, many young people withdraw from physical activity and sport. They're unable to make positive choices about their health, turning to more inactive and unhealthy choices during their leisure time. Brain breaks are a simple and popular way to integrate physical literacy into the classroom. When teachers regularly incorporate short movement activities into the school day, children can get some of their excess energy out. Moving around also invigorates kids and increases their ability to focus on the learning at hand. Here are some proactive suggestions:

- 1. Start with yourself.** Your child will watch and learn from what they see you do. Lead by example: show interest in your child's physical activities and be involved!
- 2. Encouragement, regardless of your child's rate of development, can go a long way in their physical literacy journey.** Just as with numeracy and literacy skills, your child's physical literacy skills development will occur at its own rate as his/her brain and muscles grow.
- 3. Expose children to a wide variety of physical activities,** from swimming to dance to gymnastics, martial arts to team sports and more. Sports offer a multitude of benefits for kids and help provide the physical activity they need to grow up healthy.

Research has shown that sports can improve kids' self-esteem and reduce stress, anxiety and depression. And let's not forget that sports are just plain fun.

4. Be an advocate for quality physical education at your child's school. Speak with their principal and teachers about their plans for developing and encouraging physically literate students.

5. Create opportunities for active family fun. Make family decisions that improve and develop physical literacy. For instance, decide to go for an evening walk together instead of turning on the TV or burying your heads in phones, tablets or video games.

6. Work on fundamental movement skills, such as throwing, running, climbing, hopping, jumping, kicking, skipping and catching.