



Forest Hill Public School Newsletter

November/December 2016

Be the Change You Want to See!

Phone: 519-578-5480 | Fax: 519-578-5460 | Attendance Line: 519-570-8081 ext. 3294 #

Principal: P. Berndt | Vice-Principal: B. Hughes | fhl.wrdsb.ca | Still a Gold Ecoschool!

Principal's Message

At Forest Hill we are constantly striving to make our school a better place to learn in and be at. This has never been more evident as we look at what has just happened this past month and we peek at the months ahead as we finish off the year 2016.

Take for example the installation this month of the paved pathway we have put in from our school to the back part of our property that reaches Stonybrook Drive. For 59 years parents and their children have had to walk on a muddy field to get to our school this way. Not any longer! Or consider that shortly we will no longer have a computer lab with a few desk top computers that your child can only use for 1 or 2 periods a week. In their place we will have nearly 200 mobile devices, such as Chromebooks and iPads, in our school that will be in all classrooms and ready to be used by your child on any period on any day. These are just some structural changes that are making Forest Hill an awesome place to be!

We have some wonderful student leaders in our school who are heading up new and exciting opportunities for the rest of our student population in the form of our WE Team (social justice), PALS Leaders (Nutrition Break co-operative games), Athletic Council (intramural program), and ECO Club (environment club). These young leaders of our school will make a huge impact on the entire student population in the coming months as they work to improve. Keep an eye out for these groups' amazing ideas!

All these changes don't just come about on their own. They come from your incredible children, you, our supportive parents, our outstanding School Council members and our very own tremendous teaching staff! Together the combination is quite unstoppable! I can't wait to see what takes place as we end 2016 and then what 2017 has in store for us here at Forest Hill!

Sincerely,

Mr. Peter Berndt
Principal

**Remember to Bookmark our Forest Hill School Website
To get the most up-to-date information on what's happening!**

fhl.wrdsb.ca

Headphones/Earbuds Needed Soon! **(They just might be a great stocking stuffer for your child)**



Starting in January, our school will be moving towards having each Grade 1-6 classroom equipped with enough mobile devices, such as Chromebooks or iPads, so that there will be **1 device for every 2 students**. This opportunity allows students to access the Internet on a daily basis rather than sharing one computer lab with the whole school. At times 2 classes will share their devices so that each child will have their own device as well. Teachers have been using a few mobile devices in their classrooms over the past couple of years. As well they have had the opportunity to sign out kits of these devices to have a complete class set. These opportunities and time have provided many learning experiences for the teachers and students in how to properly use these devices within their classrooms and to find the proper balance between device time and other learning experiences.

With this change, we are asking that **each child bring to school their own set of headphones** that will remain at school for the rest of the year. Please clearly label your child's name on their headphones. These headphones will be kept in a separate plastic bag for each child within their classroom. When listening opportunities arise (where your child needs to listen to something from their mobile device) your child will then be able to listen without distracting other students working on their tasks in the classroom.

The mobile devices will be introduced in your child's classroom in January, so the headphones may be a great holiday gift to your child. If you would like to send them in now, this is also fine.

Progress Reports & Parent/Teacher Interviews



Teachers are presently working hard to complete the Grades 1-6 Progress Report cards. These **report cards** will be coming home to you on **Monday, November 14th**. For our Kindergarten parents, although you do not receive a report card at this time of the year, you will be invited by your child's teacher to come into the school for a set appointment time and observe your child learning right in the classroom. These **observation visits** will take place between **November 2nd & November 4th**.

After receiving the Progress Report or the Kindergarten observation, you are invited to come in for an interview with your child's teacher during the **afternoon of Friday, November 18th**. If this date or time of day does not work for you, **some** teachers will be offering interviews during the **evening of Thursday, November 17th** or on another mutually agreed upon day before or after school. Your child's teacher will be in contact with you shortly explaining when they are available to set up an interview time with you. Stay tuned!



Upcoming Events:

Fri. Nov. 4	Random Act of Kindness Day
Tues. Nov. 8	School Council Meeting 6:30
Fri. Nov. 11	Remembrance Day Assembly 10:15
Mon. Nov. 14	Gr. 1-6 Progress Reports Go Home
Fri. Nov. 18	P.D. Day (Parent/Teacher Interviews)
Thurs. Nov. 24	Photo Retake Day 12:20
Fri. Nov. 25	Spirit Day "Hero" Day – stay tuned for details
Fri. Nov. 25	Family Movie & Activity Night 6:00-9:00
Tues. Dec. 13	School Council Meeting 6:30
Thurs. Dec. 15	Seasonal Concert 6:30-8:00 p.m.
Fri. Dec. 23	Last day of school before the holidays
Dec. 24 – Jan. 8	Winter Holidays
Mon. Jan. 9	First day back after the holidays
Tues. Jan. 10	School Council Meeting 6:30



Attendance Check Program

Please call the attendance line (519-570-8081 ext.3294) if your child is going to be late or absent.

Please notify the school office (519-578-5480) if you change phone numbers or emergency contact information.

It is very important for us to have current information in case of an emergency and we need to get in touch with you.

Winter Weather Is Upon Us

This is not the headline we necessarily enjoy writing, but the truth of the matter is that cold, wet, snowy weather is just around the corner. Please make sure that your child is dressed accordingly with boots, mittens, a hat and a coat. **If you are in need of any of these items for your child please do not hesitate to contact the school.** We will be more than happy to help you obtain these necessary clothing items for the coming months.

Winter Weather Bus Cancellations and School Closures

As we start to enter our winter season, be aware that our school buses could be cancelled some days because of the weather. Also, schools will NOT automatically be closed when temperatures reach -35C or colder with wind-chill. While buses will not operate at this temperature, the decision to close schools will depend on weather and road conditions

Please tune into one of the local radio stations OR subscribe to our school's website to get firsthand information if buses are cancelled or the school is closed because of the weather.

A Night To Remember at the Kitchener Aud!



On Friday, October 28th, just before the Kitchener Rangers began their game with the Peterborough Petes, Forest Hill students from grades 3 to 6 filed out onto the red carpet at centre ice. Bursting with excitement, they led the fans in singing "O Canada" in two-part harmony. Then they found their seats with their families and enjoyed the game, compliments of the Rangers National Anthem Project. We are very proud of the seventy-one singers who represented our school out there on the ice in front of all those hockey enthusiasts. Go Rangers! Go Forest Hill!!



Lest We Forget.

Forest Hill students will be marking Remembrance Day, Friday November 11th, by attending a special assembly in our gym at 10:15 a.m. Led by the Grade 6 students in Mrs. Holowack's class, we'll watch several drama presentations, hear the Junior Choir sing The Strangest Dream by Pete Seeger, and Hymn to Freedom by Oscar Peterson, and listen to the trumpet play The Last Post. Our primary students will be presenting their special song, We Can Make A Difference. As we wear our poppy stickers, we are mindful of the sacrifices made by others to ensure the freedoms we enjoy and that we each need to do our part to make a difference.



One Big Musical Family!

Singers from 8 local elementary schools, including Forest Hill, will be making their way to Forest Heights Collegiate on Thursday, November 17th. These 200 grade 5 and 6 students from the Forest Heights "Family of Schools" will work together in team-building

activities, practise several songs and listen to a musical presentation. After a pizza dinner, they'll present their own mini-concert in the cafeteria at the high school for the parents who have come to take them home. Thanks to the Forest Heights Music Department for hosting this family event!

Seasonal Celebration – Thursday, December 15th

The chairs and stage have been ordered and the practising has already begun! **At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 15th, we invite families to attend our Seasonal Celebration.** You'll be entertained by students from grades one to six as they celebrate the Arts through singing, playing instruments and dancing. Please plan to be a part of the excitement!



Be a Library Superhero!



Want to save yourself money from the cost of a damaged book?

Want to be a library superhero at the same time?

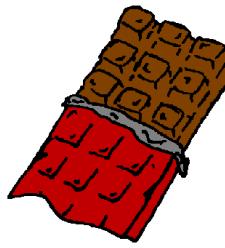
It's easy! If you don't have a plastic bag for your library books, go find one right now and put it in your backpack. Grocery bags work fine, as do big ziplock bags. When you put books in your backpack to bring home, put them inside the bag – fold the top over if you can't zip it. This will help keep your books dry when your backpack gets wet, or your lunch leaks, or you land in a puddle.

Save a book, save the library! Superheroes assemble!

P.S. from Mrs. Gawley: Watch for news of a Book Fair coming soon to a Library near you!!!

Chocolate Fundraiser

As I write this, we're wrapping up our World's Finest Chocolate fundraiser, the main fundraiser at our school. It's been a very successful fundraiser, as you know if you've been waiting for any extra boxes -- Mrs. Gawley simply hasn't had much chocolate returned to re-distribute, which is wildly unusual! The plush versions of Flash the Falcon have finally arrived and we're just waiting for some friends to finish bringing in their money so we can give out the prizes. We'll announce the top sellers in November. If you have any chocolate left unsold, please bring it back to the school as soon as possible, so we can return the unsold product in time to get credit from our suppliers.



Again, thanks for all your help! Our school success always begins and ends with the support from our families - whatever form that may take!