



WINTER NEWSLETTER



Save the Date!

January 18 -HPS Choir singing at the Storm Game 7:30pm
January 21 – School Council 7pm -all welcome
January 24 – Silly Sock Day
January 24 – Popcorn Day (\$2.00)
January 25 – PD Day (no school for students)
January 29 -Parent Workshop 6-7pm (library)
February 6 -Grade 8-9 Parent Information Session 6pm
February 11 – School Council 7pm
February 13 -Family Games Night 5:30-7:30pm
February 14 -Report Cards go home
February 15 – Grades 1-8 Tubing/Skiing Trip
February 18 – Family Day (no school)
February 22 -Popcorn Day (\$2.00)
February 27 – Science Fair 5:30-7:30pm
February 28 – Pajama Day
March 5 – Dance-a-thon Kick-Off Assembly 12:15pm
March 18 -School Council 7pm
March 29 -Dance-A-Thon and Jersey Day
April 12 -PD Day (no school for students)
April 15 -School Council 7pm
April 25 -Welcome to Kindergarten Evening 6pm (tentative)
April 26 -Superhero Day
April 30 -Popcorn Day (\$2.00)
April 30 -Spring Concert 6:30pm
May 2 -Outdoor Class Photos
May 31 -PD Day (no school for students)
June 7 -Fun Fair
June 26 -Grade 8 Graduation 6pm

Principal's Message

Happy New Year!! I hope that you were able to have some valued time with family and friends over the winter break. As we move into the winter time at Hespeler, there are lots of exciting things on the horizon.

A successful school community is created by dedicated staff, parents, and community members. Together you all contribute to the “magic” that we see happening at Hespeler on a daily basis. I feel so fortunate to get to do a job that I absolutely love! It’s the relationships that are formed within the school community that motivate me. There is nothing that I enjoy more than the smiles, laughs, excitement, and ideas that come from our students. I firmly believe that if we can foster a love of learning in each of our students at a young age, we will set them up for a future filled with curiosity, innovation, well-being, and success.

Please check our website (hes.wrdsb.ca), Twitter (@HespelerPS), and sign up for School Day to keep yourself informed of all of the Hespeler news!

Rebecca Jutzi
Principal

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Vice-Principal



Information and Reminders



Timely Reminders

This is a reminder for the New Year that our school day begins at 8:35 a.m. All classroom activities begin right away and teachers need to have everyone in class promptly. Thank you for your help in having your children arrive on time. This one small detail makes a great deal of difference to starting the day off right! Also, please help us by choosing to park on the street if you are arriving at the school just before or after the school day. Please remember that all students should enter with their division through the designated doors, not the front door. The main office is a very busy place in the morning and teachers do not open this door for students.

Our school day ends at 2:55 with supervision ending at 3:10. Students are asked to make their way home at this time. If they choose to come back to play after the school day, that is the parent's decision and they are required to provide supervision.

Fundraising Initiatives

We had an incredibly successful Craft and Vendor sale before the holidays. Thank you to our School Council for organizing this event and to those of you who were vendors or came out to do some holiday shopping. What a success! Our school fall fundraiser was also very successful and we thank you for participating!

Thanks to our School Council and HPS fundraising initiatives, we have made some significant improvements to our outdoor space. We were able to repaint the tarmac and add additional games, purchase new bike racks (stay tuned for the unveiling in the spring), and install our very popular Gaga Ball pit. We love to see our students in action and they have really enjoyed the new games. We look forward to improving our kindergarten outdoor learning space in the spring!

These funds have also really helped us to increase our technology in the school. At the end of this month we will have 1:1 correspondence of Chromebooks to students in the Intermediate level and a many for Primary and Junior students as well.

Staff Changes

Before the break we said good-bye to Joanne Waugh, our Head Secretary for many years. We have welcomed Shelley Upton as our new Head Secretary and have no doubt that she will love her new school. Laura Neill has done a wonderful job in her role as Long Term Occasional, working with Lynn Glass. She will finish in this role as of February 1 but will continue as an occasional teacher in the building.



Winter Trip

Students from Hespeler Public School in grades 1 to 8 will have the opportunity to participate in a school winter spirit day. All students in grades 1 to 8 can choose to participate in a tubing day at Chicopee Tube Park. Students in grades 5, 6, 7 and 8 will also have the choice, on the same day, to go tubing or instead visit Chicopee Ski Hill to participate in downhill skiing or snowboarding. The date of all the activities is Friday, February 15, 2019. Please see School Day for more information.

Nutrition for Learning

We are pleased to announce that we began a new program this week whereby bins of healthy snacks are available in classes/pods that all students can access when they need additional healthy food throughout the day. We would like to thank our community and parent volunteers who have worked tirelessly in supporting our Nutrition for Learning program and will be ordering and packing the food bins and getting them out to classes. Please contact the school if you are interested in helping with this program.



Class Photos

We are very grateful that Lifetouch will be providing new class Spring photos this year. You will all receive a new class photo free of charge. The quality of many of the fall class photos were not ideal and we are confident that our outdoor photos will be a great improvement.



Boomerang Lunches

Thank you for helping to launch a very successful start to our Boomerang Lunch program last year. As a reminder, we will be requiring all students to bring almost everything from their lunch back home again. This includes items that would go in the garbage, as well as those that are recycled. We will have “green bins” in the classrooms for all organic waste. This is generally well received by parents as it allows you to monitor what your child does and doesn’t eat while at school.

What to do:

- *Use reusable containers to pack snack and lunch items
- *Use a lunch bag with a wipe clean interior
- *Talk with your child about bringing home any food or garbage left over from his or her lunch

Benefits:

- *Provides you with first-hand knowledge of the eating habits and preferences of your child. By carrying home the leftovers you can see what’s been eaten or not.
- *Reduces the amount of waste we create from school lunches
- *Encourages healthy and nutritious lunches (many pre-packaged lunch items contain significant amounts of sodium, sugar, preservatives and fat)
- *Creates awareness around recycling and encourages and promotes the use of reusable containers and discourages the use of disposable containers
- *Helps you, as a parent, reduce the cost of lunches (a waste-free lunch can cost as little as \$2.50 per day, whereas a regular lunch containing pre-packaged items can cost \$4.50 or more per day). Teachers see a huge amount of uneaten food go into the garbage day after day. This is not only wasteful but expensive.



Calling All 3 Year Olds

If you have a 3 year old at home who was born in 2015 this child is eligible to attend Junior Kindergarten at Hespeler Public School in September 2019. If your child was born in 2014 and is NOT currently attending school, you may also register your child. You are invited to register online at <https://etrillium.wrdsb.ca/onlineereg> and will then be contacted to set up an appointment at the school. You will need to provide your child’s Proof of Birth, and Proof of Address. Health and Immunization information may be forwarded to Waterloo Region Public Health website at: <https://e-immunization.regionofwaterloo.ca/>. If you have any questions, please call the school.



French Immersion

Registration for Grade 1 French Immersion is now open. Please visit the website (www.wrdsb.ca/french) for more information and for a link to the registration. Please don't hesitate to call the school or talk to your child's teacher for more information.

Inclement Weather

It is the parents’ responsibility to determine whether or not it is safe for his or her child to leave for school during inclement or severe weather. A parent must be aware of the following:

- When a bus does not travel a route in the morning due to fog, ice, or snow conditions, it will not travel that route in the afternoon.



- While we have an excellent transportation system, buses may be delayed in the morning due to traffic, poor road conditions, mechanical breakdowns, etc. To ensure your child is not stranded at his/her pick-up point; please make sure they know what to do and where to go if their bus is more than 15 minutes late.

Winter Dressing

We try to go outside for each recess and we do monitor the weather carefully. Our students need fresh air and love to play outside. Students have two outside 20 minute recesses each day. All students are expected to be outside for fresh air and activity. Thus, students must dress appropriately for winter weather. Thank you to all parents for providing hats, snowsuits, scarves, mittens and footwear for your children. It is a good idea to send along some extra clothes with your child. An extra pair of dry socks and an extra pair of mittens are always good things to have tucked into the backpack. In the event of inclement weather, students will be supervised inside the school.



Winter Safety

Students are to stay off the playground equipment in the winter months when the ground is frozen. They are allowed to play on snow hills on school property at breaks when it is safe to do so but they must be wearing snow pants and no pushing is ever allowed. Teachers on duty will determine when it is safe to use the Gaga Ball pit.

Report Cards

First term report cards will be sent home on February 14th. How you interpret and respond to your child's report card is important. Listed below are some suggestions to help you read, understand and celebrate your child's report card.



1. Read the learning skills on the first page of the document first. Celebrate and acknowledge your child's efforts, improvements and strengths and who they are as a person.
2. Pay attention to the section that deals with "days absent" and "times late." Sometimes this is an area that surprises parents and offers insights into why your child may be struggling.
3. Talk about the report card together and seek your child's opinion about their accomplishments.
4. Look at the grades that your child is getting and set some goals with your child in areas that you both agree would benefit from improvement.
6. Make a plan on how to meet these goals and share in the responsibility of helping support your child achieve these next steps.
7. Request a meeting with your child's teacher if you need clarification, want more information or need ideas and resources to support your child's learning goals.
8. Remember that the term one report card is a checkpoint. There are five more months of work ahead and a lot can change during that time. Hard work and effort do pay off.

Although there isn't a formal day for parent/teacher interviews, please don't hesitate to set up a meeting with your child's teacher if you have questions or concerns.