



HPS WINTER NEWSLETTER

Save the Date!



- January 16 School Council
January 20 PD Day
(no school for students -childcare is CLOSED)
January 23-27 Anti-Bullying Awareness Week
January 27 Spirit Day -Silly Sock Day
February 1 Parent Workshop 7pm (mental health)
February 14 Kindie Vision Screening
February 10 Chicopee Trip (Gr. 1-8)
February 20 Family Day (no school or childcare for students)
February 24 Spirit Day -School Colours (yellow and blue)
March 1 Junior Boys Basketball Tournament
March 7 Junior Girls Basketball Tournament
March 10 Staff/Student Basketball Game
March 13-17 March Break (no school for students)
March 20 School Council 7pm
March 24 Graduation Photos
March 31 Spirit Day -Different Decades

Principal's Message

Happy New Year!! We 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. Karen and I both feel so fortunate to get to do a job that we absolutely love! It’s the relationships that are formed within the school community that motivate us. There is nothing that we enjoy more than the smiles, laughs, excitement, and ideas that come from our students. We 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

Karen Canapini
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 p.m. with supervision ending at 3:10 p.m. 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. If your child will be away or late, please be sure to call the school 519-658-4691 or email us at hes-attendance@wrdsb.ca to report their absence.

Fundraising Initiatives

We had an incredibly successful Craft and Vendor sale before the holidays. Thank you to Crystal Bechtel and 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 chocolate bar 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 school. We were able to purchase additional physical education items, such as new floor hockey equipment, sensory equipment for classrooms and our sensory room, a cart for our ACE class to begin a coffee cart service, primary literacy materials and additional French home reading resources.

Staff Changes

Before the break we said good-bye to Shelley Upton, our Head Secretary for many years. We have welcomed Stephanie Mansour as our new Head Secretary and have no doubt that she will love her new school. Stephanie has been in the head secretary role at Highland P.S. for many years. We have enjoyed having Julie Halter back as an occasional teacher for our grade 4FI class for the past 6 weeks. Nancy Wright-Korhomen is now back for the remainder of the year. As Kara Hall moved into a permanent contract role, we have welcomed Chelsey Bannon as the English teacher of our Grade 5FI class. We would also like to welcome Marc Lehmann as our temporary VP for the next few weeks while Karen Canapini is temporarily away.



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 10, 2023. Please see School Day for more information.

Nutrition for Learning

Thanks to Michelle Cook, and the students in Rm. 13, we continue to offer bins of healthy snacks in pods that all students can access when they need additional healthy food throughout the day.



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 program is generally well received by parents and caregivers as it allows you to monitor what your child does and does not 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 caregiver, 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 2019, this child is eligible to attend Junior Kindergarten at Hespeler Public School in September 2023. If your child was born in 2018 and is NOT currently attending school, you may also register your child. Parents/guardians will be able to register for Kindergarten as well as the Before and After School Program online anytime after January 16, 2023 at <https://www.wrdsb.ca/kindergarten/>. Following online registration review, parents/guardians will be invited to the school to meet the office staff. These meetings are intended to validate the information submitted via the online registration through review of original documents. If you have any questions, please call the school.



French Immersion



The WRDSB is transitioning to a Grade 2 entry point for French Immersion. Starting in September 2023, all students will be automatically enrolled in Core French for Grade 1 (there is no Grade 1 French Immersion offered in the 2023/2024 school year). The Grade 2 French Immersion entry point begins in September 2024. The WRDSB will accept Grade 2 French Immersion applications in the Winter of 2024 (for students born in 2017).

As a result, all French Immersion students will transition to 58% French instruction in Grades 2 through 6 and 50% French instruction in Grades 7 and 8. Furthermore, all students will receive double the amount of French instruction (16%) in Grade 1 Core French. Core French instruction will remain at 8% in Grades 2 through 8.

Please note that the Grade 2 French Immersion entry point will only be offered for students born in 2017 or after. We will not accept students into French Immersion who were born in 2016 or earlier after October 3, 2022 (Grade 1).

For more information, please visit the WRDSB [French Website](#).

Inclement Weather

It is the parent/guardian's 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/guardian 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 break and we do monitor the weather carefully. Our students need fresh air and love to play outside. Students have two outside 20 minute breaks 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/caregivers 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.



Parking

Student Safety is a major concern at our school! **Please do not use the parking lot to drop off or pick up students.** It becomes a very unsafe place when cars are driving in and out during peak times of the school day, such as, before and after school. We encourage students to walk or bike to school as often as possible. If you must drive your child to school, please refer to our [Hespeler Parking Map](#) for safe locations to drop off and pick up your child. Space to park is available on side streets at the end of the catwalks behind the school. **Stopping at the front of the school in the bus loading area is restricted** and by-law officers will issue tickets for this infraction. Please help us to keep our students safe by obeying the traffic and parking laws.



struggles. In the fall we learned about gratitude, mindfulness, and intrinsic motivation. In January we will learn about grit, followed by resilience, autonomy, self-compassion, integrity, and mastery. You can learn more about the Umbrella Project on the [Parent Dashboard](#).

Covid Tests

We have many covid testing kits at the school that we would love to get into the hands of our families. Please have your child request one or pop into the school at anytime between 8-3:30 to pick them up.

Report Cards

First term report cards will be sent home on February 15th. 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.
5. 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.