



HPS WINTER NEWSLETTER



Save the Date!

January 26	Spirit Day -Sports Day
January 29	Tubing at Chicopee (Gr.1-4)
February 12	School Council meeting (7pm)
February 19	Family Day (no school or childcare for students)
February 23	Chicopee Ski Trip (Gr. 5-8)
February 27	Kindie (SK) Vision Screening
February 28	Junior Boys Basketball Tournament
February 29	Junior Girls Basketball Tournament
March 5	Grad Photos
March 8	Staff/Student Basketball Game
March 11-15	March Break (no school for students)
March 18	School Council 7pm
March 29	No School -Good Friday
April 1	No School -Easter Monday
April 17	Blue Jays Game (Grade 7/8)

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 Hesper, 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 Hesper 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), and sign up for School Day to keep yourself informed of all of the Hesper 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.



Staff Changes

Before the break we said good-bye to Suzanne Lowden, our Library Clerk for many years. We have welcomed Tanya Hill as our new Library Clerk. She also works in the office every morning helping with attendance.

Supervision Monitor

We are looking for someone to provide extra supervision for our students 3 days/week during our second nutrition break from 12:45-1:25 pm. This would involve 20 minutes of supervision outside and 20 minutes inside while students eat lunch. This is a paid position. Please email hes@wrdsb.ca if you are interested.

Clubs and Activities at HPS

We all know that the more students are able to get involved in student life, the more they will feel connected and engaged at school. Below are some of the clubs and activities that are being offered at HPS, thanks to the many staff volunteers:



Student Council
Club
Equity Club
Basketball
Homework Club
Yoga Club

Athletic Council
Kindness Ninjas
Pizza Helpers
Ukulele Club
Cribbage Club

Mindfulness
Intramurals
Announcements
Open Jam
Drama Club

Nutrition for Learning Helpers

Our "Kindness Ninjas" will be selling kindness bracelets in February to raise funds for Nutrition for Learning. Stay tuned for more information.

Mad Science

This year we will be offering an exciting extra-curricular program for Grade 1-6 students. The Mad Science program is called "Mish, Mash, Science Bash" and will be run on Mondays from 3-4pm from February 5th-April 8th (skipping Family day, March break and Easter Monday). Please see the information sheet that was sent home or School Day for more information. You can register online at hamilton.madscience.org. Register before January 31st and receive \$10.00 off. We are able to provide a subsidy for one student to attend so if your child is keen and you are experiencing financial stress, please reach out to your child's teacher.



Pets

Pets are a welcome part of many of our families' homes but please remember that some students may be fearful of animals or possibly allergic. Just a reminder that dogs are not allowed on the tarmac of the



school property or in the school (with the exception of service dogs) during school hours or during school events. Also, please ensure that you follow the by-laws concerning control and clean up. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

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. We could not do this without all of your support.

Thanks to our School Council and HPS fundraising initiatives, we have made some significant improvements to school. With the funds raised, we were able to purchase a sandbox for our kindergarten area, physical education items, such as new pinnies, science kits, sensory equipment, art supplies, outdoor line paint, ipad covers, a laminator, projectors and document cameras for classrooms.



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 4 will participate in a tubing day at Chicopee Tube Park on January 29th. Students in grades 5, 6, 7 and 8 will have a day at Chicopee Ski Hill to participate in downhill skiing or snowboarding on February 23rd. 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. 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 2020, this child is eligible to attend Junior Kindergarten at Hespeler



Public School in September 2024. If your child was born in 2019 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 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 has transitioned to a Grade 2 entry point for French Immersion. The WRDSB will accept Grade 2 French Immersion applications for September 2024 (for students born in 2017) until January 31st.



All French Immersion students will transition to 58% French instruction in Grades 2 through 6 and 50% French instruction in Grades 7 and 8. 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. For more information, please visit the WRDSB [French Website](#).

[Apply for the French immersion program.](#)

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. Please sign up through www.stswr.ca to receive updates about bussing cancellations and delays.



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.

Umbrella Project

At HPS, we continue to focus on our Umbrella skills each month. Umbrella skills are positive social and emotional coping skills that we want to have in place so that we can all live confident, healthy, and meaningful lives in the face of life's uncertainties and struggles. In the fall we learned about gratitude, mindfulness, and intrinsic motivation. In January we will learn about authenticity, followed by self-efficacy, purpose, cognitive flexibility, realistic optimism, and a healthy lifestyle. You can learn more about the Umbrella Project on the [Parent Dashboard](#).



Report Cards

First term report cards will be sent home on February 16th. 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.