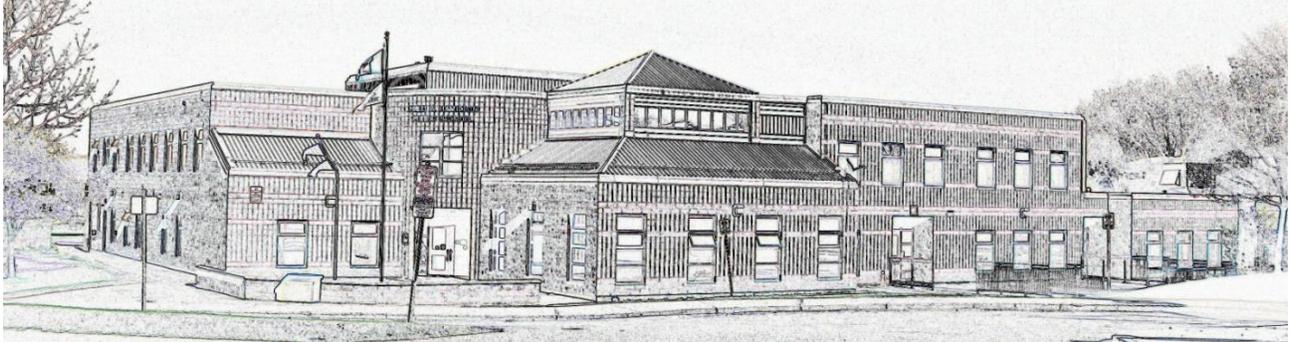


ÉCOLE FRED A. HAMILTON



Jane Bibby, Principal
160 Ironwood Road, Guelph ON, N1G 3R4

Franca Manni, Office Co-Ordinator
(519) 836-0080 www.ugdsb.on.ca/fahamilton

September 2015 Newsletter

Principal's Message

Welcome to the 2015/2016 school year at École Fred A. Hamilton! I would like to extend a special welcome to the new families who are joining us for the first time this September. We are so pleased to have you as part of our FAH community.

In addition to new families and students, we have four new teachers: Mme Zavro will be teaching one of our Kindergarten classes; Mme Nibaruta will be teaching a grade 1 class; Mme Holmes will be teaching another grade 1 class; and Mme Ecclestone will be teaching mainly primary Social Studies two days each cycle. We also have a new Registered Early Childhood Educator who will be teamed with Mme Zadro and her name is Mme Reynolds. As well, two new Educational Assistants are joining our FAH team: Mme Whitehawk and Mme Gooding. Finally, our new Child and Youth Counsellor is Mme Hunt. I feel confident that the new members of our staff will be made to feel welcome by this amazing school community.

Several important notices and forms will be coming home today and over the next couple of weeks. Please read through them quickly and return them to school as soon as possible, certainly by the due dates.

To be completely up-to-date and connected to school, there are some flexible and useful options for you:

- i. You can register to receive email notifications from the school. You will get a weekly update in your inbox along with periodic reminders for special events or important due dates. You may unsubscribe at any time. Go to the [school website](#) and click on the maroon button on the right that says "Subscribe to receive email messages from FA Hamilton School."
- ii. You can follow us on Twitter at [ÉcoleFAHamilton](#).
- iii. You can follow us on Facebook at [École Fred A. Hamilton](#).

As well, our [website](https://ugdsb.on.ca/fahamilton) (<https://ugdsb.on.ca/fahamilton>) has tons of great information to help you and your child have a good year here at FAH.

I look forward to an exciting and successful year for everyone here at École Fred A. Hamilton and look forward to meeting or reconnecting with all members of our community in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Jane Bibby
Principal

Important Dates for the Next Two Months

- Sept. 8 – First day of school
- Sept. 17 – First School Council Meeting (6:30-8:00 PM)
- **all** are welcome!
- Sept. 29 – Individual & Class Photo Day
- Oct. 1 – Terry Fox Walk
- Oct. 1 – Tentative date for Family Carnival
- Oct. 12 – Thanksgiving (no school for staff and students)
- Oct. 19 – IEP's go home
- Oct. 30 – PA Day (no school for students)



Introducing Our Staff

Please feel free to contact any of us if you have questions or concerns.

Name	Assignment	Classroom	Extension
Tosh Tipler	Kindergarten, OCT	1	426
Theresa McMillan	Kindergarten, RECE	1	414
Nathan Adams	Kindergarten, OCT	2	420
Caroline Juneman	Kindergarten, RECE	2	436
Katherine Young	Kindergarten, OCT	3	427
Stacey England	Kindergarten, RECE	3	404
Eve Zadro	Kindergarten, OCT	4	424
Michelle Reynolds	Kindergarten, RECE	4	429
Jocelyne Nibaruta	Grade 1	6	403
Emily Holmes	Grade 1	8	407
Tom Barker	Grade 1/2	5	405
Alice Hartmans	Grade 2	9	410
Tiffany Mui	Grade 2/3	7	404
Tanya Woodward	Grade 3/4	10	423
Patricia Hemsley	Grade 4	11	421
Scott Devenny	Grade 5/6	12	406
Gisèle Hébert	Grade 5/6	13	425
Karen Cantin	Special Education Resource (0.8) Phys. Ed. (0.2)	Resource Room Gym	413
Jennifer Burkhart	Librarian (0.5) & Planning (0.5)	Library	428
Katie Richardson	Planning (0.6)	Planning Office	422
Janelle Brown	Kindergarten & Pr. Planning (0.6)	Planning Office	402
Jenna Ecclestone	Planning (0.4)	Planning Office	408
Krista Whitehawk	Educational Assistant	Various	409
Danielle Gooding	Educational Assistant	Various	411
David Freer	Custodian – day shift	All	230
Lynda Bradburn	Custodian – afternoon shift	All	
	Child and Youth Counsellor	CYC Office	227
Franca Manni	Office Coordinator	Main Office	221
Jane Bibby	Principal	Main Office	223

School Council



School Council will warmly welcome new and returning members at their first meeting on Thursday, September 1th at 6:30

PM in the library. Being a member of School Council is an excellent way to have input into school activities and to take a lead role in enhancing the learning environment here at school. As well, research shows that children are more successful in school when their parents are involved. We hope to see you on the 17th!

Important Driveway Information

Please note that **the driveway at l'École Fred A. Hamilton is closed to cars from 8:25-8:45 in the morning and from 3:00-3:30 in the afternoon.** Only staff vehicles, school taxis and school buses will be allowed to enter and leave the parking lot during these times. **If you drive your child to school or pick up your child at dismissal, then you will have to park on a nearby side street or along the front of the school on Ironwood Road during these times.**



PLEASE HELP US TO KEEP OUR STUDENTS SAFE!!

Life-threatening Conditions

Please inform the school immediately if your child has a life-threatening condition. We will ask you for more details and with your assistance, we will develop

a school plan. École Fred A. Hamilton has a number of children with very serious allergies to many foods including dairy products, eggs, peanuts, tree nuts and shellfish. We ask that students not bring food items to school containing nuts or peanuts. Depending on individual circumstances, there may be classes who are asked to avoid more food items to ensure the well-being of all of the children in our school.

Student Information Sheets

It is important to let the school know if there is any change in your personal information (e.g., home, cell & work numbers, emergency contact numbers, etc.) so that in the event of an emergency, we can contact you immediately. The student information sheets coming home today are critical in order to ensure that we have accurate student records. **Please update this sheet (if necessary), sign it and return it to school by the end of this week.**

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act requires schools to be careful about the information they collect from students and it limits how schools can use this information. Please read the Freedom of Information letter that is coming home with your child today and carefully respond if desired. It is understood that we have FOI consent unless we receive a written objection from you.

School Handbooks

Our updated Family Handbook has been uploaded to our [school website](#) for your perusal. This handbook includes school routines and guidelines as well as our Code of Conduct. We ask that you please read and review this document with your child. Being informed about our school will help everyone know what is expected and what needs to be done. You can also read through our Bullying Prevention Plan to see what measures we have in place to ensure that all students feel safe at school.

Safe Arrival Program

We appreciate your calls when your child is going to be absent or late. Please call the school at 519-836-0080 ext. 100 and leave a message reporting your child's late arrival or absence; you do not need to speak to the Office Coordinator to do this. The school's answering machine is open and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Calling in advance when you are able alleviates early morning telephone congestion. Thank you for your support of our efforts to keep all children safe.

Dismissal Routines



Students who take a bus are dismissed from class to their bus lines that are located in the hallway outside the main office. When their bus arrives, the bus patrols lead the children out to the bus. An adult is on duty to supervise the loading of the bus. If you must pick up your child rather than have him or her take the bus, then please

write a note in the agenda that morning. Your child's teacher will then dismiss the child to the yard at the back of the school where he or she will meet you. **Students who are not taking the bus will not be sent to the office to wait for parents at the end of the day. They will meet their parents at their class's dismissal doors at the back or side of the school after the bell at 3:10 PM.**

Please limit the number of times that you pick up your child before the bell to as few as possible to avoid disruptions for not only your child's learning, but the learning of the whole class.

Student Lunchroom Behaviour Expectations and Responsibilities

The following lunchroom expectations have been discussed at school. Students understand that while eating lunch in the classroom, they are expected to respect the rights of others by complying with these rules:



- Sit in assigned seat
- Speak in soft, indoor voice
- Do not share or ask for food
- Follow the direction of the Lunch Supervisor and student helpers
- Obtain permission to leave the room
- Wait to be dismissed before going outside for recess
- Place items in the appropriate garbage or recycling bin
- Clean your area before leaving

Volunteers



It is well-documented that parent involvement in school relates directly to student achievement. At FAH, we welcome volunteers from the community. If you are interested in becoming a regular volunteer at the school, then please ask to see Mme Bibby. Volunteers are asked to complete a form and we require a Criminal Record Check.

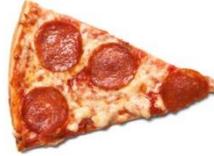
UG2GO



Our Board has a wonderful resource for all of our students that can be accessed anytime at all from anywhere with a connection to the internet. It's called UG2GO and includes many browsers and applications that are kid-friendly. From a computer away from school, students can go to <https://www.ugdsb.on.ca/ug2go>. Once there, they will enter their Windows username and password (the same one they use at school to get onto the network). After that, they can click on any of the resources without needing to login again.

Please take a few minutes to explore the site with your child. It is an important tool that will aid them in their education, and may make your life easier when it comes to homework and projects. We are excited that students will be able to access information from anywhere and at any time in this information age!

School Lunches and Milk



We will be offering daily milk and weekly pizza lunches again this year starting later in September. There will also be one other special lunch each week that families can choose. Watch your child's backpack for details!

Building Math Skills

Do you believe that all children can excel in mathematics?
Do you believe that children are born with the math gene?
Do you believe that children can suffer from math anxiety?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then please take a moment and continue reading.

This year our work in math will continue to focus on helping your children understand that math is about learning, not performing. Research indicates that every time any one of us makes a mistake in math our brains grow and connections are made¹. We need to help our children understand that making mistakes is not a 'bad' thing. Making mistakes is how we understand and get better at math.

At school, we want to help your children understand that math is about problem solving, reasoning and proving, making connections, communicating their thinking and persisting when tasks are challenging. We want to help them adopt an "I Can do Math" attitude.

In order for this to happen, we need to teach math differently than the way many of us were taught. No longer is the teacher robotically demonstrating mathematical methods that your children don't understand or care about.

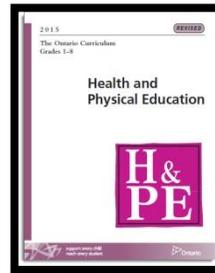
Sebastian Thru, CEO of Udacity, says that we do not and cannot know what mathematics students will need in the future. The best preparation we can give them is to teach them to be quantitatively literate, think flexibly and creatively and pre-solve and use intuition as they develop mathematical ideas². Math is about so much more than plugging numbers into a formula. Math is about children actively engaging with the problems, so that they understand how math is used in their own life. We need to teach our children to use mathematics in the world they will live in now and tomorrow. We're not sure what that world will look like, although we do know that it will be different from the world we grew up in. We also know that we want our students to love math and say with confidence "I can do math". As parents we think you want that too!

For ideas to support your children in math go to www.YouCubed.org

UGDSB Curriculum Department

1. International Journal of Environmental & Science Education 7, no.1 , January 2012
2. What's Math Got to Do With It, Jo Boaler, 2015

New Health and Physical Education Curriculum



In September the new Health and Physical Education curriculum will be fully implemented in Ontario schools. For elementary schools, the new curriculum has

existed for several years, but will now include an updated portion of its 'Healthy Living' component to include Human Development and Sexual Health. The document as a whole aims to educate children to understand themselves and others, think critically to make healthy choices, develop and maintain healthy relationships, be safe physically and emotionally, and to be physically active for life. The curriculum is available on the Ministry of Education's website.

The Human Development and Sexual Health component of the curriculum had not been updated since 1998. Since then much has changed and kids need to know more to keep themselves healthy and safe. This education starts with children learning about themselves, their feelings, their bodies and about showing respect for themselves and others in a reliable and accurate way. This learning is most effective when parents and schools work together. Parents help their children form values about relationships and their behaviours. Teachers will endeavour to communicate upcoming topics from the Human Development and Sexual Health units to families. Open and honest conversations at home about body parts, their functions, physical changes, healthy relationships and effective living habits help children connect learning and lets them know they have someone to talk to

about questions they might have. Questions about topics can always be directed to the teacher or school principal.

As mentioned above, Human Development and Sexual Health is one sub-component of the curriculum. The document also focuses on skills related to Active Living, which involves physical fitness, safety and active participation; Movement, which teaches specific movement and physical activity skills and tactics; and Healthy Living, which focuses on understanding health concepts, making healthy choices and making connections to healthy living.

There are plenty of ways you can support your children's learning from the Health and Physical Education curriculum. Consider what you and your child can do together that is fun and healthy. Enjoying physical activity or making meals together is a great start. Ask your child and their teacher about what is being taught and have discussions where you provide factual, straightforward answers to your child's questions. Finally, learn how to be safe online and use that information to guide your child's use of any device that connects to the internet. There are plenty of resources available for parents to support the learning from the HPE curriculum. The best place to start is the Ministry of Education's website: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/health.html> or at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/sex-education-ontario>.



School Council Update

What is School Council? We are a parent run group, designed to connect parents with their child's education and to enhance the school community by providing additional educational programs, organizing fun family outreach events, and funding supplementary educational supplies and playground equipment. We work with the principal and the teachers to create a fun educational environment.

PLEASE JOIN US! Thursday, September 17, 2015 at 6:30pm

in the school library for our first monthly meeting. Find out how you can contribute to making École Fred A. Hamilton the best educational experience for your child and the other students!

To be a member of School Council, you are not expected to attend every meeting or be involved in every program we run. Volunteering for School Council can be just 30 minutes of your time, once a year, to help run one of the evening events. Our School Council is low-key, fun group; we are always looking for new faces and new ideas.

SCHOOL COUNCIL FALL 2015 PLANS:

A New Playground! Over the next few years we will be revitalizing our old, tired playground! So that we can start enjoying some of the play structures now, the playground will be constructed in 3 to 4 phases. Evergreen has created a beautiful landscaping and playground design, that incorporates modern, natural play structures with some of the existing playground equipment. This summer we have commenced Phase 1 of our playground project, located where we used to have the portable classrooms. *Check out the playground construction process on the Ecole FA Hamilton Facebook and Twitter pages.*

Funds for playground equipment do not come from the School Board, therefore, School Council must fundraise for them. Our worn out climber was removed this summer and we need to fundraise to put in new climbing play structures.

Nobody likes Fundraising – including us! So let's make it simple. We will be asking for direct donations at a Fall Carnival Event to fund our playground revitalization project. In conjunction with the Carnival, we are running our Annual Halloween Dance-a-thon, where students will use pledge sheets to ask families and friends to donate for our school playground and educational programs

Carnival: *(Tentatively planned for the evening of **October 1st**)*

This is a fun family and community event to kick-start our playground fundraising and to unveil our new playground design plans. We will need parent volunteers to run the games and booths at this event. Pizza, snacks and drinks will be for sale. *Admission is FREE and all the games will be FREE.*

Halloween Dance-a-thon: Our annual Halloween dance is always a huge hit. Students dress up in their Halloween costumes and have a fun dance party in the gym with their classmates and teachers.

Mabel's Labels: If you need labels for all of your children's school things and clothes, please consider ordering them from our Mabel's Labels Fundraising website and we will get 20% of your purchase donated toward our playground. To get to our fundraiser website go to: 1.) <http://mabelslabels.com> 2.) click the "SUPPORT A FUNDRAISER" button on the upper right hand side 3.) scroll down and click on the Fred A Hamilton (Guelph) School.

Acorn Cards: Acorn Cards are a fun and artistic fundraiser where your child will create a piece of art that can be turned into cards, placemats, and other printed materials. They are great for the holidays and for thank you notes. Look for Acorn Card order forms in your backpacks in late September or early October. For more information check out: <http://www.acorncustomcards.com>

Other programs that School Council will be organizing this year include: the *Milk Program*, *Pizza Fridays*, *Winter Craft Night*, *Wellness Matters Family Night*, *Staff Appreciation Lunch*, and *Year End Play Day BBQ*.

We hope to see you at our first meeting on September 17th! Parent volunteers make a huge difference in a school's success and community.

Cheers! Amy Berg and Nicole Millard

Any questions? Ideas? Interested in Volunteering?

Email us at: fahamiltonschoolcouncil@gmail.com

[Click here to access a great resource for French Immersion parents who don't speak French!](#)

La boîte
à outils

