



École FA Hamilton

January 2018

Newsletter

Important Dates

Jan. 8 - Back to school! Happy New Year!

Jan. 8 - **JK registration opens at 9 AM**

Jan. 10 - Forest of Reading Kick-off Assembly

Jan. 15 - Scientists in School (Devenny, Mui)

Jan. 17 - Safety presentations by Guelph Police for grs. 2 & 3

Jan. 18 - Grs. 3 & 4 to River Run; Internet safety presentation by Guelph Police for grs. 4 & 5; Police visits to Kindergarten; **School Council** at 6:30 PM

Jan. 19 - **JK registration closes at 4 PM**

Jan. 23 - Milk & pizza orders due

Jan. 25 - **Crazy Hair Day!; Retro Night** at 5 PM

Jan. 26 - **Deadline to update immunization records**; PA Day - No school for students

Wednesdays - special hot lunches (order at <http://www.lunchboxorders.com>)

Fridays - pizza lunches (order at <https://ugdsb.schoolcashionline.com>)

[Click here to see our whole calendar!](#)



Get ready! FI JK Registration is from January 9-19



Junior Kindergarten Registration for French Immersion is from January 9 to 19, 2018 at all FI schools in UGDSB between the hours of 9 AM and 4 PM.

Please bring the following documents to registration:

1. Birth certificate or Immigration papers
2. Immunization Record card
3. Proof of address (e.g. driver's license)

Anyone wishing to enrol their child in French Immersion (FI) should be aware that there are caps on Junior Kindergarten FI registration. For more information, please visit www.ugdsb.on.ca/jkfi. For more information on Kindergarten Registration in general, please go to www.ugdsb.on.ca/jkregistration.

Avoid School Suspension by Keeping Immunization Records Up-to-date!

Student's immunization records must be provided to Public Health in order to attend school. The deadline is January 26. In the next few weeks, Public Health is sending notices to students with incomplete immunization records. Anyone who has received a notice should contact their family doctor so they can update their vaccines, and then report their new vaccines to Public Health.



Report every vaccine to Public Health using one of the following methods:

- Online: Fill in the form at www.immunizewdg.ca
- Email: Send a photo of the immunization record to vaccine.records@wdgpublichealth.ca
- Call: 1-800-265-7293 ext. 4396

If a student is not getting vaccinated for medical reasons, reasons of conscience or religious beliefs, an exemption form must be submitted to Public Health. The forms are available at www.wdgpublichealth.ca.

Public Health is committed to helping students to update their vaccination records so they can avoid suspension from school.

Forest of Reading



The Forest of Reading® is Canada's largest recreational reading program! This initiative of the Ontario Library Association (OLA) offers eight reading programs to encourage a love of reading in people of all ages. The Forest helps celebrate Canadian books, publishers, authors and illustrators. More than 250,000 readers participate annually from their School and/or Public Library. All Ontarians/Canadians are invited to participate via their local public library, school library, or individually. We are participating in 3 of the programs here at FAH: Le prix peuplier (French picture books for primary students); Le prix Tamarac Express (French novels for junior students); Silver Birch (English novels for junior students).

Goals of the Forest of Reading

- Love of reading: Create a meaningful experience for young readers and create exciting opportunities for reluctant readers to create lifelong readers.
- A proven head start: The results are in! Children who read for fun have higher literacy scores,

have more success in science and math, and are more socially and civically engaged (Reading for Joy, P4E, 2011).

- Libraries at centre stage: With fun activities, prizes and more, the Forest of Reading puts libraries at the heart of the action!
- Reading Canadian: Help support and celebrate Canadian books, publishers, authors and illustrators by taking advantage of the Forest's curated, all-Canadian reading lists for all ages and levels.

The kick-off assembly will take place on January 10th. Be sure to ask your son or daughter about it at home that night!

Bus Cancellation Procedures

There are several ways you can find out if the buses are cancelled. You can check the UGDSB app; you can check the transportation website; you can follow the Transportation Consortium on Twitter; and you can listen to the radio.

UGDSB app - search "upper grand" where you get apps

Transportation website - <http://www.stwdsts.ca/>

Follow on Twitter - [@stwdsts](https://twitter.com/stwdsts)

Listen to the radio - FM 106.1 or AM 1460



If you choose to drive your children to school on days when the busses are cancelled, then you must also pick them up by 3:10 PM. If there are no busses in the morning, then there will be no busses in the afternoon, even if the weather has improved. You are responsible for picking up children by the end of the school day - grs. 1-6 at the back, K's at the side. If you are not able to pick up your children by 3:10 PM, then you will have to keep them home for the day. Unfortunately, we do not have staff available to supervise children after the bell.

In the morning, if you are driving children to school, then the procedure will be different on a no-bus day. You will be allowed to enter the parking lot to drop-off your children. You may not park in the lot, but you may pull up to the sidewalk and let your children hop out. There will be staff there to make sure students go safely to the appropriate area. If you want to walk your child to the back of the school, then you will still have to park on the road like normal.

Cold Weather



I would like to remind parents and guardians to send their children to school dressed warmly enough to be outside during recess breaks, even on very cold days. It is healthy for children to get fresh air and exercise during the day. It helps them to concentrate and learn better.

Please send a scarf to cover the face, snow pants, a warm coat, a hat, mittens and insulated, waterproof boots. Extra mitts and socks are nice in case things get a little damp at first break and don't completely dry by second break.

If your family is going through a difficult time financially and you need some support to ensure that your children are warmly dressed, then please call me at the school (519-836-0080 ext. 223). There is funding that we can access through the Board to help out.

Change of Pick-up Plans

Please read this carefully so you are aware of the procedure for changing pick-up plans at the end of the day.

If your child normally walks and you will be picking up, then please write a note to the teacher in the agenda indicating that you will meet the child at the back of the school at 3:10 PM. Likewise, if your child normally takes the bus and you will be picking up, then please write a note to the teacher in the agenda indicating that you will meet the child at the back of the school at 3:10 PM. If someone other than you is picking up, then your child will be sent to the office and will be released to the designated adult after showing Mme Manni some ID to prove they are who they say they are.



If there is no note in the agenda, nor a call to the main office outlining the new plans, then your child will be sent home following the normal routine. We cannot rely on children to tell us if there are special dismissal plans for them because they are often a bit mixed up when it comes to scheduling, and we don't want to risk an unsafe or inconvenient situation for children and their families.

Tobogganing Safety



In order to comply with safety guidelines outlined by OPHEA, students at FAH will not be permitted to sled or toboggan at recess. Teachers may choose to take their classes out to slide during DPA, and students may bring sleds or toboggans from home for those times. GT snow-racers, inner tubes and plastic discs will not be allowed because they are either very heavy or difficult to control.

It is strongly recommended that students wear a CSA approved hockey or snow sport helmet while tobogganing.

Retro Night



We are hosting our third annual Retro Night from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January the 25th! M. Adams will drag all his ancient video-game systems out of mothballs and set them up ALL over the school (NES, Genesis, ATARI, gamecube, wii, etc.). We will also have some board games set up in one classroom for our less screen-interested friends! Pizza will be for sale ahead of time, as well as a collection of retro-themed treats. This event will raise money to buy our new Leadership Team T-shirts for 2017/18, and if we are lucky, some cool new leadership resources.

Dance Program at FAH

Starting February 20th, DancEd will be back at Fred A Hamilton to teach our students dance. For the last two years, every class participated in the program and presented Broadway dances to families at the end of the two weeks. This year, our students will be learning brand new dance routines that go with certain decades! Soon after we come back from the break, Mme Manni will set things up so that you can pay for the program online. The cost per student for two weeks of daily instruction will be \$XXXX. There will be a performances for families to attend on Friday, March 2nd at 1:30 PM and also 6:30 PM.



Talking to Children

How many times have you asked your child what they did in school today and they said “nothing”? Do you feel that most of the conversations you have with your children are just about telling them what to do? Many parents feel this way; life is busy.

Giving children opportunities to have conversations is really important for their growth and learning. What to do? Children often ask a lot of questions, especially young children. Parents answer those questions and the conversation often just ends. How do you keep the conversation going? Instead of answering the question what if next time you ask a question instead? Consider these questions: What do you think it is? What do you think about that? What interests you about that? What do you notice? How do you think that works? If you get a one word answer you might make a comment such as, “tell me more”, “I’d like to hear more about that” or ask another question.

Listening carefully is also important when talking to your child. Children respond positively if they know they have been heard and that you are interested in what they have to say. Use comments to encourage your child to keep talking: “Tell me more about that”, “that must have been difficult/interesting”, “it sounds like you had fun”, “you must have felt disappointed/frustrated/angry”. Talk while having dinner together, preparing dinner, going out for a walk, at bedtime, on the way to school or while standing in the grocery line. Think of yourself as a partner in the conversation.



Monthly environmental activities to help celebrate our planet

JANUARY is the time to carry out your resolutions!

There will be more waste plastic in the sea than fish by 2050" Dame Ellen MacArthur

It's a brand new year and the perfect time for positive change. For example, let's end plastic pollution.

Based on the daily news, it's never been more critical to increase your environmental efforts. This year the *Earth Day Network* is calling to end plastic pollution. Imagine a future free from harmful plastic garbage! Single-use plastics are especially wasteful and many plastics are also not properly recycled and take up precious landfill space or pollute our oceans, killing marine life and washing up on pristine beaches. Plastic garbage 'islands' are appearing in seas and oceans all over the world. One of these - the Great Pacific garbage patch, is estimated to be the size of Alberta.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/great-pacific-garbage-patch/>

Tips on how to reduce single-use plastics:

- Extend your use of cloth shopping bags beyond the grocery store. Use them at all other retail stores too. (You can carry purse-sized, reusable folded bags.)
- Avoid buying over-packaged food. The choice is yours. Do you need to buy the carrots that are shrink wrapped on a Styrofoam tray, or can you buy a bundle that is tied together with a simple twist tie?
- Let the restaurants you frequent know that you would them to join the growing movement to ban the use of straws. Restaurants, organizations, institutions and schools worldwide have gotten rid of plastic straws or implemented a 'serve-straws-upon-request' policy.
- Tap water is best. Bottled water can deplete our precious groundwater resources and produce unnecessary greenhouse gas emissions through the production and transport of plastic bottles. Carry a reusable water bottle instead.
- Lug a travel mug to your local coffee shop. (The plastic lining makes coffee cups unrecyclable, and they all end up in the garbage and in our overflowing landfills.)
- Write letters to the government asking them to fix a problem that you are concerned about such as: mandating the reduction of plastic packaging, banning Styrofoam, or promoting research for recyclable coffee cups, etc.