



École FA Hamilton

February 2018

Newsletter

Important Dates

- Feb. 2 - National Sweater Day
- Feb. 7 - Winter Walk Day; Swiss Chalet lunch ([order online](#))
- Feb. 8 - Healthy Schools assembly
- Feb. 9 - Grade 6 VIP
- Feb. 13 - Junior Basketball tournament
- Feb. 14 - Subway lunch ([order online](#))
- Feb. 15 - Term 1 reports and Term 2 IEPs go home; School Play (The Boogie Booth) at 6 PM; School Council at 6:30 PM
- Feb. 16 - Carnaval
- Feb. 19 - Family Day - no school
- Feb. 20 - DancED lessons begin and continue until Mar. 2
- Feb. 21 - East Side Mario's lunch; March milk and pizza orders due ([order online](#))
- Feb. 23 - Backwards Day; special YoYo's treat ([order online](#))
- Feb. 28 - Burger's Priest lunch ([order online](#))

Recurring events

- Mondays - Student-led projects in the Library at second recess
- Tuesdays - Silent reading in the Library at second recess
- Wednesdays - Grade 5 & 6 robotics and Ukulele Club in the Library at second recess
- Thursdays - Senior Leaders meeting in the Library at second recess; Leadership Program after school
- Fridays - Library Ninjas and Pokémon Club in the Library at second recess
- Day 4's - Art Club in Room 11 at second recess
- Every day until the performance - Play practice in the Library at first recess
- Tuesdays until the tournament - girls' basketball intramurals/practices at second recess
- Thursdays until the tournament - boys' basketball intramurals/practices at second recess

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

School Cell Phone Policy



Students are allowed to bring cellphones to school. We recognize that many children go home on their own after school, and a phone can be an important link to parents at that time. While phones are at school, they must stay in the student's backpack unless the teacher has given specific permission for the device to be used in class, during instructional time, for an activity like research or a Kahoot quiz or something like that. Under no circumstances are phones allowed during recesses or nutrition breaks, in the hallways or bathrooms, or before and after school while on the school

property. As well, students may not take pictures of other students or post or access social media while at school.

Winter Walk Day - Wednesday, February 7th

The whole school will be participating in Winter Walk Day on Wednesday. Please make sure your children are dressed for the weather and if you're able, come join us. We'll be heading out from the front of the school at 9:15 AM for a short walk around the neighbouring park and back. We hope to see lots of parents walking with us to highlight the benefits of physical activity and the importance of reducing our use of fossil fuels.



DancEd



DancEd is back for another year! Everyone at school is very excited about this program. We hope you will be able to join us for the big dance show on Friday, March 2nd. Performances will take place at 1:30 PM and 6:30 PM that day.

The cost for children to participate in the class dance lessons that will take place over two weeks starting on February 20th is \$18. Additionally, we will be selling tickets for the two performances for \$1 each. There is a seating limit for our gym in order to comply with the fire code, so we will only be selling a certain number of tickets for each performance. Once they are gone, then no one else will be able to purchase tickets for that performance.

You can pay for the DancED lessons and purchase tickets online using [School Cash Online](#). The theme for this year's show is Dancing Through the Decades! We hope you can come out and enjoy the show.

Retro Night Update!

Thank you to all families who came out to support our Leadership Program and have a fun time together last Thursday evening. Thanks to your generosity, over \$717.80 was raised to buy Leadership T-shirts and some resources for the staff to use to continue to keep the program meaningful and engaging for students.



Winter Carnival



We are having a Winter Carnival this year! On Friday, February 16th, students will be put into teams and will have a chance to participate in a whole bunch of fun outdoor activities, including snowshoeing (provided we have snow)! This fun day lines up with a couple of areas of our School Improvement Plan: building community and promoting outdoor education. If you want to be part of the fun by helping out, then please contact your child's teacher.

Report Bullying

We take all incidents of bullying seriously. If your child is the victim of bullying or sees bullying behavior at school, please encourage him/her to speak with someone at school or use our board's online reporting tool. Report Bullying gives students and parents 24/7 access for reporting bullying. You don't have to identify yourself – just your school – and your message gets sent directly to the school principal for follow-up. You'll find the Report Bullying button [here](#).



National Sweater Day!



National Sweater Day is about valuing energy. It's a chance to think differently about how we use energy, where our energy comes from and how we can play an important role in fighting climate change by using energy wisely, not wastefully. It is designed to help raise awareness about renewable energy and change behaviours around energy consumption in Canada. If all Canadians lowered their thermostats by just two degrees Celsius, it would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about four megatons – equivalent to taking nearly 700,000 cars off the road.

Encourage your child to wear a sweater to school on Friday, February 2nd to raise awareness about the importance of using our natural resources responsibly. Here are some other ideas to consider:

- Turn down your thermostat and wear a sweater!
- Ask your children to brainstorm with you about ways to save energy at home. Make a pledge to implement as many as you can.
- Research the differences between climate and weather. Ask your child to characterize some different climate types (polar, tropical, coastal, etc.).
- Read a children's book on conservation such as: *Why Should I Save Energy?* by Jen Green. Encourage lots of discussion and questions.
- Valentine's Day is just around the corner - use recycled materials to create your cards this year!



Engaging Your Child in Science at Home!

As parents we have the wonderful opportunity and responsibility for nurturing our children's growth. Parents play a key role in the physical, emotional, and intellectual development of their child. As parents we can usually find time to read a story to our children, thereby instilling a love of literature, but we are often at a loss as to how to instill a love and appreciation for Science. Science encourages problem solving skills, curiosity and questioning, creative and critical thinking, observational skills and reinforces both literacy and math skills....and it's FUN! Here are some ideas for fostering Scientific skills in your children.



6 Tips to foster Scientific Thinking at Home

1-See science everywhere. Parents can take opportunities to ask "What would happen if ...?" questions or present brainteasers to encourage children to be curious and seek out answers. Children need to know that science isn't just a subject, but it is a way of understanding the world around us.

2-Lead family discussions on science-related topics. Dinnertime might be an ideal time for your family to have discussions about news stories that are science based, like space shuttle missions, severe weather conditions, or new medical breakthroughs. Over time, children will develop a better understanding of science and how it affects many facets of our lives. Movies and TV shows with science-related storylines are also great topics for discussion.

3-Encourage girls and boys equally. Many girls are left out of challenging activities simply because of their gender. Be aware that both girls and boys need to be encouraged and exposed to a variety of subjects at a very early age.

4-Do science together. Children, especially elementary-age children, learn better by investigating and experimenting. Simple investigations done together in the home can bolster what your child is learning in the classroom. Check with your child's teacher on what your child is currently learning in class and what activities you can explore at home.

5-Connect science with a family vacation. Family vacations are a great way to explore science. It could be a hiking trip where you explore nature or a discussion on tides during a beach vacation.

6-Show excitement for Science!

Reference:

"NSTA Science Matters: Tips for Busy Parents - National Science"

<http://www.nsta.org/sciencematters/tips.aspx>.