



# École FA Hamilton

## February 2019

### Newsletter

#### **Important Dates**

Feb. 1 - PA Day - school closed

Feb. 4 - Scientist in the Classroom - Hartmans and McLeish

Feb. 5 - Girls' Group (grades 5 & 6)

Feb. 6 - Winter Walk Day; Club Vert meeting; Pablo the Cartoonist - Woodward, McLeish, Hartmans

Feb. 7 - Sweater Day; gr. 6 VIP; Pablo the Cartoonist - Zakaib, Holmes, Nibaruta, Young

Feb. 8 - Pottery-to-go in Mme Young's class

Feb. 12 - Eco Assembly (t-shirts will be distributed - *merci*, School Council!); Girls' Group (grades 5 & 6)

Feb. 13 - Safety presentations by police - The Safe Side for grades 2&3 and Computer Safety for grades 4&5

**Feb. 14 - Valentine's Day**

Feb. 18 - Family Day - school closed

Feb. 19 - Girls' Group; Bus #137 Patrol meeting

Feb. 20 - Reports sent home; Bus #139 Patrol meeting

Feb. 21 - Grades 1&2 to River Run; Bus #174 Patrol meeting; School Council at 6:30 PM

Feb. 22 - Bus #142 meeting; [Menchie's treats](#)

Feb. 25 - Parent Involvement Committee meeting at 7 PM at the Board Office (all parents welcome)

Feb. 26 - **Parent information evening on Childhood Anxiety at 6:30 in the Library** ([get free tickets here](#))

**Feb. 27 - National Pink Shirt Day**

Feb. 28 - Lion's Vision Testing; February monthly assembly (Mme Woodward & Mme Young's classes will take the lead)

[Click here to see our school calendar](#)

**Wednesday** - special lunches - [sign up here!](#)

[here!](#)

**Fridays** - pizza lunches - [sign up](#)

## Congratulations to Mme Manni



I would like to offer sincere congratulations to Mme Manni who will be retiring as of Friday, March 29th, 2019.

Mme Manni started with the Upper Grand District School Board in 1991. She has worked in nine different schools and also the Human Resources Department at the Board Office. For the last fourteen years, she has worked at FA Hamilton.

In her retirement, Mme Manni is looking forward to spending more time with her grandchildren, reading some good books, and doing a little travelling. We wish her all the best. She will be truly missed.

## Parent Information Evening - Childhood Anxiety

On Tuesday, February 26 at 6:30 PM, Dr. Diana Audet, our Psychological Consultant, will speak to parents about childhood anxiety and what we as adults can do to help. Please note that there is no child care being offered at the school for this information session. There is also no cost to attend this event, which is being organized by your School Council. We hope to see lots of parents there! [Please sign up by clicking here.](#)



## Winter Walk Day - February 6th



We are excited to announce that FA Hamilton will be taking part in Winter Walk Day on Wednesday, February 6th!

Walking in winter has many potential benefits, including benefits for your child's health and well-being (like opportunities to learn and socialize and being more alert and ready to learn at school), our community, and the environment, too. All classes who choose to participate will go on a short walk in the neighbourhood at the start of the day and parents, younger siblings, and grandparents are welcome to join us as we



get some fresh air and exercise and enjoy a bit of nature before settling in for some indoor learning.

# Be sure to dress warmly!

# National Sweater Day - February 7th



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.

*The heat at our school will be turned down 2 degrees on Sweater Day in support of this great initiative.* Please encourage your child to wear a sweater to school on Thursday, February 7th 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 a your cards this year!



## Immunization

The Public Health unit recently sent letters to the homes of children whose immunization records are not up-to-date. If you received this letter, then please take prompt action to ensure your child's immunizations and the record of vaccinations are both up-to-date by **March 15th**. Failure to do so will result in your child being suspended from school.

## 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.

## Retro Night Update!

Thank you to all the families who came out to support our Leadership Program and have a fun time together last month. Thanks to your generosity, \$605 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.



## Report Cards and Term 2 IEPs



Term 1 report cards will be sent home on Wednesday, February 20, 2019. If your child has an IEP with modified or alternate goals, then you will receive an updated IEP with Term 2 goals in the report card envelope. Please review your child's report card with them. Ask them what they are proud of and what they are working on. And feel free to ask for a meeting with the teacher if you have questions or want some more information. There is a little box on the tear-away slip that gets returned to school that you can check to prompt the teacher to get

in touch with you.

## Family Day is Monday, February 18

I hope you have a lovely long weekend with your family. School will be closed on Family Day.

## Menchies Treat Day - February 22

Families have an opportunity to buy a treat from Menchies for kids to enjoy at school on Friday, February 22nd. [Click here to order!](#)

## Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health

In Ontario, the *Immunization of School Pupils Act* requires that all students attending school be fully immunized or have a valid exemption on file. Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) has recently mailed immunization notices to elementary students with incomplete vaccine records. To avoid suspension, please update your child's immunization record by **March 15, 2019**.

If the student has already received the immunization(s), report them using one of these methods:

Online: View and report immunizations at [www.immunizewdg.ca](http://www.immunizewdg.ca). Sign-in using your Ontario Health Card Number or the Ontario Immunization ID (provided on your Immunization Notice if received by mail from WDGPH).

- Email: Send a copy of the record to [vaccine.records@wdgpublichealth.ca](mailto:vaccine.records@wdgpublichealth.ca)

- Call: 1-800-265-7293 ext. 4396

If the student needs the immunization(s) do one of the following:

Make an appointment with the student's health care provider, bring the notice from WDGPH with you, and follow up by reporting the immunization(s) to WDGPH.

- Call 1-800-265-7293 ext. 4134 to make an immunization appointment at WDGPH.

If the student is not being immunized for medical or conscience/religious reasons:

Access the appropriate exemption form at [www.wdgpublichealth.ca/your-kids/vaccination](http://www.wdgpublichealth.ca/your-kids/vaccination)

For the Statement of Conscience or Religious Belief Exemptions a parent/guardian must also complete an immunization education session at WDGPH. For an appointment call 1-800-265-7293 ext. 4134.

## 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>.

### **SCHOOL COUNCIL CORNER**

#### Guest Speaker- school apps

At our last school council meeting, we welcomed Bill McKenzie, Information and Communication Technology Consultant for the UGDSB. He spoke to council about two newly created apps. The aim is to communicate with parents and students using one platform, rather than a suite of social media apps.

The ***Upper Grand District School Board*** app is available now and being used at Fred A Hamilton. The app provides information about what is going on at the school and links to weekly and monthly newsletters.

The upcoming ***SchoolMessenger*** app provides an opportunity for teachers to message students and their families. The app will be available board-wide in 2019/2020.

#### PRO Grant

FAH is the successful recipient of a \$1000 Parents Reaching Out (PRO) grant from the Ministry of Education. The grant application suggested that funds may be used to host family events throughout the year.

The grant money will be allocated to support FAH's Spring Carnival and to facilitate a parent education evening, "Supporting French Education at Home", later this Spring.

#### Parent Evening- Anxiety Speaker

FAH is offering parents an opportunity to learn more about anxiety in kids with speaker Dr. Diana Audet. The evening will be held Tuesday, February 26, 2019 from 6:30 - 7:30 pm.