



Gordon Price School

Special Interest Articles:

- Bullying Tips
- December Musical
- Sharing Assembly
- Mitten & Food Collections

December, 2011

From the Principal's Desk ~

Congratulations to those students who have worked hard this term and have received a positive report. Thank you also to staff and parents for supporting our students in their academic achievements.

We hope you can join us for our holiday events and presentations. Thank you to all of the staff involved in providing these special activities for our students and their families.

On behalf of the staff at Gordon Price, we wish you all a wonderful holiday season!

Cold Weather and Outdoor Play

Time spent outdoors is an integral part of the school day. Children need fresh air and exercise and time spent outside affords students an opportunity to break free from the structure of the classroom.

With the Canadian climate, time spent outside could mean anything from applying sunscreen to donning extra mittens and a hat, depending on the season.

In the winter it is important children come to school prepared for the cold. Boots, mittens or gloves and hats should be worn to school and it is a good idea to provide extra mittens, socks, etc. in the event they are needed.

As always, Principals can use their judgment in determining whether or not students remain inside during recess given the weather conditions, however, the City of Hamilton's Public Health and Community Services department recommends individuals stay indoors when the temperature drops below minus 15 degrees Celsius with or without wind chill.

Ms. Stephens-Brockbank
Principal

V. Stephens-Brockbank
Principal

G. DiFrancesco
Vice Principal

Phone 905.574.6336

Website:
www.hwdsb.on.ca/gordonprice

email:
price@hwdsb.on.ca



Cancellation of School and Board Operations

For information on the cancellation of school and board administrative operations due to inclement weather or prolonged power or water outage go to:

<http://www.hwdsb.on.ca>

or call our Hotline #: 905-521-2535

Remember to watch and listen to local media for up-to-date information on the cancellation of events or operations.

December Musical

Ms. McManus and her team of students have worked extremely hard in the last few weeks in preparation for this year's "A Pirate's Christmas" musical. Please mark your calendar and join us for a great evening on Thursday, December 15th. The program will begin at 6:30 p.m. Tickets will be sold at the door \$3 for adults, \$2 for seniors and children. Proceeds from this event support our Music Program at Gordon Price.



December Sharing Assembly

Our December Sharing Assembly will take place on **Monday, December 19th at 1:40** for our JK(B)/SK(B), grade 1 and 2 students.

Tuesday, December 20th, at 1:40 for our JK(A)/SK(A) and grades 3, 4, 5, students.

Parents are welcome to join us at this time to watch their child's presentation. If you cannot make the assembly for your child's assigned grade you are welcome to attend the alternate assembly day.

A food item or mitten donation would be greatly appreciated!

Pizza Orders

There will be **no** pizza the last week of December. Pizza will begin again January 13!!

Nutrition Committee

Thank you to Mrs. Palcik (teacher) for agreeing to chair our Nutrition Committee. New members include: Georgina Martin (parent) and Kristina Hachey (community rep) -

welcome aboard. Our committee also includes Roger Cameron (parent), Mrs. Scott (teacher) and myself, Mrs. Stephens-Brockbank (Principal). Lots of caring and supportive ideas about how to keep our students/children healthy and happy within the guidelines of the Ministry of Education Nutrition Policy are being explored. Check out this newsletter for a healthy lunch idea!



Mittens and Food Drive

Once again we will be collecting donations to support the local food banks this holiday season. From December 5 – 22 students can drop off non-perishable food items in the Learning Resource Room. The donations will be forwarded to The Salvation Army as well as Neighbour to Neighbour. Any donations of new mittens, scarves and hats for our "Mitten Tree" may also be dropped off at the Learning Resource Room.

This season our student leadership will also be collecting monetary donations on behalf of Hamilton Food Share. Students that would like to donate a minimum of \$1 will receive an orange wristband in return (while quantities last). Every \$1 donated to Hamilton Food Share raises \$5 worth of food in their Food Recovery Program. If you would like more information on this program as well as general information about Hamilton Food Share you can visit www.hamiltonfoodshare.org

Bullying Tip – Rattting vs. Reporting

Rattting is done to get tohers in trouble. Rattting hopes to creat a problem for someone else. Reporting is done to get help, to take care of yourself or someone else. Reoprting tries to solve a problem. Rattting says *I want to hurt!* Reporting says *Please help!*

Child Care in our Schools

"Good Care Educates. Good Education Cares." Umbrella Family and Child Care Centres of Hamilton provides high quality child care. Gordon Price's Children's Centre strives to provide care in an environment that nurtures, enriches and respects children and their families. We provide before and after school care for children between the ages of 3.8 (44 months) up to 12 years of age. If you have any questions about our program or would like to arrange a visit at our Child Care Centre please contact our Centre Program at (905) 574-5321.

Our School Is a Healthy School!

The Lunch Lady provides a hot lunch service to our school every Wednesday.

Order Online within 3 days of any lunch date at:



www.thelunchlady.ca

Offering families healthy lunch choices in our school!!!

Parking Lot

When dropping/picking up your child(ren) please make sure you are not using the handicap spot (unless authorized) as Gordon Price currently has students that require these spots.



Healthy Lunch Snack Ideas

Here are a few different ideas for your child's lunch!

- A chunk of Swiss cheese and small apple;
- Taco Chips and guacamole dip;
- Cream cheese and cucumber slices on melba toast;

Should you have any ideas, please feel free to bring them into the office.

LITERACY and TLCPs

What is the TLCP?

Each school is continuously engaging in the

Teaching, Learning, Critical Pathway from September to June. This pathway supports effective assessment and instruction and is the foundation for improving student achievement. Further, the key elements of this process are the focused dialogue between teachers, the implementation of instructional strategies and the reflection regarding what took place for students and for teachers. **Bringing student work to this dialogue is the most important data to determine how well students are achieving.**

Classes are working hard on their TLCP tasks.

Each class has a specific focus/expectation from the curriculum, and then a "Big



Idea", which usually ties the focus into a deeper connection/understanding with the world around them. You may notice that these deeper understandings are often related to our Character Traits. (When they are not, it has been felt that those classes need to form a firmer foundation in specific skills before delving into deeper areas.) Results will be posted in the January Newsletter

JK/SK

Focus: - Children are effective communicators

Big Idea/Question - Children are curious and connect prior knowledge to new contexts in order to understand the world around them

Grade 1

Focus: - developing reading strategies by using text related to the Science and Social Studies curriculum

- developing writing skills as a tool to demonstrate clear understanding and extension of text to Sc. & S.S.

Big Idea/Question: - What qualities would you need to demonstrate, to be a good citizen in your classroom, home or neighbourhood?

Grade 2

Focus: - developing reading strategies by using text
- developing writing skills as a tool to demonstrate clear understanding and extension of text

Big Idea/Question: - How do we honour the rights, traditions, celebrations and cultures of others and ourselves?

Grade 3

Focus: - Soc. Stud. (Urban and Rural Communities);

Identify important ideas and supporting details using retell (fiction) and restating (non-fiction) activities.

Students will examine/explore the effects/impact of a community and its relationships to our lives (needs/wants, decisions, etc.).

Big Idea/Question: - To what extent does the kind of community people live in affect their needs/wants, views, and values?

Grade 4

Focus: - Man and the world (environmental focus)

Big Idea/Question: - Does human action affect the environment? How?

Grade 5

Focus: - Identifying and Summarizing main ideas

Big Idea/Question: - How do my choices affect myself, the people around me, and the world?

Grade 6/7

Focus: - Reference supporting details, Word choice

Big Idea/Question: - What does it mean to make a good impression?

Grade 6 – "Biography"

Grade 7 – "Make an Impression"

Grade 7

Focus – Summarize, reference supporting details, Word choice

Big Idea/Question - What are your fears? How are people affected by fear? (coping, overcoming, impairment)

Grade 8

Focus: - Writing

Big Idea/Question: - Can you make your thinking visible? How is a paragraph structured?

Grade 8 Music

Focus: - How to answer a question with supporting detail
Big Idea/Question: - What song do you think should be named the song of the summer of 2011?10 reasons

Create Family Holiday Fitness Traditions This Year

For most families, life turns even topsy-turvier than usual during November and December. We squeeze extra entertaining, baking, shopping, errands, concerts, and parties into our already busy schedules, and that means holiday fitness takes a back seat.

Combine that with all the tempting treats: Ho-ho-uh oh! It's essential to find ways to fit in some family holiday fitness, and we promise there are ways to do it that won't turn you into a Grinch.

Treasured rituals are an important part of the holiday season for most families. Add or adapt yours to include fitness! Consider:

- * An all-ages Christmas caroling
- * Party, complete with active holiday party games
- * Walking, instead of driving, to view holiday lights and decorations
- * A kids' talent show during family get-togethers
- * Cutting your own Christmas tree
- * A family skiing, snowboarding, sledding, or snowshoeing outing during school vacation
- * Feeling ambitious? Build a backyard ice rink!



Days of Significance

Dec. 6	• National Day of Remembrance & Action on Violence Against Women
Dec. 10	• Human Rights Day
Dec. 20-28	• Hanukkah (Judaism)
Dec. 22	• First Day of Winter
Dec. 24	• Christmas Eve (Western)
Dec. 25	• Christmas Day (Western)
Dec. 26	• Boxing Day • Kwanzaa Begins
Dec. 26-Jan. 6.12	• Christmas Break
Dec. 31	• New Year's Eve
Jan. 9. 2012	• Back to school

**December is:
The Lung Association Christmas Seal Campaign**



What is Kwanzaa?

Kwanzaa is a week-long celebration honoring universal

African-American heritage and culture, observed from December 26 to January 1 each year. It features activities such as lighting a candle holder with seven candles and culminates in a feast and gift giving. It was created by Maulana Karenga and was first celebrated in 1966–1967.



What is Hanukkah?

Hanukkah is an eight-day Jewish holiday

commemorating the rededication of the Holy Temple (the Second Temple) in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt of the 2nd century BCE. Hanukkah is observed for eight nights and days, starting on the 25th day of Kislev according to the Hebrew calendar, which may occur at any time from late November to late December in the Gregorian calendar.



What is Ashura?

The day of Ashura (also Aashoora and other

spellings), which simply means 'tenth' in Arabic, marks the climax of the Remembrance of Muharram. For Shi'a Muslims, it commemorates the martyrdom of Husayn ibn Ali, the grandson of Muhammad at the Battle of Karbala in the year 61 AH (AD680) and is a day for mourning. Ashura is also commemorated by Muslims as the traditional date on which Noah's ark came to rest, the prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) was born and the Ka'ba was built in Mecca.



What is Christmas?

Christmas or Christmas Day is a

holiday generally observed on December 25 (with alternative days of Jan, 6, 7, & 19) to commemorate the birth of Jesus, the central figure of Christianity.

Have a safe & happy holiday season!!

