

Hamilton Elementary School - Newsletter

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We acknowledge and thank the First Peoples of the [hən̓q̓əmin̓əm̓](#) (hun-ki-meen-um) language group on whose traditional and unceded territories we teach, learn and live.

February 20, 2024

Dear Hamilton Families,

We hope you all had a refreshing long weekend. The month of February seems to be racing along after a long January. We are set to have our second Student Learning Conferences next week, a great opportunity to see the progress your child is making. A reminder that **Wednesday, February 28th is an early 11:50 dismissal day** so please make arrangements for the supervision of your child(ren) that afternoon. This year there will be a change to when the **second Written Learning Updates** (report cards) will be published. In the past these have always gone home before Spring Break, but starting this year the second update of the year will be published online **Friday, April 26th**. This change is a way of creating more balanced terms throughout the school year.

We would like to take this opportunity **to thank staff members and students who volunteer to take on extra-curricular supervision for our students**. I don't know if you are aware, but staff are not expected to, nor do they receive any extra compensation for doing so. They volunteer their own time during lunch breaks or before or after school, because they believe strongly that providing students with these opportunities is beneficial to their overall development. The emphasis is always on fun and skill development. Whether it is intramural sports, clubs, or sports against other schools, staff, students, and parents in attendance are always subject to our Richmond School Code of Conduct.

Many of you have your children involved in sports and other activities outside of school where a culture has developed questioning the coaching or refereeing, and this has unfortunately led to some disrespectful situations. Minor hockey comes to mind with recent stories in the news, but it is certainly not limited to hockey. There seems to be a perception in today's society that it is somehow okay to berate a coach or referee when it is perceived a bad call, or lack of call, has been made.

I want to make it very clear that there is no place for disrespectful talk, actions, verbal harassment, or inappropriate language at Richmond School events, whether at Hamilton or any other Richmond school. **We endeavor to create an environment where kids can learn and participate in extra-curricular opportunities in a safe, fun, and respectful environment.** Thank you for understanding where we are coming from and supporting our teams as we compete in a competitive but peaceful way against other schools.

Please remember that these are learning environments for players and referees. At our upcoming basketball tournament at McNair, the referees will be Richmond students who will be volunteering their time learning to do this important role. We want to encourage all volunteers, whether staff or students, to take on these roles so that we can run programs for the kids. Thank you for your understanding.

Mr. McCallum and Ms. Burroughs-Chan

HAMILTON TALENT SHOW

Are you ready to see some talented Hamilton Students perform! On **Thursday, March 14th**, the last school day before Spring Break, our annual Hamilton Talent Show will take place. Times TBD. Most talents will be performed live at the event, but this year students will also be able to record their talent if it needs to be in a particular location other than the school. Great fun!

If your family is planning an extended holiday where your child will be absent from school longer than a four-week period (20 school days), you will need to fill out an **Extended Leave of Absence Request** form available at the school office. If your child is absent longer than the 20-school day period, they may be removed from the school register, and you may need to re-register upon their return.

FEEDING FUTURES

Food insecurity is a growing concern in every community. Thanks to a grant from the provincial government and work from SD38 staff, all schools in Richmond have been provided with a community fridge. The Richmond Food Bank and Richmond Firefighters will be delivering and stocking the fridge every two weeks. The purpose is to provide dignified access to healthy and high-quality foods to students and staff who are hungry, minimizing the barriers associated with need. The fridge is in our foyer and is accessible to all students and staff. As expected, the fridge has generated great excitement this past week, and we are working with students to help them understand the purpose of the fridge and when to use it. **This is NOT to replace the healthy snacks and lunches that families are able to send.** It is meant to satisfy a need for students whose families can't afford to provide healthy food for their children at this time, or for students in the event of an emergency, who may require a healthy snack.

Important Dates for 2023 -2024 School Year

***Dates in bold are changes to the school day or regular hours of 8:45 – 2:45**

PAC Pasta Lunch	Friday, Feb. 23
Early (11:50) Dismissal for Conferences	Wednesday, Feb. 28
Pink Shirt Day	Wednesday, Feb. 28
PAC Chinese Lunch	Friday, Mar. 2
PAC Sushi Lunch	Friday, Mar. 8
Class/Group Photo Day	Tuesday, Mar. 12
Last school day before Spring Break	<u>Thursday</u> , Mar. 14
First school day after Spring Break/Easter	<u>Tuesday</u> , Apr. 2

Second Written Learning Update Goes Online
Professional Development Day
Victoria Day Holiday
Sports Day – 1:30pm dismissal
Last day students attend

Friday, Apr. 26
Friday, May 17
Monday, May 20
Friday, June 7
Thursday, June 27