

## Hamilton Elementary School - Newsletter

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Principal: Mark McCallum

Vice-Principal: Karen Burroughs-Chan

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

August 30th, 2024

- **Principal's Message – Welcome Back!**
- **The First Week Back**
- **Construction Around the School**
- **Important Dates for 2024-2025**

Dear Hamilton Families,

With a warm heart we welcome you all back for another school year starting next week. We know we speak for the entire Hamilton Staff when we say how much we are all looking forward to greeting the students on Tuesday for another exciting year of learning. A big thank you to our School Custodians, Mr. Patel and Mr. Klair, who have taken such care to clean the school from top to bottom ensuring that our students and staff have a safe and welcoming environment to come back to. Many of our teachers have been in this past week readying their classrooms and making plans for the year ahead. Next week will of course look a little different as students return to their last year's classroom temporarily and we welcome new students and staff to the Hamilton family, but the most important thing will remain the same, that all persons in our community, and whoever walks through our doors, will continue to be treated with kindness, respect, and dignity. Looking forward to a great 2024/2025 school year!  
See you all on Tuesday!

Mr. McCallum & Ms. Burroughs-Chan

### First Week Back

#### Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>

- 8:45 • New grades 1 – 7 students meet with Mr. McCallum in the Library for an orientation and then will be placed in grade appropriate classrooms for the week.
- 9:00 – 10:00 • Grades 1 – 7 attend and return to last year's classroom
- 10:15 - 11:00 Group "A" new Kindergarten students attend
- 1:00 – 1:45 Group "B" new Kindergarten students attend

**NOTE: All new kindergarten students will be welcomed at the bottom of the steps at the front of the school by the large playground. We will then enter the classroom through outside door #28.**

#### Wednesday

- 8:45 – 2:45 All grades 1 – 7 students return to their temporary/last year’s classroom  
8:45 – 9:45 Group “A” new Kindergarten students attend  
10:15 – 11:15 Group “B” new Kindergarten students attend

#### **Thursday**

- 8:45 – 2:45 All grades 1 – 7 students return to their temporary/last year’s classroom  
8:45 – 11:15 Group “A” new Kindergarten students attend (with recess snack)  
12:15 – 2:45 Group “B” new Kindergarten students attend (with recess snack)

#### **Friday**

- 8:45 – 2:45 All grades 1 – 7 students return to their temporary/last year’s classroom  
8:45 – 11:15 Group “A” new Kindergarten students attend (with recess snack)  
12:15 – 2:45 Group “B” new Kindergarten students attend (with recess snack)

#### **Monday**

- 8:45 – 2:45 All grades 1 – 7 students return to their temporary/last year’s classroom  
8:45 – 11:15 ALL new kindergarten students attend (with recess snack)

#### **Construction Around the School**

I have been assured the drainage work on Smith Drive and the fire hydrant installation on Gilley will be completed today and both roads will be open for the start of school on Tuesday. That said, we would like to caution all students and parents arriving and leaving the school that construction work across Smith Drive from the school will continue. While we have asked the construction company to limit traffic during drop-off and pick-up times, there still may be trucks on the road at any given time, and we want everyone to be safe as they travel to and from the school. Please note that space in our parking lot will be limited so we ask that you allow space for the people working at the community centre and school. Thank you!

#### **Cell Phone/Digital Device Use in Schools**

You can help your child stay focused and engaged in their education by helping to reduce digital device distractions. Support them in managing their cell phone and digital device use to make their learning experiences better. Please have a conversation with your child(ren) regarding the rules for use of digital devices at school.

1. **It is recommended that students do not bring personal devices to school.** If students bring personal devices (any personal electronic device that can be used to communicate or to access the internet, such as a cell phone, smartwatch or a tablet) to school for educational purposes, need to be used only under **direct supervision by a teacher** (i.e.. not in the hallway, not out of sight) and only for the purpose of a **specific learning activity**.
2. These devices are to be kept in a secure place at the discretion of the teacher. The devices are not to be taken outside of the classroom at any time (for breaks, to go to the washroom, when going to another class/band, etc.)
3. If students have an "emergency" use for a phone at any time during the day - they are welcome to come to the office to have us make this call with them or use the classroom phone under **direct supervision by a teacher**. Students should not be receiving or making calls/texts while at school on any device (personal or school).
4. **If a device is not required for a learning activity, it should not be brought to school.**

5. If parents want to send their child to school with a phone for before and after school safety, that is the only time they need to have access to it.
6. Any student who is not complying with these safety rules will risk having their device held by the office until the end of the day. Further non-compliance will result in a phone call home to parents reminding them of our school policy.

## Important Dates 2024/2025

**\*Note: Events Dates in bold indicate changes to the school day or regular hours of 8:45 – 2:45**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>*First Day Back – students attend 1 hour</b>                         | <b>Tuesday, Sept. 3</b>                 |
| Individual Photo Day  | Monday, Sept. 16                        |
| <b>*Pro-D Day – Students do not attend</b>                              | <b>Friday, Sept. 20</b>                 |
| Immunizations K & 6   | Friday, Sept. 27                        |
| <b>*National Day for Truth &amp; Reconciliation - Statutory Holiday</b> | <b>Monday, Sept. 30</b>                 |
| Photo Retakes   | Monday, Oct. 7                          |
| <b>*Thanksgiving - Statutory Holiday</b>                                | <b>Monday, Oct. 14</b>                  |
| Grade 7s at Camp  | Tuesday, Oct. 15-17                     |
| <b>*Conferences <u>1:45 Dismissal days</u></b>                          | <b><u>Wed/Thur, Oct 23 &amp; 24</u></b> |
| <b>*Pro-D Day – Students do not attend</b>                              | <b>Friday, Oct. 25</b>                  |
| Remembrance Day Assembly 10:30  | Friday, Nov. 8                          |
| <b>*Remembrance Day - Statutory Holiday</b>                             | <b>Monday, Nov. 11</b>                  |
| <b>*Pro-D Day – Students do not attend</b>                              | <b>Monday, Nov. 25</b>                  |
| Last day before Winter Break  | Friday, Dec. 20                         |
| First day back after Winter Break                                       | Monday, Jan. 6                          |
| <b>*Pro-D Day – Students do not attend</b>                              | <b>Monday, Jan. 27</b>                  |
| <b>*Pro-D Day – Students do not attend</b>                              | <b>Friday, Feb. 14</b>                  |
| <b>*Family Day - Statutory Holiday</b>                                  | <b>Monday, Feb. 17</b>                  |
| <b>*Conferences <u>11:50 Dismissal</u></b>                              | <b>Wednesday, Feb. 26</b>               |
| Last day before Spring Break  | Friday, Mar. 14                         |
| First day back after Spring Break                                       | Monday, Mar. 31                         |
| Immunizations   | Friday, Apr. 4                          |
| <b>*Good Friday - Statutory Holiday</b>                                 | <b>Friday, Apr. 18</b>                  |
| <b>*Easter Monday - Statutory Holiday</b>                               | <b>Monday, Apr. 21</b>                  |
| <b>*Pro-D Day – Students do not attend</b>                              | <b>Friday, May 16</b>                   |
| <b>*Victoria Day - Statutory Holiday</b>                                | <b>Monday, May 19</b>                   |
| <b>*Sports Day – 1:30 Dismissal</b>                                     | <b>Friday, Jun. 13</b>                  |
| Grade 7 Day   | Friday, Jun 20                          |
| Last Day Students Attend – 2:45 Dismissal                               | Thursday, Jun. 26                       |
| Admin Day - – <b>Students do not attend</b>                             | Friday, Jun. 27                         |