

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 [hənq̓əminəm'](#) (hun-ki-meen-um) language group on who's traditional and unceded territories we teach, learn and live.

October 31st, 2024. Boo!

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Principal's Message

What a week it has been at Hamilton! Our grade 6/7 volleyball team competed in their first games of the year at Kingswood School on Tuesday. Our students played with enthusiasm and sportsmanship being great ambassadors of our school. Also on Tuesday, 430 pumpkins arrived at Hamilton and our field transformed into a giant pumpkin patch. A huge thank you to Mr. Haroon Chohan for generously donating his time and vehicle to pick the pumpkins up on Westham Island and transport them to the school. He really made things happen for the kids! Today, of course, was our Halloween dress up day with a fun event in the gym for our primary students in the morning and lots of great activities happening in the classrooms. We hope you all have a fun and safe Halloween. Please see the Trick r' Treating Tips below.

Pajama Crazy Hair/Hat Day Tomorrow

A tradition at Hamilton when there is a school day after Halloween is to have a School Spirit Day Pajama Crazy Hair/Hat Day. It's a fun way to end the week. Students are encouraged to wear their PJ's, do wacky things with their hair or a hat of their choice. If students would like to bring a reasonably-sized stuffy to school, they are welcome to do so.

Some Helpful Reminders

- Nutella is a brand of sweetened hazelnut cocoa spread. Hazelnuts, being a tree nut, can create the same allergic reaction for children with peanut allergies. These reactions can sometimes be life-threatening, so we are asking that you **Please do not send Nutella to school with your child.**
- We are noticing an increase in parents in the school and on the playgrounds during school instructional time. It is impossible for our school staff to recognize every Hamilton family member, so we are asking every adult at the school to first report to the school office for identification. Knowing who is on the school grounds or in the school helps us to always keep our students safe. Thank you for doing your part.

• The corner of Smith Drive and McColl Crescent is one of the areas around our school that continues to be a problem at drop off and pick up times. Cars parked at the corner blocking the crosswalk and on the other corner where there is a fire hydrant compromises sightlines for drivers and pedestrians. Please do not park, even for a short period of time, in these locations.

PAC Update: Join our PAC FB page for up to date reminders: **Hamilton Elementary PAC (Parent Advisory Council)**

Fun Lunch Fridays:

>To order lunch, please visit: <https://munchalunch.com/schools/hamilton>

>>>**Deadline to order for Bundle 2:** November 8th @ 11:59pm (don't miss out on ordering pizza for your child's lunch)

***If your child is away on a Fun Lunch day, please email: HamiltonFunLunch@gmail.com

Holiday Photo Mini Session: Nov 2-30

Please visit: xmas.kuna.photography.com

Early bird deadline extended: November 1st

PAC Fundraiser: \$10 from the session fee will go towards supporting education at Hamilton

Neufeld Farms Fundraiser:

Online ordering will open on: Nov 1st (link will be released soon)

Pick-up: November 28th (Wed) @ 5:30pm in front of the Community Centre

Thank you.

Trick r' Treating Tips

Halloween is a highlight of the year for kids—but this delightfully spooky holiday also comes with an increased risk of injury. Protect your young trick-or-treaters by following these essential tips for a safe and fun Halloween:

1. **Practice costume safety.**

Make sure all costumes, wigs, and accessories are fire-resistant, as your kids could encounter anything from jack-o-lantern candle flames to a neighbor's bonfire while trick-or-treating. An ill-fitting or uncomfortable costume can also make or break your child's Halloween. Try before you buy, and ensure that the costume doesn't pose a tripping hazard.

2. **Choose makeup wisely.**

Many kids have sensitive skin. Choose nontoxic cosmetic products and test makeup on a small area first to see if any irritation occurs. At the end of the night, follow the product's instructions to fully remove all makeup.

3. **Rethink the mask.**

Masks can obscure kids' vision, making it difficult for them to see traffic or tripping hazards. Instead, plan a mask-free costume—the options are endless!

4. **Prepare for the scare.**

Especially for young children, Halloween sights and sounds can be intense. It may help to have a discussion in advance about the difference between reality and “make believe.” Reassure kids that it’s OK to feel nervous. If they aren’t ready for the haunted house this year, maybe they can try next year.

5. **Give kids a refresher on traffic safety.**

In the excitement of the holiday, even older kids may forget the traffic-safety rules they follow every day. Sadly, the consequences can be deadly—children have a greater chance of being injured by a car on Halloween than on any other day. So, it’s extra important to remind kids how to cross the street safely.

6. **Increase your child’s visibility.**

Halloween costumes often feature dark colors, making kids harder to see at night. Choose a lighter-colored costume if possible, and pass out glow sticks or use reflective tape to ensure kids are visible to motorists.

7. **Encourage kids to stay together.**

Even if you will be accompanying your children, remind them to stick with your group at all times. For older kids who will be trick-or-treating without your supervision, the buddy system is essential. Make sure their phones are charged in case they become separated from their friends.

8. **Have kids stick to familiar, well-lit areas.**

If you won’t be accompanying your older kids on Halloween night, discuss their route in advance and remind them to stay in your neighborhood. Reiterate that they should never enter a stranger’s house or accept a ride from someone they don’t know.

9. **Check all treats.**

While stories of [Halloween candy tampering](#) are mostly urban legends, it never hurts to be safe. Inspect your child’s candy before they indulge and make sure to remove any treats that aren’t age-appropriate—such as gum or jawbreakers your toddler could choke on.

10. **Be mindful of allergies.**

Emergency room visits due to peanut and tree nut allergies [surge on Halloween](#). If your child has an allergy that keeps them from eating many kinds of candy, consider stocking up on allergy-friendly treats and have your child swap out their haul at the end of the night.

Important Dates

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

Remembrance Day Assembly 10:30

Friday, Nov. 8

***Remembrance Day - Statutory Holiday**

Monday, Nov. 11

***Pro-D Day – Students do not attend**

Monday, Nov. 25

Winter Concert - times TBD
Last day before Winter Break
First day back after Winter Break
***Pro-D Day – Students do not attend**
***Pro-D Day – Students do not attend**
***Family Day - Statutory Holiday**
***Conferences 11:50 Dismissal**
Last day before Spring Break
First day back after Spring Break
Immunizations
***Good Friday- Statutory Holiday**
***Easter Monday - Statutory Holiday**
***Pro-D Day – Students do not attend**
***Victoria Day- Statutory Holiday**
***Sports Day – 1:30 Dismissal**
Grade 7 Day
Last Day Students Attend – 2:45 Dismissal
Admin Day - – **Students do not attend**

Wednesday, Dec. 18
Friday, Dec. 20
Monday, Jan. 6
Monday, Jan. 27
Friday, Feb. 14
Monday, Feb. 17
Wednesday, Feb. 26
Friday, Mar. 14
Monday, Mar. 31
Friday, Apr. 4
Friday, Apr. 18
Monday, Apr. 21
Friday, May 16
Monday, May 19
Friday, Jun. 13
Friday, Jun 20
Thursday, Jun. 26
Friday, Jun. 27