



HUMBERCREST PS

Family Communication

March 8, 2024

Dear Humbercrest Families,

We want to wish everyone a safe and fun March Break. School resumes March 18, 2024.

Marlene Calligan and Debra Marshall-MacLeod

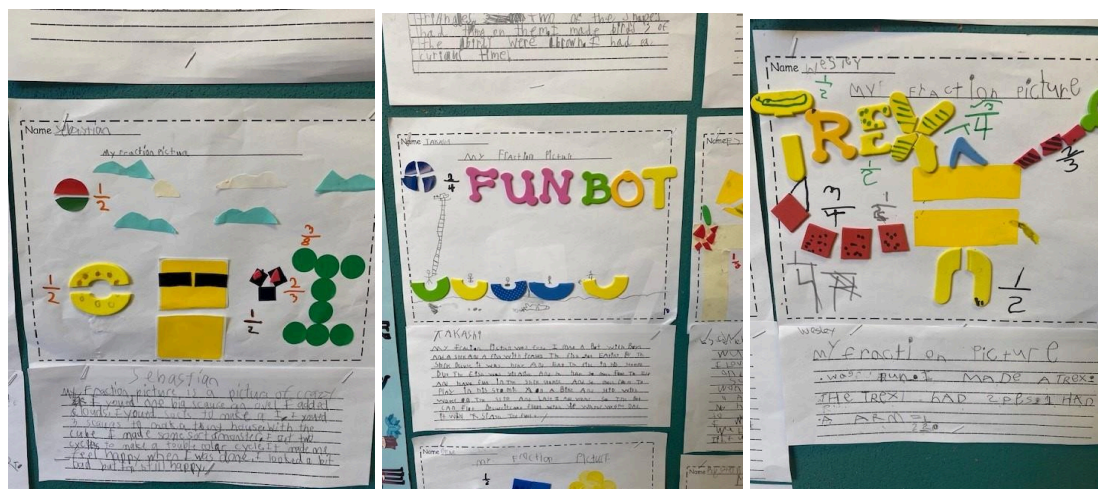


Humbercrest Highlights



Mme. Rutledge's class worked together to individually create flowers using multiple types of materials and styles to create a beautiful and positive message door decoration:

Diversity makes us strong



Ms. Caudle's class created integrated art, math and writing to create fun fraction shapes and stories.



Mr. Sinclair's class was inspired by Vincent Van Gogh's, Postman Roulin. Students also created poetry books.



Mme. Samper and 5 students attended the **TDSB EcoSchools Middle School Climate Conference** on March 5. They participated in Eco- workshops and team building events with students from across the TDSB.

Eco-Friendly Lunch/Cutlery

SAY NO
TO
PLASTIC



We continue to ask families to help us with being an Eco-Friendly school by packing lunches with reusable containers. We thank you for your support with this, however increasingly students are asking for cutlery. Please pack all the necessary items in your child's lunch bag so they can enjoy their packed lunch.



POPCORN Sales

Students in Grades 7 and 8 will be selling bags of popcorn next week - **Monday, Wednesday and Friday**. Bags will be available during lunch for a cost of \$2. Proceeds will support the upcoming Grade 8 Graduation trip. Please see the [link](#) for ingredients and nutritional information.

Student Voice

International Women's Day

On Friday March 8th, International Women's Day will take place. Here at Humbercrest, we have a club who will highlight the day for the whole school. We are the WATERMELONS (**W**omen, **A**spiring, **T**rans-women, **E**mpowering, **R**ising, **M**entally healthy, **E**quitable, **L**eaders, **O**pportunities, **N**on-binary, **S**trong) and we are all about uplifting and empowering each other.

Students in the club have spent 8 lunch hours through February planning: daily announcements, informative posters for the hallways, a detailed book list, and activities for all grades that will be distributed to teachers so they can run an activity in their classroom on March 8th.

All students are invited to wear the colours of IWD on March 8th which are purple, green or white.

Watermelons is a club for grade 6 students and has been in effect since October. Other activities that have happened are crafts, a health info session and discussions about how to handle challenges. Upcoming events include guest speakers and raising funds for women's organizations (one local and one overseas).

A.Elkerton



Health Curriculum

TDSB acknowledges the importance of a child's understanding of human development and sexual health and that students are best served when schools and parents work together to support learning about healthy living. Education related to Human Development and Sexual Health will be taught in a developmentally appropriate manner and delivered to meet the learning needs of students at different ages.

The goal of this learning is to help students build the skills they need to develop personal responsibility for lifelong health, contribute to an inclusive school culture and make responsible choices that protect themselves from potential harms. In August 2019, the Policy/Program Memorandum entitled - Exemption from Instruction Related to the Human Development and Sexual Health Expectations in the Ontario Curriculum: Health and Physical Education, Grades 1 to 8 was released, and Procedure 727 was created based on the specific requirements outlined in PPM 162.

[PR727](#) provides a specific process with forms, letters and checklists attached to be followed by staff and parents which allows for students to be exempted at the request of a parent/guardian from all of the expectations related to the Human Development and Sexual Health found in Strand D of The Ontario Curriculum: Health and Physical Education.

Parent/guardians must be given a minimum of 20 (school) days notice prior to the teaching of any of the Human Development and Sexual Health expectations. **Humbercrest teachers will be connecting with families and sending home the letters prior the unit being taught.**

Parent/guardians have until 5 days prior to the first day of teaching Human Development and Sexual Health to request an exemption. The 3 options that can be selected are the following:

Option 1: remain in the classroom without taking part in instructional activities related to Human Development and Sexual Health. (I understand that my child's activities unrelated to Human Development and Sexual Health during the exemption period will be at the discretion of the teacher.)

Option 2: leave the classroom and remain in the school under staff supervision. (I understand that my child's activities during the exemption period will be at the discretion of the teacher or principal. Note: While the school will make every effort to accommodate your request, a school's ability to effectively supervise students may not be operationally feasible.)

Option 3: be released into my care as parent/guardian or the care of my approved designate. Please remember, that option 2 has the following caveat:


While the school will make every effort to accommodate your request, a school's ability to effectively supervise students may not be operationally feasible.

The **Human Development and Sexual Health (HDSH)** application allows parents/guardians to complete an online form to exempt their children/wards from classes that have Human Development and Sexual Health teaching.

The HDSH application supports communication that meets the requirements of [PPM162 \(Exemption from Teaching of Human Development and Sexual Health\)](#).

To access the HDSH application: <https://parent.hdsh.tdsb.on.ca/>

School Advisory Committee

To keep up to date with SAC events such as pizza day or the upcoming talent show, follow our Instagram account  @humbercrestparentcouncil

TDSB Parent/Caregiver/Family Opportunities

Pride T-shirt Design Contest

Pride Month is just around the corner, and the TDSB Pride Planning Committee is hosting a [t-shirt design contest](#). The winning design will be featured on hundreds of TDSB Pride 2024 t-shirts, proudly worn by all members of the TDSB contingent during the Pride Parade on Sunday, June 30. The contest is open to all ages, and the deadline for submissions is April 10 at 11:59 p.m.

Child and Youth Services Poster Contest: What is on Your Path to Joy?

Children's Mental Health Week is May 6-10, 2024. This year our theme is all about what you do in your everyday life that create moments of joy and joyfulness.

The Child and Youth Services Poster Contest is open to all TDSB students, with prizes to be won in five categories. The winning designs will be announced in May, during Children's Mental Health week, when we visit schools to share the news with students and their communities. We will also feature the posters on Social Media and in some TDSB buildings.

Please see the [attached flyer](#) and instructions for contest details and submission information.

The deadline to submit contest entries is March 28, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

Math Resources



[TDSB Mathematics for Families](#)

Building Mathematical Minds

[Supporting Your Child in Acquiring Math Skills for Success](#)

Mental Health & Well-Being

TDSB [MHWB website](#)

Access information about mental health toolkits, identity affirming resources, and information about a variety of wellness topics.

Student Accident Insurance Reminder

The Toronto District School Board does not provide accident insurance coverage for student injuries that occur on school premises or during school sponsored activities. We recently noticed an increase in student injuries, in particular, dental injuries which are costly and could extend over several years.

Please distribute the student accident insurance letter electronically to parents/guardians for awareness.

Parents/ guardians are responsible for deciding whether or not to purchase student accident insurance. The insurance program options range from \$17 to \$33 per year.

Letter: [TDSB Student Accident Insurance Letter](#)

Flyer: [Student Accident Plan Flyer](#)

Website: [Student Accident Plan](#)

The student accident insurance flyer can also be included in School newsletters and posted on school notice boards.

Learn4Life Adult Community Programs - Spring Registration Now Open!

Spring 2024 registration is now open for Learn4Life's Adult General Interest Program! Open to adults 18 years of age and seniors, the Learn4Life program offers a unique and valuable opportunity for individuals to pursue their interests, expand their knowledge, and engage in lifelong learning with a wide range of courses and activities designed to cater to diverse interests and passions.

Just some of the new courses this term include:

- § Pickleball Power Hour: Smash and Drive Mastery
- § Birdwatching for Beginners – Explore Feathered Gems Right in Our Backyard!
- § Feng Shui
- § Payroll Level II
- § Introduction to Documentary Filmmaking
- § Introduction to Henna Body Art and the Ancient Art of Mehndi
- § Sweet, Savoury, Flaky and Fun!
- § Latin Rhythms: Salsa and Merengue for All
- § Outdoor Soccer
- § Aerobics to the 80's! Let's Get Physical
- § Creating A New Vision for My Life
- § Personal Finance and Investment Basics for Women
- § Arabic Beginner Level II

· AND MUCH MORE

[Visit Learn4Life's program page for more information.](#)

Ramadan

Monday, March 11, 2024, marks the first week of Ramadan, one of the holiest months of Islamic calendar. During the month of Ramadan, Muslims worldwide abstain from food and water from sunrise to sunset for 29 or 30 consecutive days - as determined by the lunar calendar. Fasting is one of the five pillars of Islam. Muslims break their fast each evening with a communal dinner called an iftar. During Ramadan, Muslims make every effort to recite the Qur'an, participate in extra prayers, engage in charity, and complete good deeds to reach a higher level of spirituality. Once the month is over, Muslims celebrate Eid al-Fitr, the festival of breaking the fast with family and friends, wearing special clothes and sharing gifts for up to three days.

At Humbercrest, we will have a quiet area available during lunch for students that are fasting.

Days of Significance

Lent	February 14- March 28
Maha Shivaratri	March 8
Saka New Year - Nyepi	March 11
Chet - Sikh New Year	March 14
Ohigan - Spring Festival	March 17-23
Clean Monday - First Day of Lent	March 18
Nawrúz - Bahá'í New Year	March 19
Nowrúz – Persian New Year	March 19
Hindu New Year	March 20
Ostara	March 20-21

March is Greek Heritage Month

March is a significant month for the Hellenic community and March 25 is celebrated each year as Greek Independence Day. Proclaiming March as Hellenic Heritage Month provides an opportunity to remember, celebrate and educate future generations about the outstanding achievements and contributions of the Hellenic Canadians in the province.

The theme for this year is:

"Greek Thought and Civilization: From Myth to Logos"


«Ελληνική Σκέψη και Πολιτισμός: Από τον Μύθο στον Λόγο»



Upcoming Dates

March Break	March 11-15
Lunch Lady (every Tues & Thurs)	March 19 and 21
Good Friday	March 29
Easter Monday	April 1
PD Day	April 8
International Day of Pink	April 10

Extra-Curricular

The Watermelons	Thursdays at Lunch
Eco Club	Day 3 - Lunch - Library
Minecraft Club	Thursday Lunch (room 22)
Pokemon Club (gr. 4-8)	2 Mondays per month - Lunch (library)
Mila's Book Club (Grade 5)	Last Wednesday of the month in the library at Lunch
Strings	Thursdays after school
BSA	Day 5 - Lunch
Student Council	Lunch
Coding Club	Lunch
Choir	Lunch
Rubix Cube Club 	Wednesdays at Lunch

Trustee Debbie King Newsletter

Visit Ms. King's website for news and updates.

<https://www.debbieking.ca/>

After Hours School Safety

If you see any suspicious activity or vandalism at the school after hours, but feel it is not a call to police, you can call **The 24-hour TDSB security number: 416-395-4620**

School Website

[Humbercrest Public School](#)

Contact Information

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Erin Altosaar, Superintendent, erin.altosaar@tdsb.on.ca

Debbie King, School Trustee Ward 7, debbieking@tdsb.on.ca

Humbercrest PS