



## Important Dates

### Calendar

- **September 9:**  
Rosh Hashana begins
- **September 11:**  
Rosh Hashana ends
- **September 19:**  
Yom Kippur
- **September 22:**  
Humewood's Fall Fair
- **September 26:**  
Terry Fox Run
- **September 27:**  
Photo Day
- **September 27:**  
Curriculum Night
- **September 27:**  
Photo Day
- **September 28:**  
Pizza Lunch
- **September 30:**  
Orange Shirt Day
- **October 3:**  
Cross Country Meet #1
- **October 4:**  
School Lice Check
- **October 5:**  
PA Day
- **October 8:**  
Thanksgiving

# The Humewood Howler

Web:

<http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/humewood/Home.aspx>

Twitter: [https://twitter.com/TDSB\\_Humewood](https://twitter.com/TDSB_Humewood)

J. Whitfield, Principal

A. Mani, Vice-Principal



## Welcome Back!

Welcome back to school, Humewood! It has been a wonderful first week for our new school year. The buzz in the classrooms, the hallways, and outside at recess has been very positive and exciting. Thank you to our classroom, office and caretaking staff for ensuring the school was ready for Day 1! Here's to another fantastic year!

## The Annual Fall Fair



The Humewood Family Fall Fair will be held on **Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>**!

To purchase play all day passes and lunch passes, to sponsor the fair, to volunteer your time at the fair, to donate a salad, or baked goods, or to participate in the cupcake challenge at the fair visit:

[www.humewoodfallfair.com](http://www.humewoodfallfair.com)

Please drop off donations of gently-used books, costumes, DVDs, and/or games to be sold at the Book Nook at the Fall Fair to the lost and found area in the back foyer of the school any time now.

## Curriculum Night 2018

Join us on Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup> for our Annual Curriculum Night. The evening will begin with a presentation at 6:00pm in the gym and then classroom presentations will begin at 6:30pm.

This evening is a wonderful opportunity to meet your child/ren's teacher(s) and get an insider's look at a day in the life of a Humewood student. We invite students in grades 1-8 to attend with parents however we do ask that parents with children in the JK/SK programs attend the Kinder presentations without the students so that teachers and parents can focus on information about the kindergarten program. Thank you for your understanding.



## Orange Shirt Day Sunday, September 30 (Recognized at Humewood on September 28)



Phyllis Webstad, a member of the Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation in British Columbia, was forced to attend St. Joseph's Mission Residential School, as her relatives before her. She entered the school in 1973 wearing a brand new orange shirt which was

immediately confiscated by the staff and replaced with a uniform. She never saw the shirt again, and began to associate the colour with the traumatic experiences in the school and the loss of language and cultural identity she suffered.

In 2013, Webstad transformed her negative experiences into something positive by creating a Nationally recognized Orange Shirt Day. Celebrated annually on September 30th, this day acknowledges the residential school system in Canada, honours those who survived, and remembers those who did not. It is a day to demonstrate, by wearing orange, that all students matter.

Orange Shirt Day has been marked in schools across Canada in a variety of ways, including Orange Ribbon campaigns, commemorative walks, and wearing orange shirts. Over 6,500 survivor statements have been collected by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, which concluded in 2016 after six years of research and testimonies. Senator Murray Sinclair has stated that "reconciliation must fall in the hands of Canadians, not solely with Indigenous peoples." Ultimately, wearing orange shirts on September 30 is a visual reminder of our shared past as Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples in Canada, and provides an opportunity for dialogue between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples in shaping our shared future.

<http://www.orangeshirtday.org/>

## Choices for Grade 9

Grade 8 students and their families should check the website for Open Houses and Information Nights for Secondary Schools. Follow this link for dates and times.

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/highschool/goingtohighschool/openhousesandinformationnights.aspx>



There are a number of optional after school programs offered to Humewood School children that begin at the end of the school day on Tuesdays and Thursdays. To learn about the after-four programs available for the Fall term visit: [humewoodcouncil.com](http://humewoodcouncil.com)

## Student Drop-Off

As we move into Week #2 of school, we wanted to remind parents about morning drop-off routines at Humewood. Students from grades 1-8 should be near the back doors, lining up on their class "letter" by 8:45am (letters are posted on the doors). Parents are asked to wait behind the lines so that students can line up in their classes easily and teachers can see that all of their students are ready to enter. Staff supervision begins at 8:35am at the back doors.



For our Kindergarten students, students should line up outside Door 3 at their class number (or the classroom doors for Ms. Kosonic's and Mr. Whyte's students). Parents of kindergarten students could help their children get into line and allow them enter the school with their class at 8:50am. Parents are reminded to wait outside the school at the start and end of each school day. It is important for the students to develop their independence, and also makes drop-off and pick-up calmer and more efficient.

Any students arriving at school after the bell are to come to the office for a late slip before going to class.



### **What is OPAL?**

“OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) is the first program in Canada that aims to make play an integral part of the school day. Children engage in self-directed play with “loose parts” (tools, boxes, spare tires, fabric, etc.), boosting their sense of agency and creating a more inclusive and reciprocal social environment.

OPAL is grounded in the child’s right to play and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which Canada is a signatory.

In partnership with the Toronto District School Board (TDSB), the OPAL program will roll out to 42 schools by 2020. Our goal is to bring the program to schools across the country.” (From the Earth Day Canada website)

**For more information on the OPAL program, check out:**

<https://earthday.ca/earthplay/schoolplay/>



### **So Far, So FUN!**

Being an OPAL School has changed our outdoor time in a very positive way! Students who may not have been keen to venture outside, are now filled with excitement to create, construct and explore. The overlying questions, “*Is it safe enough for us, the environment and the equipment?*”, “*Is it fun for everybody?*” and “*Is it inclusive?*” have guided our play and the way in which our students interact with each other. Students are working towards being more respectful of each other and the environment, and strengthening their problem-solving skills.



### **We Play in ALL Weather!**

It’s no surprise that the majority of students would rather be outside for recess/outdoor learning time than inside. Cancelling recess is usually met with, “But it’s just raining a little bit!” and a lot of unspent energy. At Humewood, we believe that playing in the rain, snow and sunshine are part of the natural and healthy development of our students. We know that children need to move, explore and play outside EVERY DAY in order to be ready to learn in the classroom. Aside from cases where there is lightning, all students and supervising staff will be going outside during recesses or outdoor learning times. Please check the weather reports each morning and send your child(ren) well-prepared to go outside. This includes: rubber boots, a proper rain jacket, an umbrella, etc. We would like to

start building a “clothing library” for students are aren’t prepared for the weather, so if you have any wet-weather gear that is no longer used, we would love the donation!



### **Call-out for LOOSE PARTS!**

As an OPAL school, we provide opportunities to play and learn outside with open-ended materials, called loose parts. Earth Day Canada generously donated collections of materials, but many of these items have succumbed to “too much love” or the environment (cardboard tubes can only survive so long in the rain). We are in need of many more materials to replenish our stock of loose parts. Each month, we will put a call out for different items. Please refrain from sending anything with sharp edges.





## Trustee **Shelley Laskin**

Ward 11, St. Paul's



Dear Parent/Guardian,

For those of you who have not met me yet, let me introduce myself. I am your local school trustee. I am your link with the Toronto District School Board, which governs Toronto's public schools. As your elected representative, I make decisions with the rest of the trustees on the Board and act as your advocate and 'sounding board,' should the need arise. I believe we all have a role to play to help our public schools thrive. What does a trustee do? Visit [www.youtube.com/watch?v=sDb80j3rjmQ&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sDb80j3rjmQ&feature=youtu.be).

We are, more than ever, focused on ensuring that all students have access to the programs, opportunities and supports needed to reach high levels of achievement and well-being. This priority is driven by our newly approved Multi-Year Strategic Plan, which outlines our mission, values and goals in support of student success. To read the full plan, visit [www.tdsb.on.ca/mysp](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/mysp).

Your involvement in your child's education and school life will contribute to their success. There are a number of ways you can get involved – to explore these opportunities please speak to your classroom teacher, School Council Chair or Principal or visit [www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/Get-Involved](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/Get-Involved).

As the new school year begins, you will find helpful resources for both parents and students here [www.tdsb.on.ca/needtoknow](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/needtoknow). Information includes homework tips, transportation updates and supports for mental health, healthy living and anti-bullying. And on the reverse side of this letter, please find the school year calendar, the Parent Concern Protocol, TDSB social media accounts and contact information for both me and the Superintendent of Education.

To stay regularly informed on what is happening in the Ward or at the Board, including meeting agendas, policies under review, program updates, and discussions around new initiatives to improve student success and well-being, you can read my weekly e-update. To receive it, sign up by visiting my trustee page at [www.tdsb.on.ca/Ward11](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Ward11). You can also follow me on Twitter [@shelleylaskin](https://twitter.com/shelleylaskin).

I am always looking to learn more about your local school successes, issues and priorities. If you have something to share or wish to speak with me directly, please email me at [Shelley.Laskin@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Shelley.Laskin@tdsb.on.ca) or call and leave a message at 416 395-TRUS (8787).

We may be the largest school board in the country, but it's the relationships that make our schools feel like family. By getting involved, you're supporting public education, and I look forward to working in partnership with you and your child's school this year.

  
Shelley Laskin



# 2018 - 2019 Information



Your School Trustee  
**Shelley Laskin**  
 St. Paul's - Ward 11 Schools  
 416-395-8787  
 Shelley.Laskin@tdsb.on.ca

Find Your School and School Superintendent:  
[www.tdsb.on.ca/Find-your/School Board Office](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Find-your/SchoolBoardOffice) at 416-397-3000  
 or  
[GeneralInquiries@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:GeneralInquiries@tdsb.on.ca)

PA Days & Holidays	Date
Labour Day	September 3, 2018
Board-wide PA Day	October 5, 2018
Thanksgiving	October 8, 2018
Board-wide PA Day	November 16, 2018
Board-wide PA Day	December 7, 2018
Christmas Break	December 24, 2018 to January 4, 2019 (inclusive) Last day of school is December 21, 2018 School resumes January 7, 2019
Elementary PA Day	January 18, 2019
Secondary PA Day - (Semestered Schools only)	January 31, 2019*
Board-wide PA Day	February 15, 2019
Family Day	February 18, 2019
March Break	March 11 to 15, 2019
Good Friday	April 19, 2019
Easter Monday	April 22, 2019
Victoria Day	May 20, 2019
Elementary School PA Day	June 7, 2019
Secondary School PA Day (Full Year Schools only)	June 26, 2019*
Secondary School PA Day	June 27, 2019
Board-wide PA Day	June 28, 2019

\*The first day of second semester is February 1, 2019. Secondary school calendar includes a PA day for semestered schools only on January 31, 2019 and a PA Day for full-year schools only on June 26, 2019.

## Parent Concern Protocol

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Step One

### Classroom Teacher

If you have any questions or concerns, the first person to go to is your classroom teacher. The classroom teacher can help with:

- Any questions about the classroom
- Classroom rules and consequences
- Homework and assignments

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Step Two

### School Principal

If you would like more information or you have questions that are beyond the classroom, the school principal can help.

- Concerns about an individual school
- Student registration
- Student schedules
- Student suspensions
- Report card concerns
- Classroom concerns
- Code of Conduct
- Safety and security
- Budget and fundraising
- School Council

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Step Three

### School Superintendents

Superintendents are responsible for a Network of Schools. They support school staff and can be contacted if you have questions that have not been answered or for help with:

- Alternate attendance request
- Suspension appeals

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Step Four

### Trustees

Trustees are your elected community officials. They are available to help you with the following areas of the TDSB:

- Concerns about your community
- Ideas and suggestions for the Board
- Items on Board Agenda
- Board policies under review
- Board budget
- Collective bargaining

### Know what's happening at the TDSB!



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