



Humbercrest Happenings



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November/December 2015

From the Principal's Desk:

We have had a busy, but excellent start to the year and we hope that it has been a positive start for your child as well.

Labour Update:

The work to rule has ended and things are getting back to normal. Field trips and extra curricular activities have resumed. **Report cards for grades 1-8 will be sent home on December 10th.** Kindergarten students will not be receiving reports at this time.

Keeping Kids Safe:

Mornings are busy times at Humbercrest. Drop Zone has been set up to facilitate student safety. Please use Drop Zone when dropping children off at school. It is designed to alleviate the need to have children cross the street to get to school. Stopping on St. Marks

and having children run across the road is not safe.

Parents in the school:

We request your support regarding the following guidelines that were created to ensure a safe, comfortable, and positive atmosphere for all our students and teachers.

All parents, volunteers and any other visitors must sign in at the office when they enter the school.

Please wear a "visitors" tag when helping out in the school. In an effort to **avoid congested hallways, especially on the second floor**, and support our locked door policy, **parents who are picking up their children after school should arrange a meeting place outside the school.**

When picking up your child for an **appointment, please go directly to the office and have the office page your child.**



Alumnus and CBC personality Mary Ito interviews Norm Baker at the Opening Ceremony of the Centennial Celebration

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Dates to Remember:

Dec 8 Forest of Reading kick-off

Dec. 11 Breakfast with Santa

Dec. 15 K Holiday Concert

Dec. 15 Primary Holiday Concert

Dec. 16-18 Holiday Sing-a-long

Dec. 17 Senior Concert Dec. 18 Holiday Movie (Jr. Grades-am)

Dec. 18 Last day of school

Jan. 4 First day back

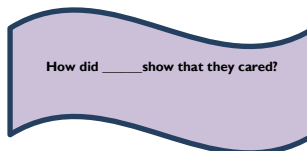
Jan. 7 So Fun Mtg.

Jan. 13 Parent Council Mtg.

Humbercrest Cares!

Since the beginning of September students have been encouraged to spot people who demonstrate caring in any number of ways, as a means to help further facilitate a community of caring. From simple things such as holding a door open to more demonstrative examples of empathy, students have been recording these examples and we have been celebrating them on the morning

announcements. Ms. Lyte has assembled a team of student designers to create a permanent installation that incorporates caring as one of the central character traits we encourage all of our students to refine as part of their personal development. This culture of caring can then be embedded in all that we do.





Centennial Celebration: Wasn't That a Party!



Mayor John Tory spent time talking to students following the Opening ceremony

September 26th was a day to remember in so many ways: a parade and a picturesque day greeted over a thousand people who turned out for the opening ceremony, that included remarks from Mayor John Tory, MPP Cheri Di Novo, TDSB Board Chair Robin Pilkey and Superintendent Jane-Phillips-Long. But the highlight certainly was the appearance of 99 year old Norm Baker, who shared his memories with another famous alum, Mary Ito, host of CBC radio One's "Fresh Air". Former students spilled into the school to take in the decade rooms and reminisce with friends and family. Outside,

a fall fair, circa 1915 included games, races, face-painting, a pie judging contest and a chance to have a picture taken wearing period costumes! The day concluded with a huge party at the Lithuanian Hall in the evening, complete with a roaring 20's theme.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who attended and especially organizing committee who spent nearly a year and a half planning and organizing the event. A permanent Centennial display is in the works which will house photos and other mementoes from the day and the school's history.



Classroom News



Ms. Forte's class had fun learning all about the number six with shaving cream!



Our

Grade 5's used election signs to create environmental messages as part of the unit on Government, integrating social studies, media and art.



Our grade 8's took part in an excellent anti-bullying workshop facilitated by Kids Helping Kids.



Constable Eric Berridge, our Community Relations Police Officer, comes each Tuesday to speak to classes. Here, he is talking safety with Mme Kocsis' Grade 1 class.



In Grade 1/2 Science, Mr. Chiu's students are learning about propulsion and flight!

Computing Challenge

On November 10, 2015, forty-one grade 7 and 8 students participated in the University of Waterloo Beaver Computing Challenge. This is the first year that University of Waterloo has offered this challenge to students in Grade 7 and 8. The challenge questions aren't based on computers. They are logic and reasoning based problem solving situations. Logic and

reasoning skills are important elements required for coding, computer programming and robotics.

Congratulations to all 41 students who participated this year. A special congratulations goes out to the top scorers for Humbercrest:

Sam G. (82 – top overall score), Michael W. (80), Martin M. (78), Prabhjot K. (72), Lemar M. (72), Emma S.K. (72), Kayla V. (72) and Liam T. (70). Great job everyone!

You should all be proud of your efforts!



Mme Hamara's SK's got a chance to see inside an ambulance with one of our parents, who is an EMS team member!



STEM/First Lego League

Mr. Henderson's class is working diligently with Luke Persaud, our STEM coach, preparing for our initial First Lego league competition and a STEM Pilot project: The class is developing curriculum as part of the project, which will then be shared with other schools.

Mr. Persaud is also working with Ms. Forte's junior Kindergarten class in designing and building dinosaur condos. The Grade 3's of Mme Le Bouedec are embarking on an inquiry-based project on rectangles that will culminate in the creation of wooden vehicles, where they will learn to use hand tools as part of

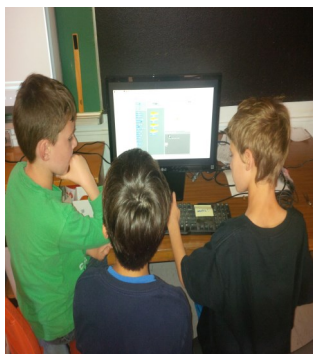
the process. Mme Bennett's grade 5 class is embarking on a Digital Citizenship project using web-based forms as part of Google Classroom.

Addi Denison, Our Engineer in Residence is ready to begin working with our classes. Last year she focused on Primary grades – this year, she will begin working with our upper Junior grades.

We have received cases for our new iPad minis, thanks to SO-FUN. We have also purchased 10 refurbished HP 324 laptops through the Board to begin the process of replenishing our laptop inventory.

IBM Grant

Humbercrest is the recipient of a \$2 000 grant from the IBM Community Grants Program. Employees of IBM can apply for the grants on behalf of the organization they volunteer with. In this case, we thank Carla Granger for her work in securing this grant for us. !



Sports

Humbercrest athletes have excelled in a plethora of events! 210 students participated in the West region Cross Country qualifying meet—that represents almost a third of the entire school! Of that number, 55 went on to the West Final and 18 of them advanced to the City Championships! Our Senior boys softball team (pictured left) won the Western Conference Championship, while our Grade 6 Boys took similar honours in

football. In addition, our grade 6 girls, as well as both our senior teams, advanced to their respective Conference Finals. And just this week, our Sr. Girls basketball team advanced to the conference final, losing by just a single point. It just goes to show that when you play Humbercrest, you better bring your 'A' game!

IT ALL STARTS WITH ATTITUDE!



The Garden

The garden's breeze
Too cold to see
The soldiers fell on their knees
This is the garden's life
For where we stand we sing the song of why we appreciate
There is not hate
Just love that spreads around
We wear a poppy on our shirt
It's a way to show them thanks
It's not a celebration
It's a day we stand up tall
It's not a party
It's where poppies grow.
(by a student in 3C)

Remembrance Day

On November 11th, students in Grades 4 to 6 participated in a very moving Remembrance Day Assembly. Student MC's Summaya G. and Mairi M. began the selection of readings and musical presentations with "Le Poeme d'un soldat pour ceux tombes au combat" ("Poem of a Soldier for Those Fallen in Combat"). That was followed by "Barcarolle" a piano solo by Prabhjot K.; "Why Wear a Poppy?" read by Logan W. and Colleen S.; "Somewhere Only We Know" sung by the Humbercrest Senior Choir with a beautiful solo by Dylan Q.; "Merci", a French Poem of thanks, read by Jack E. and Nolan P.;

Minor Variations" performed by the Grade 8 Strings, directed by Mrs. Wilshynsky ;"In Flander's Fields," was read by Lucy H. The wreath was placed by Veteran Norm Baker, assisted by Noah P. and Ameera B. Following the moment of silence and the Last Post, the assembly concluded with the song, "A Better World", sung by the Senior Choir and "We'll Never Forget" ,a song to honour Canadian military heroes, sung by Mrs. Maldonado's music classes and "Amazing Grace" played by parent Jayson Mulcock on the bagpipes.





Parent Council

At the September 30th meeting, Dwayne McConney and Heather Sinclair were elected as co-chairs for the current year. Ann Nethercott will serve as Secretary, and Jim Witty will be Treasurer. Jane Dimitroff, Kimberly De Witt and Domenica Flood will act as Ward 7 reps. Committee chairs were also announced:

- So Fun: Irene Papademetriou and Kristen Juschkewitch
- Communications; Laurie Iyle
- Web Administrator: Thomas Silox-Childs
- Environment Committee; Georgina Bruinsma-Cajic and Anabel Zbogar
- Grants Committee: Shermina Keshvani

We are still actively looking for people to co-chair both the STEM and Schoolyard Greening Committees. Contact the school for more information. Council also received a \$1 000. Parent Reaching Out Grant. This will allow Council to bring in speakers to do workshops for parents. Council is exploring various topics of interest. More information will be

SoFUN Fundraising Campaign

Our Fall fundraising campaign is well underway. Parents are being asked to participate in one of two ways:

- 1) Make a Donation – With approx. 500 families at Humbercrest, a donation of \$30 each would get us to our goal. However, ANY AMOUNT is very much appreciated. You can make your donation online at: <http://humbercrestps.3dcartstores.com/> or send a cheque to school with your child payable to “SoFun”.
- 2) QSP Subscription – continue to participate in the QSP program. The average number of subscriptions we need to reach our goal is 3 each! They can be renewals or new subscription. Go to www.QSP.ca and use the Humbercrest Code: #3722279.

If you wish to make a more sizeable contribution and would like a tax receipt, please make your cheques payable to “TDSB-Humbercrest PS” and the TDSB will mail you a tax receipt – and 100% of the donation will come back to us!

PIAC's 9th Annual Conference

On November 14th, PIAC (Parent Involvement Advisory Committee) hosted their 9th Annual Conference at Earl Haig Secondary School.

This year's theme "Unlocking Your Child's Full Potential" touched all the seminars I attended that day: Science, Technology, Everything (has now replaced Engineering) and Math (STEM); Mental Health; My Blueprint (an online educational planner); and Specialized Programs in the TDSB. In total there were 17 informative workshops to choose from, all facilitated by experts and/or heads within the TDSB. The day ended with a panel discussion about the new sex education curriculum, which clarified a lot of questions about this controversial topic.

My aim in writing this is to bring awareness to this conference, for sadly there were only three participants from our Ward 7. I hope you will join me next year for PIAC's 10th Annual Conference, which I am confident will certainly be as impressive as this one.

-Gerogina Bruinsma-Cajic

Theatre Puzzle



Earlier this month, the Kindergarten to grade 3 students took in a Production of 'Depeche-toi (Hurry Up)' performed by Theatre Puzzle, a Montreal based company that integrates several types of theater, including puppetry. This show was paid for through SO FUN. It took place in a country called Hurry Up, where various characters run, panic and waste their time in complaining that they have not enough time. The result: the time just slips through their fingers!



Library News

Scholastic Book Fair

We are pleased to be hosting our annual book fair in support of the Humbercrest library from November 30-December 4. The book fair will be open daily (including recesses and lunch) until 3.30pm.

We will be staggering primary and junior visits to the book fair at recesses. Primary students will be invited to visit the book fair at morning recess (10.30am) and junior students will be limited to afternoons (2.10pm). In the interest of efficiency, your child's regular classroom book exchange time will be their class visit to the book fair. Remind your children to bring money on that day. Think of it as "private shopping" and I will be on hand to help with selections. Each purchase earns a reward ticket that will be placed into a draw for daily prizes. The Grand Prize draw of \$50 (\$25 for the student and \$25 for his/her classroom) will be made on Friday December 4.

Family Night is Tuesday Dec 1 until 6pm. Wish lists will be posted so please take time to peruse the book fair for any items you may wish to purchase for your child's classroom collection. As a result, **the library will be closed to circulation for the duration of the Book Fair and will re-open on Monday December 7 (Day 3).**

OLA Forest of Reading

Welcome to the Forest! The Forest of Reading that is. This vital reading program will have its kickoff Wednesday December 9 in the library. Please encourage your children in Gr3-8 to attend and peruse the 2016 nominees. For additional information please email Alison Dekker at ardekker@rogers.com.

TD Grade One Book Giveaway

Organized in association with the Canadian Children's Book Centre, the TD Grade One Book Giveaway is the largest free-book distribution program to school-aged children in Canada. All English and French Grade One students received a free copy of Mr. Zinger's Hat by Cary Fagan compliments of TD, which they can keep to take home and read with their parents and caregivers. We thank TD for continuing to support children's literacy in such a vital way.

Children's Book Bank Donation Drive

The Children's Book Bank supports childhood literacy by providing free books and literacy support to children in low-income neighbourhoods in the Toronto area. The Children's Book Bank collects and distributes gently used children's books and distributes them free of charge to children who might not otherwise have a chance to own their own books. A "Giving" tree will be set up in the library for donations. Please place gently used books in the boxes provided.

Playground PALS Program



Our PALS are back! 10 highly energized leaders from grades 3-5 are Volunteering On Mondays and Wednesdays at lunchtime to facilitate playground games And activities for our Grade 1 and 2 students. PALS stands for "Playground Activity Leaders in Schools" and is operated with the support of Toronto Public Health. Our Public Health Nurse, Julie Brandsma, facilitated a half-day training Session for our leaders. The program has three specific goals:

To encourage students to be physically active

To prevent bullying

To offer leadership opportunities for students





Green Team News



Our Green team is coming together! We have 15 student leaders from Grades 2-8 as well as parents Georgina Bruinsma-Cajic and Anabel Zbogor to assist. Our first major project will be a campaign to reduce litter in and around the school. This will be done through a messaging campaign as well as a classroom challenge. There will also be a more comprehensive waste audit of each class and we also intend to reduce our energy consumption through a renewed commitment to the "Lights Out" Campaign.

Project Neutral Contest Deadline Extended to December 15th!



As the world leaders gather in Paris for the United Nations Climate Conference, with an ambitious goal to achieve a legally-binding and universal agreement on greenhouse gas emissions targets, aiming to keep global warming below 2°C, let's see what we can do locally to affect global change.

Humbercrest is teaming up with Project Neutral to track and reduce our carbon footprint. Project Neutral's *CarbonShift* Tracker offers households a chance to "budget" their GHG emissions in a fun, interactive and informative way. It is a great opportunity for families to discuss their energy, water, waste, transportation and food consumption habits, and find ways to modify them.

There is still time to sign up for [CarbonShift Tracker](#) to assess your household's GHG emissions, compare your footprint to your neighbours' and create an action plan to reduce it using the [CarbonShift Challenge](#).

If you are already an Eco-Champion, you will serve as a great role model. To share what you are doing to take action on climate change, register your [CarbonShift Pledge](#). The school with the most entries will win \$500!

The latest results: Riverdale CI leading, with Humbercrest PS in second place. There is a big gap, though. We should up our game!





December at Humbercrest

Joyeuses Fêtes! - Felices Fiestas! - Hạnh phúc ngày lễ—節日快樂—Mutlu Bayramlar! - 행복 휴일—
Vesele Praznike—Sretni praznici! - Καλές δικακοπέες! - Gëzuar Festat—Buone Feste! - —ημεσ ανFuraha
likizo—Hristos se rodi—Wesołych Świąt—Srozhdestvom Kristovym

The holiday spirit is very much alive and well! We will be having Breakfast with Santa on December 11th from 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.. The Kindergarten Holiday Concert is set for 2pm in the Senior Gym, with the Primary concert from 6-8 in the evening. A Humbercrest tradition, the Holiday sing-a-long is back from the 16th to the 18th of December and the Senior Band and String Ensembles will be entertaining the morning of December 17th

Lunchtime Programs

Art in Action: The new lunchtime winter session for students in grades 1-6 will begin the week of January 4th. Grades 1-3 are Monday and Tuesday and grades 4-6 classes are Thursdays at 11:40.

The cost is \$135.00 per student. Registration begins December 7th at www.artinactiontoronto.com.

Everything Drama: The new session begins the week of January 11th: Tuesdays – Grades 4-6 / Thursdays – Grades 1-3 / 11:35-12:35pm

8 weekly classes, \$110.00 per child

Register Early – spaces are limited!

Payment by cash or cheque only (payable to Janice Rankin-Goodman) by start of first class

\$50.00 charge will be levied for N.S.F. cheques issued. No refund for missed classes.

Questions – contact me at: everythingdramaco@gmail.com