

HUMBERWOOD DOWNS JMA

850 Humberwood Blvd., 416-394-4750

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019

Trustee: Harpreet Gill

Superintendent of Education: Lorraine Linton

Administrative Team: R. Skordakis, Principal, and T. Gentile & D. Singh, Vice-Principals

School Website: <http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/humberwood/home.aspx>



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Progress report cards and parent-teacher conferences have been completed. Thank you to our teachers for their flexibility in accommodating parent/guardian requests for teacher-parent conferences. Our teachers go above and beyond what is asked of them and we are all very appreciative of their efforts. Our students' academic success and social-emotional well-being are directly influenced by a strong school-home partnership and this is something that we strive to cultivate and improve upon each and every day.

SCHOOL COUNCIL CHAIR

My name is Neeta Bahia, I am a surgical



professional practice clinician and a mother of three. We have been with Humberwood for 6 years now and proud members of the community. I look forward to representing the voice of parents and

guardians through the SAC. Parents please reach me at nbhumberwood@gmail.com with any comments or questions that you would like to be addressed.

Secondary Program Review and Optional Attendance

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) is undertaking a review of secondary schools to ensure all students have equitable access to programs and opportunities, as close to home as possible. As part of the Secondary Program Review, the TDSB is reviewing the **Optional Attendance** policy (P013), which allows students to apply to schools other than their designated school by home address.

A public consultation process for both the Secondary Review and P013 started in November 2019. Please visit the TDSB website for more information and opportunities to provide feedback:

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/High-School/Secondary-Program-Review>.

If you have any questions and/or comments, please email SecondaryReview@tdsb.on.ca

SCHOOL'S WEBSITE

Our school's website is updated weekly. Dates are being posted for the year and more dates are added weekly. Please refer to it regularly at:

<http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/humberwood/Home>

Click on the "Calendar" to view all events. The Home Page has the most recent school news.

LABOUR RELATIONS

If you have questions about the work sanctions by the teaching staff, please visit the TDSB's home page for latest news at: www.tdsb.on.ca and click on *Labour Negotiations*.



SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Thursday is Mailbag

Mail goes home every Thursday from the school. In this way, you will be able to anticipate when mail will be coming home and ask your child for it.



If the school is not able to send home paper mail due to any future work sanctions, we ask that you go to the **school's website** (home page) for school-related information. We also encourage you to drop by the office and provide the secretaries with your email address so that you may also receive email blasts when they are sent out by the school. In this way, you will always be kept informed and up-to-date. Latest school news will also be on Twitter.



FUNDRAISING

In the last 2 years we have had successful fundraising efforts with our pizza lunches and chocolate sales. We wanted to take this opportunity to let our community know precisely where we have **invested your** fundraising dollars. In the 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years our school has raised **\$18,311.48**. We have spent a total of **\$74,068.51 in technology for students**. The school's budget is used to invest a significant amount on technology above and beyond any fundraising efforts. Below is a detailed account of the technology purchased for *student learning and use in the last 2 years*:

HARDWARE

10 Promethean Boards- \$33,830.20
65 Chromebooks- \$20,038.03
10 iPads- \$5,026.27
10 iPad grips- \$326.61
1 iPad Tech Tub- \$424
FM systems for voice projection- \$4,559.40

SOFTWARE LICENSES

IXL- \$7,950
RAZ KIDS- \$1,914

The above does not include all of our tech spending. We have also spent money on new and replacement hardware specifically for teacher use (laptops connected to Promethean boards, bulbs, chords, wires, projectors, parts etc.).



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT- Our continued focus on Mathematics

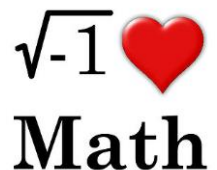


In an effort to **provide consistency** across all classrooms our school has purchased and is training classroom teachers to use the following two Nelson

math diagnostic assessments:

The Math Pre-assessment- This assessment is administered to the *whole class* at the start of each strand and provides the teacher with detailed information about students' understanding of specific concepts.

Leaps and Bounds- This assessment is only administered to students whose whole-class assessment indicates significant gaps in understanding. This assessment provides detailed information and a path to targeted teaching based on the student's results. A student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) will be based on the targeted areas and approaches outlined in Leaps and Bounds.



Our teachers are excited to be trained on an assessment which will provide consistency and support them to fill in gaps in various strands in an organized and methodical way.

TRAINING DATES for TEACHERS:

Grades 3-6- October 22, 2019.

Grades 1-2- November 26, 2019. (Deferred due to teachers' work sanctions)

Grades 7-8- The assessment is not yet available from Nelson. They anticipate a release date of December 2019. We will be organizing training in January 2020 for teachers.

SMENCILS are coming to HWD!



We are super excited to be selling **SMENCILS** as a part of our school-wide fundraising initiative. SMENCILS are gourmet scented pencils. SMENCILS are made from recycled newspapers and each SMENCIL comes in a freshness tube that is made from corn-based biodegradable plastic. There are over 20 scents to choose from!

HWD students are already excited to purchase their very own SMENCIL because purchasing a SMENCIL is not only great for our school fundraising but it also helps our planet.

SMENCILS will be on sale starting Friday, November 22, 2019.

Each SMENCIL will be sold for **\$3 each OR 2 SMENCILS for \$5.**

Come on everyone! Get yourself a Smencil!

Fundraising goal: Subsidizing field trips and the purchase of 20 iPads for student use.

SCHOOL T-SHIRTS ON SALE- \$10

We now have school gym T-shirts which can be purchased on cash online. The t-shirts are hung outside the Humberwood office so that



parents/caregivers can see the sizes before ordering. Proceeds will go towards the purchase of: sports jerseys for our sports teams and the creation of Indigenous murals on the first floor created by students and an Indigenous artist.

REMEMBRANCE DAY- November 11

On Monday November 11th the staff and students of Humberwood Downs JMA and Holy Child came together to participate in our Remembrance Day assembly. Students from both schools presented readings, poems, songs and dramatic presentations. Captain Najlis, Humberwood



Downs teacher, has served in the Canadian Armed forces for over two decades honoured us with her presence and spoke briefly to our audience. All of our students were respectful and listened attentively during our assembly. Thank you to the following students and classes who presented:

MCs Seyara (HWD) and Alessia (Holy Child). Our cadets Dushane and Kerath carried the flag and led the procession with Captain Najlis. Classroom presentations included the following classes: Ms. Balthazar, Ms. Hall (choir) and Ms. Sousa (Holy Child), Ms. Moon (choir), Ms. DiMira (dramatic presentation) and Ms. Hansra (slideshow and student readings). Our poppy donations raised \$600 which has been given to the Legion to support veterans and their families. Post cards were also written and sent thanking our veterans for their service.



SCHOOL UNIFORM - Hoodies NEW!

As of January 2020 you will be able to purchase from McCarthy the Humberwood Downs crested navy hoodie-Youth retail price **\$34.49**



Traffic Safety Tips:

Help Make this a Safe Winter Season

As winter approaches, we know that severe weather will be part of our daily lives for the next several months. While traffic safety is an important matter all year long, this is a particularly good time to review what we can do to keep students safe.

The need to be aware and alert at all times, on any road, and even in the most routine circumstances is key to traffic safety. This applies to students and drivers alike. Road conditions can be challenging in the winter months. So to those of us who drive, please take extra care on the roads and in parking lots, especially in areas where children might be present.



School staff periodically review street and traffic safety with students. Parents can help reinforce these safety messages with children at home. **Below are some tips that might be helpful to review.**

- Stop, look, and listen for traffic.
- Only cross at corners and crosswalks.
- Make eye contact with drivers.
- Walk on the right side of the crosswalk.
- Wear appropriate footwear to reduce the chances of slipping.
- Never run into the street.
- Obey crossing signals.
- Cross only if clear.
- Walk on sidewalks.
- Where there are no sidewalks, walk as far away from traffic as possible, facing traffic.

The safety of our students is always a top priority. Let's work together to make the winter season safe so we can enjoy all it has to offer.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT
November 18-22	Bullying Awareness Week
Friday December 6	PA Day- no classes
Wed. December 18	Winter Concert 6pm
December 23-January 3	SCHOOL CLOSED
Mon. January 6	Classes begin
Wed. January 8	Walk to School
Wed. January 15	Parent Council Mtg 6:30pm
Tues. February 11	Term 1 reports go home Updated IEPs go home
Thurs. February 13	Parent-teacher conferences
Fri. February 14	PA DAY Parent-teacher conferences
Mon. February 17	Family Day- no school
Wed. February 26	Pink Shirt Day- Stand up against bullying

From all of us to all of our Humberwood families:

Happy holidays!
Merry Christmas!
Happy Kwanza!
Happy Hanukkah!



Enjoy this special time of the year with your families. May 2020 bring an abundance of health and happiness to all!

