



Important Dates

CALENDAR

- December 9:**
SAC Meeting (7-9pm)
- December 11-12:**
Me2We Fundraiser
- December 13:**
Pizza Lunch
- December 20:**
Last day of classes
- December 23-January 3:**
Winter Break
- December 22-30:**
Chanukah
- December 25:**
Christmas
- December 31:**
New Year's Eve
- December 26-January 1:**
Kwanzaa
- January 6:**
Classes Resume
- January 10:**
Pizza Lunch
- January 14:**
SAC Meeting (7-9 pm)
- January 17:**
PA DAY

The Humewood Howler

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

Twitter: https://twitter.com/TDSB_Humewood

J. Whitfield, Principal
R. Najman, Vice-Principal

Recognition Certifications from September to November



December's Character Trait is Kindness & Caring

Incredible acts of kindness happen across the TDSB in our schools and communities every day. Kindness and caring are at the centre of everything we do and are the foundation for positive relationships between staff, students, parents and the community. Schools across the board recognize kindness and caring in many ways, including assemblies, special events, fundraisers and many other initiatives.

What can families do at home? Parents, guardians, caregivers and family members are the first and most important character educators of children. Working together with the school and community, we can guide our children towards common beliefs. When families reinforce kindness and caring at home, it becomes a way of life for children.

WINTER WOW!

It's that time of year again, Humewood's annual W.O.W!!! This year, Me 2 We will be hosting a hot chocolate, cookies and Rafiki fundraiser December 11th and 12th! How does it work? We will be selling the hot chocolate and cookies for \$2.00 each. We will be conducting the sale before school (8:30am-8:50am), during lunch, and after school until 4:00pm. The rafiki bracelets are first come first serve as there are a limited number. They will be sold for \$10.00 each. All the funds will be donated to Sierra Leone's Health program. It's the holiday season and it's the perfect time to spread the joy and help those in need.



ALL-WEATHER PLAY :)

As an OPAL school, we have all-weather play. Whatever the weather, our students go out to play. Please ensure your child has: all the winter/rain gear they need including hats, gloves, scarf, boots, and snow pants, extra socks, indoor shoes, and a change of clothes.

Humewood Sports Update!

Basketball

The Grade 5/6 Girls Basketball Team played very well this season! They won all of their games in the first tournament. After a very close quarter-finals game, decided by one basket, they did not move on to semi-finals. We are so proud of them, they played hard and had a lot of fun!



The Grade 7/8 Girls Basketball Team came in second place in their tournament at Humewood, but lost in the Quarter Final game. They demonstrated great teamwork, effort and integrity all season.

The Boys Basketball Team tryouts, for Grades 4, 5, 6 and Grades 7 and 8, will take place last week.

Hockey

There will be a Ice Hockey Team tryout for Grades 4,5 and 6 in December. A permission form will be come home soon for those interested in trying out.

TEAM UNBREAKABLE

A huge congratulations to our Team Unbreakable athletes for completing their 5km "Cold and Bold" run at Coronation Park on Saturday, November 23rd. They braved sub-zero temperatures on a beautiful sunny morning to celebrate mental health through physical health. Stay tuned for Team Unbreakable's spring event!



Intramural Sports @ Humewood

An outstanding number of grade 3, 4, and 5's took initiative to sign up for our intramural European Hand Ball league. With all teams having played one game each, we were very pleased to see the sportsmanship, athleticism, and overall participation from all the students. We are excited to continue this league for weeks to come, with new sports on the horizon!

Arriving on Time!

We have noticed that a significant number of kindergarten students are arriving late for class. It is important that your child be on time for school – it is hard to break the late habit once established. Even arriving to school a couple of minutes late can be disruptive to the class and can make it harder for your child to begin the day positively. We want to spend every minute we can with your young ones!

Humewood Schedule

Morning Entry: 8:45 a.m.

Lunch: 11:25am-12:40 p.m. (K)
: 11:35am - 12:40 p.m. (1-8)

Dismissal: 3:05 p.m. (K)
: 3:25 p.m. (1-8)



Early...

If you are picking up your child(ren) before dismissal, please arrive early to sign them out and wait for your child(ren) to come to the office.

...Late

If your child arrives **after** the morning or lunch bell, they must go to the office for a late slip. **Parents, please refrain from entering through the student doors.** If classes are still coming in, your child may enter the building and go straight to class. There are many staff members around to support your child as they walk to class. Once the doors are closed, please bring your child to the front doors and into the office for a late slip.

...And when signing out your child

If your child is getting signed out for an appointment or any other reason for early dismissal, please avoid calling the office in advance to let them know you are on your way and need your child signed out. Students will be signed out once their parent/guardian arrives at the office and signs them out in our sign-out book. The office admin team will call down your child from their class to greet you in the office.

DROP-OFF & PICK-UP

There has been an increase in the number of cars stopping to park along Cherrywood Avenue to either drop off or pick up students throughout the day. In some cases, the illegally parked cars are blocking the school bus in the morning at the front of the school, as well as causing traffic jams on neighbourhood streets. These cars often block crosswalks that our students and families use. **Please note that parking is only permitted along the west side (southbound) of Cherrywood Avenue and the east (northbound) side of Humewood Drive. Please do not park your car in the way of a crosswalk, intersection, or front of the school.**

Happenings @ Humewood

CADENCE

On November 21st, students in grades 4-8, enjoyed a Prologue performance from Cadence. It was called Four Men, Four Mics, No Instruments. There were impressive vocal arrangements, a splash of choreography and the soul of stand-up comics combined in this lively performance that illustrates how the voice is the most versatile of all instruments. Students and staff had a blast listening to Cadence.



COMIC WORKSHOP

On November 26th, students in grades 2-5 enjoyed a comic workshop presented by "Freeze DNA." Students had the opportunity to learn and draw comic art. They also were able to purchase a drawing book to learn more about this art. Students were fully engaged and had a lot of fun!



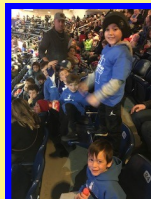
LE VILLAGE FRANCOPHONE

Mme Z's grade 7 and 8 Core French students have been working hard all month to build shops, doctors offices, grocery stores and more for a Live Action Role Play (LARP) game called "Le Village Francophone". During this LARP, students were in character as French villagers and found a list of quest items in real time while communicating 100% in French!



MARLIES GAME

On November 17th, families attended the Marlies game. They had the opportunity to participate in a pre-skate before the game and enjoy some of the pre-game activities. There was a lot of Humewood spirit at the game, and it was great to see so many students there with their families. Oh, and the Marlies won 4-3 against the Texas Stars...woohoo!



WANTED:

Earbuds or Headphones

If you have any extra earbuds or headphones lying around at home that are not being used, we'd be happy to accept donations. Earbuds/headphones support student learning when students are at literacy listening centres, are using mobile technology like laptops, ipads, and chromebooks, and when students need to listen to music as a tool to add calm and focus while they are working. Please send any earbud/headphone donations to the office. Thank you!



A Helpful Tip!

Keeping a folder at home with copies of the report cards your child receives for each term is a great way to track their progress within their school year and throughout their entire academic career. There have been several parent requests in the office to provide additional copies of their child's report card for various reasons. Moving forward, please keep the copy we send home to you in a secure location so it doesn't get misplaced. This way you can access it when necessary. Thank you!

A Music Memo

Humewood's Grade 3-5 choir is continuing to meet Tuesdays after school 3:25-4:25 p.m. Please talk to Mr. Polak or Anna Rutledge for details. We will be singing at Christie Gardens in December, and at the Kiwanis Festival in February.

Bonus Band meets Mondays at lunch in the gym. This ensemble is for any grade 6-8 students seeking an additional challenge on their instrument. Right now we are working on "Funkytown" and "Bohemian Rhapsody". Let Mr. Polak know if you are interested- just bring a lunch and your instrument. Let's jam!

Our winter concerts are coming up! The Primary Winter Concert (grades 1-4) will be held on Wednesday, January 22nd at 6pm, and the Junior/Intermediate Winter Concert (grades 5-8) will take place Thursday, January 23rd at 6pm. See you there.

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.

French Programs Application Deadline

For families interested in the TDSB's French Immersion or Extended French programs, we offer an online process for applying to: Early French Immersion (EFI) which begins in Senior Kindergarten & Junior Extended French (JEF) which begins in Grade 4. At this time, we guarantee an offer of placement in the program (not a specific school) to all on-time applicants. The timelines for applying for these programs for September 2020 are:

- Applications for Early French Immersion (for a Junior Kindergarten aged child), were to be completed online between November 4, 2019 and November 29, 2019.

- Applications for Junior Extended French must be completed online between January 6, 2020 and January 31, 2020.

Offers of placement within your chosen program will be made to all on-time applicants in the weeks following the close of the application window.

Please Note: families with an older sibling currently in a French program are still required to complete an online application for the new student. For further information about French as a Second Language programs, the application process and important dates, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/french.

Being Scent Aware @ Humewood

Exposure to perfumes and other scented products can trigger serious health reactions in individuals with asthma, allergies, migraines or chemical sensitivities. Fragrances are found in a wide range of products, including perfume, cologne, deodorant, soap, fabric softeners and laundry detergents. It is a personal choice to use fragrances, however, fragrance chemicals by their very nature, are shared. The chemicals vaporize into the air and are easily inhaled by those around us.

We've noticed quite a few students in the junior/intermediate grades bringing in fragrances to school including, Febreze, washroom air fresheners, body mists, spray deodorant, and other deodorizers. These items are NOT to be brought to school. For students who wear deodorant, they are encouraged to wear either the roll-on or stick type instead of a spray or aerosol. Students can also wear a fragrance-free option as well.

The TDSB is asking for voluntary cooperation towards a scent-reduced environment at school. Staff, students and visitors are strongly encouraged to avoid or reduce the use of fragranced products, and to replace them with unscented alternatives. This is a request to voluntarily refrain from chemical-based scented products, and not a ban on scented products.



A Message from Humewood's Student Council Representatives

Hi, this Aviva, Franny, Alex and Theo. We are your grade 7 and 8 reps for our first ever student council! We are extremely excited to be a part of Humewood's Student Council this year! Some initiatives we have started are recess buddies and a school dance. Recess buddies is where older students in grades 6, 7 and 8 can run fun co-operative stations at recess for younger students. Also, on Thursday, December 5th, we planned a glow-in-the-dark school dance for the grade 7's and 8's! The student council team is also excited to get together and plan school wide games, play days and more dances later in the year! We can't wait to have the best 2019-2020 school year ever!



Donating Your Unwanted Items to our School

We have noticed that there have been several "mystery" drop-offs of items like old books, random clothing, fabric, and used office supplies found in our front foyer and lost and found areas of the school. Please refrain from dropping off your unwanted items to Humewood. There are several places in the community like Salvation Army, Value Village, and various donation bins to rid of your belongings. There are times when we ask for donations, but now is not that time. We will keep you posted. We thank you for your co-operation with this matter.



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/>

Humewood’s Play Prompts

Is it safe enough for us, the environment and the equipment?

Is it fun for everybody?

Is it inclusive?

SAFE WORD: Respect.

Humewood’s Play Policy

At Humewood we recognise that all play is at the heart of healthy development for children. Play is self-directed, fluid, flexible and open involving experimentation and imagination.

We recognise that in order to learn, children must push the boundaries of what is already known and already easily accomplished and this requires children to experience risks and challenges.

We encourage children to understand and challenge their own limits and we provide a supportive environment for risk-taking. We teach and use a risk-benefit approach to manage our duty of care to protect and provide for children’s needs.

All students are provided with a range of choices and opportunities to play in order to build connections with and to care for their environment and community.

We believe it is our responsibility to safeguard and support all children’s right to play.

So What Are Students Drinking These Days @ Humewood?

Consider the ingredients in that 20-ounce bottle of pop: Carbonated water, artificial flavours, a little caffeine, and about 17 teaspoons of sugar, which together add up to 250 calories.

Students who are leaving school for lunch aren’t spending their money wisely and are often found carrying large fountain drinks of sugary juice or soda pop, or large bottles of energy drinks like Gatorade. These chemical-filled drinks are expensive and provide zero nutritional value to our students’ diets. Students are also left with a sugar rush in the afternoon, often affecting their academic performance.

Let’s make a conscious effort to reduce the spending and litter of sugary drinks and turn to a natural, healthier, and free choice—**WATER**. Students are encouraged to bring a labelled reusable bottle to school that can be filled throughout their school day.

