

The Humewood Howler

Quarantine Edition

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

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Checking in...

It's hard to believe that another month has come and gone so quickly during these interesting times. We do believe that we are still maintaining our community feel, despite our social distance, connecting with students and their families. In May, we celebrated family through our family flag initiative, we also focused on the importance of movement, during our weeklong Move-a-thon! Teachers are continuing to check-in with students and families in various ways, and we have been able to visit online classrooms to view student engagement during this remote learning period. We are so thankful for the supportive team we have at Humewood, as well as the warmer weather to help make the days a little brighter. We continue to wish that our families remain safe, healthy, happy, and connected to Humewood CS.

-Julie & Rachelle

Report Cards and IEPs

This year Report Cards will be sent home between June 22 and June 26 electronically by the TDSB. Any families that do not have an e-mail address should contact the Principal. Students' Individual Education Plans (IEPs) will also be sent home electronically before the end of the year – they will be encrypted and the password sent separately. If you do not wish your child's IEP to be sent digitally please let the Principal know as soon as possible.

Retrieval of Students' Belongs from School

With the news that schools will remain closed for the rest of the 2019-2020 school year, the TDSB is now focusing on how students can retrieve their belongings from schools and return any outstanding items that belong to the school (e.g. text books, library books, sports uniforms, etc.).

From June 8 to June 26, 2020, parents will be able to come into Humewood to collect any items left behind and return any outstanding school items.

This process, using TDSB guidelines approved by Toronto Public Health, follows all physical distancing requirements, which means that it will take some time for everyone to have the opportunity to come in. **Further communication with more detailed information will be sent via email next week, so stay tuned and check your inbox for the email outlining this entire process. We appreciate your patience and support as we work through this together.**

OPAL UPDATE



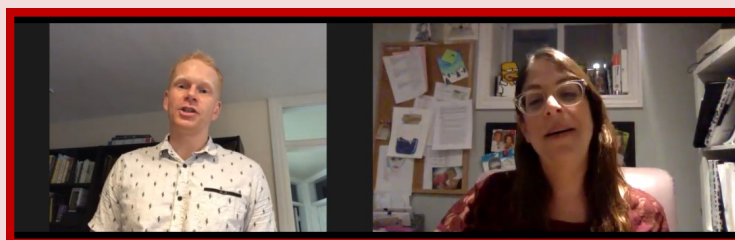
Humewood is committed to OPAL, as we value outdoor play and learning. Children use play to explore their environment, grow their imagination and discover new opportunities. Playing outside is fun, exciting and important for healthy child development. Recently we met as a leadership team to discuss what OPAL will look like moving forward. There are still a lot of unknowns about next year, but we can focus on what we do know - that outdoor play and learning is critical for our student's health and wellbeing - now arguably more than ever. Support for outdoor play can take many different forms - and together we will continue to brainstorm some diverse and adaptable ways that we can continue to promote great outdoor play and learning in our school community. We will continue to provide updates to you, so stay tuned.

Please see the links below that truly highlight the importance of play in our children's lives.

- For general information about play during COVID19, one of the best sources is [Outdoor Play Canada](#).
- A Mini Pop-Up is a smaller version of a "Pop-Up", which has taken place at Humewood in the past. A Mini Pop-Up can happen anywhere, and while a [Mini Pop-Up](#) may be mini, the play benefits are BIG!
- This [Toronto Public Health Fact Sheet](#) include strategies on encouraging outdoor play for children while helping keep them safe from COVID-19.



Humewood's Got Talent is back! We are looking for acts of all kinds, from your best choreography to your best trick shot, and everything in between. This year, we are taking the show online, and auditions begin on Monday, June 1st. Details, and a FlipGrid, will be posted on the Humewood Wellness Classroom (google classroom code: cnkwghg). We look forward to welcoming any grade 4-8 students who have been practicing their talents in quarantine, and want to share them with the Humewood community! Please note, auditioned material is private, and only Mrs. White and Mr. Polak will be viewing your content. We look forward to seeing all the skills of our exceptional students. Click on the photo below to see the video PSA!



TWO EXCITING UPCOMING EVENTS @ HUMEWOOD

HUMEWOOD @ HOME TRACK & FIELD EVENT

We are excited to announce a 7-day Humewood At Home Track and Field Event starting Monday, June 8th. Stay tuned as we will be presenting a choice board featuring Sprinting events, Long Distance Running, Standing and Running Long Jump events, Triple Jump, Hurdles and Throwing events. There will be instructional videos and chances for students to record and post their best scores for other students to see. All students who participate will receive a free skipping rope which they will be able to pick up at Humewood at the end of our 7-day Track and Field Event.

VIRTUAL JUMP ROPE FOR HEART DAY

The skipping ropes will come in handy as we will be using them for our Virtual Jump Rope for Heart Day on Friday, June 19th. Humewood will be joining over 146 other schools across the province in this event meant to raise awareness about the importance of heart health. 80% of premature heart disease and stroke can be prevented and the fight for prevention starts with our kids. Together we can help promote wellness to our students and increase their knowledge on EASY Healthy Habits that they can use everyday.



JUNE IS PRIDE MONTH

While we won't be able to have our traditional parade and dance party this year, we still will be marking this important occasion in new and fun ways.

An information package with fun family activities and suggested resources will be sent out to you soon, so please keep an eye out for that. On Friday, June 19th, we'll also be sharing a Pride Playlist so you can have a Pride dance safely at home!

We would also love to create a collage of Humewood families showing their pride, love, and support for all members of the LGBT2QS community. If your family would like to be included in this collage, we encourage you to get dressed up in your most joyful rainbow gear and make signs celebrating Pride and demonstrating allyship.

Please email photos to Mme Cumbaa at madison.cumbaa@tdsb.on.ca by June 15th.

SHOWCASING STUDENT REMOTE LEARNING

The grade 6 students in Ms. Hoffman's class were learning about procedural writing. To celebrate their learning, students had to come up with a recipe and share it with the class. There were a panel of staff judges including Mr. Polak, Ms. White, and Ms. Whitfield who tested out the recipes and judge the best one. The winner was Taylor P. for her recipe entitled "Double Chocolate Chip Cookies." You and your family can enjoy all of the recipes compiled in the Humewood Chef Recipe Book. Click on the below to access it.



AN UPDATE FROM OUR SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Hi Everyone,

We hope you are managing well. Still healthy and safe, keeping a physical distance.

A few things I've been meaning to follow up on so sorry for the delay. As you all know this has been an unprecedented year for all of us. Our school events, community building and fundraising also has taken a real impact. As you probably know - council fundraising with community support raises on average \$45k-\$50k per year that is critical in going directly to helping supplement the Humewood school budget. In fact, funds that you all generously donate for fall fair, pizza lunch, bake sales, Blue Jays, Snowball etc....go directly to arts programs, scientists in the school, school tech, music, band, school play, performances, class trips etc. While we didn't have some of these programs happen, we definitely also didn't have the events and fundraising which leaves us in a almost net zero for the year and not much to start off next year. It's cash in, cash out. That being said we know that there have been a few things that you have contributed to already. - below are details for your review and consideration. You may consider donating your already paid amount towards Humewood School council for activities next year. If not, that's ok too.

Pizza Lunch: We will offer a refund for 5 lunches to those who would like one. On-line payment refunds will be processed in kind and may take several weeks. Payments made in cash will be refunded by cheque for pick-up in September (unless your child will not be returning to Humewood next year, in which case alternate arrangements will be made). Please e-mail your refund request by June 1, 2020 to Humewoodpizza@gmail.com. Please indicate if your child will not be returning to Humewood.

Snowball: We can process the refund if requested. On-line payment refunds will be processed in kind and may take several weeks. Payments made in cash will be refunded by cheque for pick-up in September (unless your child will not be returning to Humewood next year, in which case alternate arrangements will be made).

Please e-mail your refund request by June 1, 2020 to Snowballrefund@gmail.com. Please indicate if your child will not be returning to Humewood.

Wine Survivor: Remaining gift card prizes will be issued within the week.

Grade 8 Grad: We are hoping to contribute a small amount as council to celebrate the grade 8's at the end of the school year, separate from what the school is planning and may have in the fall. There is an active committee of grade 8 parents that is planning.

We will be having a SAC meeting to close off the year and budget on June 3rd, 5:00 pm and discuss any key things we need to be aware of or plan for next year (planning? who can do that?). Contact Lori Litman for information about joining the Virtual SAC meeting.

Congratulations - it's almost June. So far. We made it.

A CALL TO ACTION

The world right now is dealing with more than Covid 19. Our community, with its teachers, families, and students, need to acknowledge the violence and anti-oppression that continues to plague black individuals. This pain is at the forefront of our minds. We grieve and stand in solidarity with the families of Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, and the many unnamed faces as reminders of social injustice. Only together can we give a voice to these issues, and impact change! Our humanity demands it. It is the responsibility of everyone to ensure that inequality does not get overlooked. We look forward to continuing our mission of equity in our school to help navigate messages of inclusivity, and to educate our members despite being in isolation.

In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. ***"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."***

- Ms. Acheampong, on behalf of the Humewood staff

FUNDING FROM THE MINISTRY

Just to make sure everyone is aware, the Ministry has offered funding for families to support them in purchasing school supplies/materials, etc., during the schools closures. \$200 for children 0-12 years of age and \$250 for children 0-21 with special education needs. One application per child. Please access the link provided here if you are interested and it applies to you and your family. <https://www.ontario.ca/page/get-support-families>

BICYCLE SAFETY

With warmer weather approaching, children may be participating in more outdoor activities like bike riding. To help keep children safe while playing outdoors this summer please follow social distancing and all other guidelines provided by Toronto Public Health.

When children are riding their bicycles, parents and caregivers can take steps to protect them.

Here's how:

- 1.** An adult should always supervise children 10 years of age or younger when they are using a bicycle or other wheeled sports equipment. Even older children may need on-going supervision when riding near the road.
- 2.** Make sure children wear the correct helmet properly when they ride. Ontario's bike helmet law requires all children and youth under age 18 to wear an approved bike helmet when riding a bicycle.
- 3.** Keep children away from traffic when they use wheeled sports equipment. Make sure they ride in a safe place.
- 4.** Teach children how to:
 - a. steer, brake and ride in a straight line
 - b. wear the right safety gear, and
 - c. do a safety check every time they ride a bicycle, scooter, skateboard, use in-line skates or wear shoes with wheels.
- 5.** Be within arm's reach when your children are learning to ride any wheeled equipment.
- 6.** Always walk a bicycle, scooter or skateboard across a street intersection, instead of riding across.
- 7.** Tell children that you are happy when you see them riding safely.
- 8.** Remind children of the safety rules when they forget.
- 9.** Be a good role model - wear a helmet and safety gear yourself. Children copy what adults do.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY - TIPS FOR PARENTS

Children under nine should be accompanied by adults or older children when crossing the street. At this age, their judgment and perceptual skills are still immature, yet they often eagerly try to cross streets on their own in order to demonstrate some independence. Teach your children the rules of the road - start when they're young. Think of it as gradually training your children about safety until all the connections are in place. By the time your child reaches age nine, and can act independently, the road safety rules will be second nature.

- Teach children how to cross the street safely. Teach them to stop (before stepping onto the road), look left, right and left again, and listen for traffic before stepping out into the street. Teach children to wait until the street is clear and to keep looking until they have crossed the street. They should also look the driver in the eye before crossing.
- Teach children to recognize pedestrian crossing signals but not rely on them. Before crossing, children should also be sure the traffic has stopped. Remind them to continue across if the light changes to "Don't Walk" while they are in the crosswalk.
- Teach children to be extra alert when crossing at a corner with no traffic lights.
- Teach your children to stop at driveways, alleys and areas without curbs and to never run out onto the street.
- Teach children about the dangers of crossing the street between parked cars or when not at a corner. Children should cross only at corners and pedestrian crosswalks, not diagonally or between parked cars.
- Teach children to respect the role of the crossing guard and to understand his/her signals.
- Teach children that wherever possible they should walk on the sidewalk. In areas without sidewalks, teach children to walk as far away from the road as possible, facing approaching traffic (when there is no choice but to walk on the road).
- Teach children that playing games at railway crossings or around trains can be deadly. Teach children that the only way to cross railway tracks is to use designated railway crossings.

Follow the same rules that you want your child to follow. You may want to cut across the street in the middle of the block, but you want your child to learn to cross at the intersection. Be a good role model.

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