

The Humewood Howler

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

J. Whitfield, Principal

Twitter: https://twitter.com/TDSB_Humewood



Important Dates

Calendar

School Council
Meeting
Monday, December
7th, 7:00 PM

Last Day of school in
2020,
Friday, December
18th

Winter Break
Monday, December
21 – Friday, January
1st,

First Day of School in
2021
Monday, January 4th

December

December's festivities will look differently this year but the character traits of "Kindness & Caring" always remain constant. This month's character traits help us to look outside of ourselves and to think about how we can carry out acts of kindness to show that we care about others.

In the spirit of Kindness and Caring Humewood is again working with TDSB Social Work to support 9 families from across Toronto during this season of giving. This year due to COVID 19 we know that the need is even greater so we are asking our families to work with us to try to support these families. We cannot collect cash this year – instead we are asking that as families are doing their essential shopping they pick up a gift card or two at stores like Loblaws, No Frills, Shoppers Drug Mart or Walmart. Often these stores sell gift card to other stores and restaurants as well. Please see the information at the end of this newsletter with details about how you can participate.

You can now also donate Gift Card purchased online – please see the information at the end of this newsletter!

We can do this Humewood!

Grade 8 Students – Choices for Grade 9

To help you make an informed decision when choosing a school, TDSB schools will host virtual open houses and information sessions (live or pre-recorded) for parents/guardians and students between November and January.

Learn everything you need to know about our incredible variety of schools, programs and courses. Please note that some schools are hosting "live" virtual open houses that families can join in real time, during the specified date and time. Some schools have pre-recorded information sessions that you can view at any time by clicking the link provided.

Please visit <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/OpenHouses> for further information.



Litterless / Boomerang Lunches @ Humewood

One of the goals of our Eco-School initiative is to teach and reinforce with our students and staff about the importance of the 3Rs...Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Also to reduce waste during this pandemic, we ask that parents ensure that all students bring a Litterless/Boomerang Lunch with them to school every day by packing their snacks and lunch items in reusable PLASTIC food and water containers. Students will be directed to put their litter and food scraps in their containers to take back home with them for disposal in their home recycling/garbage receptacles to reduce our waste at school. If we all do little things, the result will make a BIG difference on our environment! **NOTE:** Plastic cutlery is NOT supplied by the school, so please remember to pack a spoon or fork in your child's lunch.



Humewood School Council News and Events

HUMEWOOD PARENT COUNCIL PRESENTS

HUMEWOOD FAMILY TRIVIA NIGHT

Do you (or your kids) know your Ariel from your Moana? Your Cruella from you Captain Hook? Then join us for our Disney family trivia night!

Sponsored by The Gym, this is a perfect way to virtually connect with the Humewood school community while testing your trivia chops!

Join us on Thursday, Dec. 10 from 7:00-8:00pm

Recommended minimum donation is \$5 but any amount is greatly appreciated. All funds will go to Humewood School Council. Find information on where to buy tickets on the Humewood Council

website: <http://humewoodcouncil.com/>

To keep up to date on School Council news and events bookmark [Humewood's School Council Website](#).

SCHOOL SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM

One measure of keeping our students safe is to ensure we can account for any absences or reasons for being late to school. We would like to remind you that if your child is going to be absent or late for any reason, we ask that you contact the school immediately and report the reason for the absence. If we are not informed about the absence, we will make attempts to contact you through our automated call-out system to determine the reason for the absence. To find out how this automated system works please visit <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/HighSchool/CaringSafeSchools/SafeArrivalProgram.aspx>

Please let the office know by calling the school if your contact information, including phone number, changes at any time throughout the school year.

Thank you for your continued cooperation to keep your children safe and accounted for.

Mask and Face Covering Requirements For TDSB

Students & Staff - **Updated**

It is really important that students remember to bring their masks to school each day. Students should be provided with two masks from home, in case they need to be changed throughout the school day. We are noticing during morning entry that many students arrive without a mask. Although we have masks to provide to our students, we should refrain from relying on the school to provide masks because this delays entry procedures and will eventually deplete the masks we have in our building, so please let's not make this a habit. Please remember to check your child's backpack or fanny pack to ensure they have masks for their school day, each and every day. Thank you for your co-operation with this matter.



PICK-UP & DROP-OFF DURING LUNCH

PICK-UP

We are noticing parents picking up their children during the lunch hour for appointments. Please ensure that you are coming to the office right before lunch (11:30 p.m.) or right after lunch (12:45 p.m.) to do so. It is very difficult to locate students while they are playing outside, and then having them retrieve their belongings from their locked classrooms is also a challenge.

DROP-OFF

If your child/children were absent in the morning to sign back in, or if they are coming back to school from lunch, they must only arrive back to school at the sound of the re-entry bell which rings at 12:40 p.m.

Water Bottles

It is important that your child/ren come to school with 1 to 2 reusable water bottles. This will ensure students stay hydrated during their school day. Currently we are only using a water bottle filling station or some classroom sinks to refill bottles. Students are NOT using water fountains. We are noticing that several students forget their water bottle daily, and parents dropping them off at the office. Please ensure these are packed in your child's/ren's backpacks so they have all that they need. Teachers have been instructed to refrain from giving their student plastic cups to refill as this is wasteful and increases the chances of spills within the building. Please make sure the water bottle is labelled with permanent marker or a label. Thank you for your help and cooperation with this.





Indoor/Outdoor Shoes

With the change of weather, we want to ensure that our hallways and classrooms are kept as clean as possible. We are happy to see that many parents/guardians have sent their children with indoor shoes to be left at school. Students are switching out of their outdoor shoes and boots, into their indoor shoes with smooth and staggered procedures.

There are still several students who are wearing their outdoor shoes and boots in our building leaving some classrooms completely full of mud and debris all over their floors. This is not conducive to a safe environment, nor is it fair for our caretaking staff to clean/mop each and every day. Remember our students are now eating in their classrooms (snacks, lunch), and we need to maintain a clean, safe, and sanitized classroom environment for our students.

Students will have a designated spot in their classroom or outside the hallway their classroom to hang their coats and store their outdoor boots/shoes. Teachers have developed different systems to ensure that students are staggered when they retrieve and return their belongings.



Dear Families of Humewood CS,

In the spirit of the season

Humewood Community School is asking for your help to create

Holiday Gift Card Give Back Gifts

for families in need in Toronto.

Now more families than ever (especially with COVID 19) could use some help this holiday season.

In collaboration with the TDSB's Social Work team, we will be giving 9 families in need a collection of gift cards to help with their holiday shopping and make this season a little brighter for them.

Humewood CS has been assigned 9 families this year.

Each grade (K to Grade 8) will be receiving a profile of a family in need and learning about their story to make more of a connection to them.

Each class will also create a holiday greeting card to go along with the gift card collection that each family will receive.

We are asking for new GIFT CARDS ONLY - please no previously owned gift cards!

NEW!

You can purchase Gift Cards ONLINE and forward to Suzy.Brotman@tdsb.on.ca .

Please type "Friend" in the "To" and "From" lines.

Please ensure that the maximum amount for a single gift card is \$50.00. This will allow us to distribute funds to different families.

THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

We are asking for gift cards from: No Frills/Loblaw, Walmart, Dollarama, Shopper's Drug Mart, Toys R Us, Swiss Chalet, Tim Horton's and McDonalds.

Teachers will also collect gift cards so please send them in a small envelope labelled with your child's teacher's name, the original receipts included and Humewood's Holiday Gift-Giving Donation Form completed. Tax receipts will be provided for gift cards of \$20.00 or more. The receipt must be attached to the gift card in order to receive a tax receipt. Also, the Donation Form must be fully completed to get a tax receipt (tax receipt will be mailed to your home) .

Please submit your donations at the school by
Monday, December 7th.

Thank you!

Your support is greatly appreciated.

If you have any further questions, please contact:

Julie julie.whitfield@tdsb.on.ca or Suzy suzy.brotman@tdsb.on.ca (Social Worker)

Family Profiles

This information was shared by the families and we share it with our community with their permission.

KINDERGARTEN

This family consists of a young mother with three children ages 10, 8 and 2. Mom works hard to provide for her family and to keep a roof over their head. But her income barely covers the rent and she struggles to provide any of the extras that the children might need. Any support would be appreciated by this family.

GRADE 1

This is a wonderful family who immigrated to Canada from Mexico. The family consists of a mother, father and two children, aged 8 and 9. The family has experienced trauma in their home country and are grateful that they have been allowed to immigrate to Canada. At this time they are struggling with finances as part of settling into Canada. The family is grateful for any help!

GRADE 2

This family of four consists of a mother, a father and two girls, aged 11 and 15. The family has recently arrived from Ethiopia. Mom is quite ill and has difficulty getting out of bed each day. Dad is doing his best to provide for the family but since COVID, he has been struggling to get work. The girls are lovely and trying hard to fit into life here in Canada. The family appreciates any help they can receive!

GRADE 3

This family consists of a mother and her three children, 16, 13 and 10. Mom works part time and her salary is stretched thinly with rent and food. Mom worries about being able to provide for her children daily and with the holidays coming up, she does not see how she will be able to provide a nice Christmas for them. Mom was so grateful when she learned that she could receive help over the holidays. She wanted to thank the organizers and to let them know how grateful she is and that she felt blessed that her family had been chosen.

GRADE 4

This family consists of a mother and her three children, aged 16, 6 and 3. Mom has been out of work for some time and recently found a job cleaning someone's home once a week. She is lovely and really struggling with making ends meet and being able to put food on the table. She doesn't want anything for herself and says she would be grateful for anything to help her children.

GRADE 5

This family consists of a mother and her two children, aged 13 and 10. Mom receives no financial support from the children's father. Her 13 year old son attends virtual school and her 10 year old daughter attends in-person school. Mother has cancer and is unable to work. Therefore her family is living with her elderly mother in a one-bedroom apartment. Mom is very grateful for any and all support.

GRADE 6

This family consists of a mother and her two children, aged 16 and 13. They arrived as refugees last year and are struggling to make ends meet. Mom is working hard to complete her PSW and was working part-time until the pandemic started and she lost her job. Her 13-year-old daughter has intellectual difficulties that make it difficult for her to cope socially and practically so she requires a lot of support from her family with her day-to-day functioning. They are so happy to be in Canada, despite the many challenges they are facing.

GRADE 7

This family consists of a mother with three children who are in grade 10, grade 5 and JK. The student in JK has Autism. Mother has decided to keep all children at home for Virtual school during COVID. She struggles with managing behaviours and trying to meet their needs, as well as dealing with loneliness and isolation. Any help she can receive would be appreciated!

GRADE 8

This family consists of a mother with four children, aged 16, 11, 7 and 5. Mother recently left an abusive relationship, works full time and often struggles to make ends meet. The eldest daughter helps a lot around the house with taking care of her younger siblings. The family is grateful for any help they can receive!

HUMEWOOD'S HOLIDAY GIFT CARD GIVE BACK DONATION FORM

Student's Name: _____

Teacher's Name: _____

**Donation
amount:**

\$ _____

☐ **Gift card (with receipt)**

Tax receipts will be provided for donations of \$20 or more through the Toronto
Foundation for Student Success.

Please fill in all the fields below to ensure tax receipt is processed accurately.

Donor's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Postal Code: _____

Email address: _____

Please attach donation to this form and return to the school with your child.

Thank you for supporting our TDSB families this holiday season!
