



## Dates to Remember

Dec 16 - Intermediate Dance

Dec 18 – Pr / Jr Sing-a-long (8:30 AM) and play day (10:30 – 12:05)

Dec 21- Jan 1- Winter Break no school for students

Jan 12- Parent Council & PM in staff room - 7 PM

Jan 14 and 15 - Mobile vision clinic for participating students

Jan 20 – Kindergarten Information Evening 7 PM

Jan 25- Jan 29 – Kindergarten registration Week

## News

**We are a little more than half-way through the first term of learning.** It was wonderful to see so many parents coming to school to discuss their child's progress in the first 8 weeks of learning. There is still much for children to learn as we head into the final days before the holiday break. We continue to focus on the skills that children need as they grow and develop as individuals. One of the areas we are focusing on as a team is GROWTH MINDSET or the understanding that we, as human beings, are in a constant state of learning and growing. The way we think of our students and their learning colours their success at school. When we see a child challenged by a new concept, rather than think "s/he can't do that", we think: "S / he has not learned that yet. What does s/he need to be successful?" Changing our students' thinking from "I can't do that" to "I am working towards this goal" creates a community of success focused learners who learn that if they put in the effort and work success will follow.

1. **Borden Ball Teams** – Mr. Kilby and Mr. Wallace coached the boys' and girls' Borden Ball teams at the junior level. Students represented their school well in tournaments last week. Congratulations to students who have developed team work skills as they learned the game.
2. **Vision Clinic**- In January the Mobile Vision Clinic sponsored by the Canadian Council of the Blind will be here on January 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> to do *free* vision assessments of children whose parents have returned the form to the school.
3. **Parent Involvement**- There are so many different ways to be involved in your child's school. There are many activities at Hawthorne that require the assistance of parents to make them happen. From time to time, your child's teacher will organize field trips for the class to support learning. To ensure supervision of our learners, we ask for the support of parents on these trips. Without sufficient numbers of adult supervisors we may be faced with the cancellation of some activities. Please consider assisting with a trip this year.
4. **Food Drive** – Our community food drive continues through to the end of this week. Thank you to the many families who have sent in food items. We ask that you consider sharing a non-perishable food item this week, as we try to brighten up the winter holidays for some of our families.
5. **Progress Reports** are coming home on Thursday this week. Take a few minutes to discuss with your child goals they may work toward in the latter part of the term. These goals may range from improving the quality of their writing to using class time more wisely. Please be advised that the progress report is based on the first weeks of school (up to Oct 31<sup>st</sup>).

6. **Dressing for the weather-** Winter will officially arrive on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December. With all of the mild weather we have enjoyed it is easy to believe we will not experience the cold of last year. However, it will get colder and students will be going outside to play. Now is the time to check your child's outdoor wear for size and suitability. We encourage everyone to listen regularly to weather forecasts so students may be prepared for wind, rain, snow and cold.

### Saying Good-bye

7. We have had a few changes this fall in our school staffing. We recently welcomed Mademoiselle Smith to our French Department. She teaches the children from Grades 1 to 6. The changes continue as we move into January. We will be wishing our vice-principal, Mrs. Pilon, a fond farewell as she leaves Hawthorne to become Principal Pilon at Meadowlands PS. Her new school will benefit from her many skills and talents. Her warm and generous nature will be missed by our school community. Good luck, Mrs. Pilon.
8. We are not quite finished saying our good-byes. December 18<sup>th</sup> will be Mrs. Hurtubise's last day of school. She will be retiring as of that date. Mrs. H has been part of the Hawthorne school family for 18 years. She has seen many children grow up over that time and has served the community with great care and commitment. We wish her much happiness and luck as she heads off on her new adventure.

### The Homework Corner

Does your child know the facts? Quick and consistent recall of math facts makes "thinking in Math" and problem solving much easier. Knowing basic facts makes it easier to concentrate on making a plan. For young children learning through games, either board games or on-line drill games, makes the learning fun. The key is to practice them nightly until they are mastered. If your child has not mastered addition facts to 20 by the end of grade 1 and multiplication facts to 10 by the end of grade 5, it is not too late. Setting weekly goals for how many facts will be learned and sticking to the goal will make learning easier and success easier to measure.

And...

On behalf of the entire school staff I would like to extend warm wishes for all families to enjoy a safe and happy holiday. May you and yours enjoy health and peace in the New Year.



– Ms. Mary Conroy, Principal