



Hawthorne Herald November 4, 2016

Coming Events

Nov. 8 - School Council Meeting 7:00 PM – in staffroom

Nov. 10 – Progress Reports go Home

Nov. 11 - Remembrance Day Assembly 10:45 AM – community welcome

Nov.17 PM, Nov. 18 AM – Parent / Teacher Conferences

News

- 1. A Positive School Climate** – At school, we spend time talking with students about being respectful to one another and to adults. They are, for example, encouraged to say please and thank you, to hold a door for the person coming behind them and to think of what the impact of their words have on other students. A positive school climate is the responsibility of all members of the learning community: students, staff and parents. All students may expect a safe and caring environment at school. All students have the responsibility to monitor their own behavior and to solve conflicts peacefully to maintain a caring environment. Parents are asked to: remind their children to use their WITS, solve conflicts in a peaceful manner and to report incidents of bullying. We also asked parents to contact the school if their child reports concerning behavior. The staff and I look forward to working with you as we maintain a positive learning environment.
- 2. Reminder about Halloween treats** - Many students were out Trick or Treating on Monday night. Students have been reminded that treats at school need to be peanut free. If they bring treats to school, they are encouraged to eat them at nutrition breaks after they have had a nutritious snack or lunch.
- 3. Personal Devices at school** – The OCDSB supports and encourages responsible use of technology at school. Users are given access to the District's technology, its electronic devices or may choose to use their own devices in the District's learning and work environment. Whether they are connected to the District's network or non- District network, all students and staff of our learning community must abide by the Appropriate Use of Technology policy. What this means in practice is that all students must follow the school expectations for device use while at school and when communicating with peers while using technology. I encourage all parents to become aware of what it means to engage in Cyberbullying or inappropriate actions using technology by visiting <http://www.prevnet.ca/>. I strongly urge parents to speak with their children about their child's use of social media and how as a family they wish to represent themselves in the digital world. All students and parents have signed the Appropriate Use of Technology Agreement. Students have agreed to abide by the expectations for safe and courteous use of technology. Further they have been given guidelines for when it is acceptable for devices to be used at school. While the use of technology is welcomed in class when used as a learning tool, its use is not appropriate in such places as the change room, gym, hallway or on the yard at breaks. Students have been told that they may ask their teachers when it is appropriate to use a cell phone or tablet or ask permission to use to contact a parent. Should a student disregard the expectations for device use at school, they will be asked to leave

their phone with the teacher until the end of the day. If there is a repetition of the behaviour, parents will be informed of next steps. I am asking all parents to take the time to discuss appropriate and responsible cell phone / device use with their child and to support Hawthorne's expectations of our digital citizens.

4. **Math- the importance of counting and foundational skills** - As part of the School Learning Plan, we are focusing on foundational skills in mathematics. In the early grades that means working on thinking skills associated with counting. In junior and intermediate class, the focus is on representing thinking as students explore relationships between numbers. Students in class are guided in their thinking as they are presented with numerical situations to develop. Ask your child about "Number Talks" in the classroom.
5. **Remembrance Day Assembly** – Our Remembrance Day Assembly is open to the public. We ask that adults arrive before 5- 10 minutes before the assembly and sign in at the office. Students will be leading the ceremony. We ask in advance that cell phones be switched off.
6. **Parent Council Meetings** – We have a small but very dedicated School Council. Brigitte McGuey-Tuinder is our school council chair. The Council has a number of plans in discussion for the coming school year and are looking for new members to come to the table to lend their thinking. The meetings are on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM in the staff room.
7. **Thank You** - Thank you to families who have donated books to the 4th Pleasant Park – Hawthorne Book Sale. Thank you to Michelle Simpson for her efforts and thanks to Mr and Mrs Tuinder and Mrs Andrews .
8. **Progress Reports and Parent teacher Conferences**- Progress reports go home on Thursday, Nov.10th. Teachers will be sending home information for booking conferences next week. I encourage parents to book a time they are able to attend. A parent / teacher conference is an excellent opportunity to meet with your child's teacher to review progress and set plans for continued learning. By focusing student learning and setting next steps
9. **Get your Herald via email (sign up)** - Would you like to get a PDF version of the Hawthorne Herald delivered straight to your email address? Send a message to: HawthornePS@OCDSB.ca and include your child's name and grade in the message. You will be added to the automatic delivery list. **Follow us on Twitter** – Did you know we tweet? We send out messages about late and cancelled buses, school events and celebrations. Follow us @Hawthorneps.

Sincerely,

Mary Conroy
Principal