



Welcome back to school. I am very happy to extend best wishes for the coming school year as we work together to meet your child's needs. This is the time of year when we work together to put good habits into place and ensure that communication between home and school becomes a positive and productive process. I encourage you to look for communication from your child's teacher and the school to ensure that your child begins the school year on the right foot.

Happy New Year,  
Mary Conroy, Principal

- 1. Allergy reminder – Peanut Safety / Scent Free School** - We work hard as a community to ensure the safety and well-being of all of our members. You and your family are asked to help us maintain a safe environment for students and staff who suffer from life threatening allergies. Some of these allergic reactions result from exposure to nuts. **Please do not send products that contain or may contain peanuts and tree nuts to school.** We also ask families and guests to refrain from wearing perfumes and colognes to school.
- 2. Student forms to be returned** - On the first days of school a number of forms went home with your child. Please take the time to read them and fill in the requested information. Your assistance in keeping data about your child up to date helps us to serve your family better.
- 3. Staffing update** - We have had some changes to our school staff this year. We welcome back Madame Rawlings from her leave of absence last year. She will be teaching classes 2 / 3 and 4 / 5 Core French. She is also providing the French Immersion side of the full day kindergarten. We welcome Ms Erb to our school as our new Music and Gifted grade 8 teachers. Mrs. MacAskill joins our student support team and as Learning Resource Teacher and the intermediate team as a grade 8 History / Geography and Dance / Drama teacher. Ms Kennedy joins us from Viscount Alexander in the 5 / 6 classroom. Mr. Eastman is taking on the role of Learning Support teacher this year while Ms Schaefer is away on leave and Ms Byers rounds out our new English / French Immersion Kindergarten as the Educational Assistant. For more information about who is teaching what, I encourage you to visit our school website to learn more about Staff.
- 4. Classroom Configuration** - Our classroom set up this year is slightly different from last year. We continue to monitor the number of students coming to register each day and may still reorganize classrooms based on the number of students we have actually attending. Currently our classes are:

Primary / Junior

JK / SK English and French Immersion  
Grades 1 / 2  
Grades 2 / 3  
Grades 4 / 5  
Grades 5 / 6

Intermediate

Gifted 6 / 7  
Gifted 8A  
Gifted 8B  
Regular 7  
Regular 7 / 8  
Regular 8

- 5. Student Supplies** - For parents who are still looking for a list of suggested supplies for their child, they will find one available on the school website under Student Portal – Student Information – School Supplies List.

6. **Save the Date** - Meet the Teacher Evening is on September 22. Please circle the date on your calendar and plan to attend. This will give you a chance to meet your child's teacher and put a name to a face.
7. **School Council meeting**-The School Council is a group of parents who are interested in the knowing about the goals and events of the school. They act as an advisory body to the principal and the school board by responding to issues and addressing needs, concerns and questions as they arise. The School Council is an excellent way to get to know your child's school better. Our first School Council Meeting is on September 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. This is an evening when we will be introducing ourselves to one another and creating a new Council for this year. I encourage all parents to consider joining us in the school staffroom.
8. **Calendar update for September** -You will find a copy of our September calendar attached. Please take note of events in the coming month. You will find the same calendar on the first page of the Hawthorne PS website.
9. **Parking Lot Changes** – pick up and drop off changes – Starting September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016 the parking lot located on St. Laurent Blvd will be closed for drop –offs and pick-ups. If you are intending to drive your child, we would kindly ask that you use Valley Drive and Goren Ave at the back gate. This change is intended to increase student safety and prevent any dangerous situations in the parking lot.
10. **Wanted - Student Supervisor at Break Times** - We are looking for any parents that would be interested in a paid Student Supervisor position from 9:40 to 10:25 and 12:05 to 12:50. A current police check with a vulnerable persons screening is required to work in schools but is easy to obtain through Ottawa City Police. If you are interested, please call the main office at 613 733-6221.
11. **Start and End Times at School** -Student supervision begins at 7:45 AM at school. There are no teacher supervisors available before that time. The morning entry bell is at 8:00 AM. Students are asked to be with their class by 8:00 AM for morning entry. We ask that parents have their students at their assigned entries on time to begin class with their peers. Dismissal is at 2:30 PM. Students in Primary and Junior classes exit the school from the back of the building. If you have an older child walking a younger child home please ensure they know where they are to meet.
12. **Terry Fox Walk / Run** - HPS proudly supports the Terry Fox Foundation by holding a yearly school-wide walk/run. As a school we recognize the efforts of Terry Fox, who used his talents to help others, by sharing the experience of an afternoon walk as we raise money and awareness for cancer research.
13. **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](mailto: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.
14. **Student Attendance:** Please call the Hawthorne Attendance line at 613 733-6221 if your child will be absent or late. Many thanks.