

HAMMOND NEWS

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Principal: Mr. Wes Reamsbottom
Vice Principal: Ms. Megan Olynyk

Newsletter #6 - April 23, 2021

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Upcoming Events

April 28 Zoom Assembly at 9:30 am
April 29 Spirit Day - Twinning
May 12 Pro D Day - no classes
May 24 Victoria day Holiday
June 29 Last Day - early dismissal

The sunny weather has certainly helped lift spirits during the pandemic here at Hammond! Many classes are utilizing the weather to work outside and are enjoying the sunshine during recess and lunch. As we move into our final term we are already beginning to plan for next year. If you have educational information about your child that will help us when doing class placements for next year, please come to the office to complete a form. Please note that many factors determine class placement and a completed form does not guarantee that a student will be placed in a specific class. The deadline for class placement forms is May 31st. More detailed information is outlined below.



Wishing you a sunny May!

CALENDAR REMINDERS...

Wednesday, May 12th is a Non-Instructional Day and students do not attend
Schools are closed Monday, May 24th for the Victoria Day Statutory holiday

STUDENT TRANSFERS...

School District 42 allows students to attend a school other than their "catchment" school, provided there is space available at the school of choice. Parents who wish to have their children transfer to another school (or program) for September are required to start the process at their current school by completing a Student Transfer Request Form. This process began mid-February and phase one is now closed. We are now into phase two which closes June 12th. Transfer requests are processed in date order. If you are considering a transfer, we encourage you to submit forms as soon as possible.

STUDENTS MOVING?

If your family is planning a move over the summer and will not be here in September, kindly let the office know for our planning purposes. We would greatly appreciate it!

LIBRARY NEWS...

Thank you to our PAC group and Ms Biles for her continued effort to raise funds for our library through the Virtual Scholastic Book Fairs! Thank you Ms. Biles!



SUMMER WEATHER...

As our students are spending more quality time outside, now is a good time to remind students and parents of either putting on sunscreen in the morning or sending sunscreen for your child to apply since the weather is getting warmer. Thank you for your support.

COVID Reminders

A reminder that in accord with COVID-19 protocols, we ask **parents to consider spending as little time as possible on the school grounds**. If you do not have to wait with your children, please do not do so. If you need to wait with your children, we need your cooperation to:

- Physically distance from other adults and children who are not your own, and considering wearing your mask as per the Provincial Health Officer's guidelines
- Remain well clear (5 metres or 15 feet) of the school building and areas where the children are lining up
- Stay clear of the outside classroom doors (**student only zones**) in order to allow students to enter/exit safely

PLEASE TRY NOT TO CONGREGATE ON THE SCHOOL PROPERTY TO SOCIALIZE BEFORE OR AFTER SCHOOL

- Also, we ask that students head straight home after school and do not socialize on the school grounds after school.
- The front doors are locked and once students are dismissed they will not be able to get back into the building.

PLEASE LEAVE THE PROPERTY AS SOON AS YOU HAVE PICKED UP OR DROPPED OFF YOUR CHILD. We have received many phone calls and emails from parents concerned about the lack of physical distancing and congregation of adults on the property.

We ask that parents please pass this information on to your child's daycare / caregivers so they might be able to follow the same guidelines.

Let's work together to keep everyone safe!

MASKS...

In accordance with Ministry expectations, all K-12 staff and students in Grades 4 to 12 will be required to wear a mask indoors in schools and on school buses - both within and outside of their learning group. Students in Grades K to 3 are encouraged to wear a mask indoors in schools and on school buses but are not required to do so. We suggest you send your child to school in a clean mask, and with a spare mask, that they are used to wearing. We do have disposable masks available, if students forget their mask. The guidance regarding mask requirements does not apply to staff, students and visitors in the following circumstances:

- to a person who cannot tolerate wearing a mask for health or behavioural reasons;
- to a person who is unable to put on or remove a mask without the assistance of another person;
- if the mask is removed temporarily for the purposes of identifying the person wearing it;
- if the mask is removed temporarily to engage in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask (e.g. playing a wind instrument, engaging in high-intensity physical activity, etc.)
- if a person is eating or drinking;
- if a person is behind a barrier; or
- while providing a service to a person with a disability or diverse ability (including but not limited to a hearing impairment) where visual cues, facial expressions and/or lip reading/movements is important.

Please contact Wes Reamsbottom if your child cannot wear a mask for any of the exceptions noted above.

DAILY HEALTH ASSESSMENT

All parents, guardians, and/or caregivers **MUST** conduct a Daily Health Assessment of their child(ren) **BEFORE** sending them to school. Keep this checklist in a well-frequented area (like your kitchen) and incorporate the assessment into your morning routine before leaving for school.

1. Key Symptoms of Illness		Do you have any of the following new key symptoms? Please circle ONE for each line.	
Fever		YES	NO
Chills		YES	NO
Cough or worsening of chronic cough		YES	NO
Shortness of breath		YES	NO
Loss of sense of smell or taste		YES	NO
Diarrhea		YES	NO
Nausea and vomiting		YES	NO
2. International Travel	Have you returned from travel outside Canada in the last 14 days?	YES	NO
3. Confirmed Contact	Are you confirmed contact of a person confirmed to have COVID-19	YES	NO

If you answered “YES” to one of the questions included under ‘Key Symptoms of Illness’ (excluding fever), you should stay home for 24 hours from when the symptom started. If the symptom improves, you may return to school when you feel well enough. If the symptom persists or worsens, seek a health assessment.

If you answered “YES” to two or more of the questions included under ‘Symptoms of Illness’ or you have a fever, seek a health assessment. A health assessment includes calling 8-1-1, or a primary care provider like a physician or nurse practitioner. If a health assessment is required, you should not return to school until COVID-19 has been excluded and your symptoms have improved.

When a COVID-19 test is recommended by the health assessment:

- If the COVID-19 test is **positive**, you should stay home until you are told by public health to end self-isolation. In most cases this is 10 days after the onset of symptoms. Public health will contact everyone with a positive test.
- If the COVID-19 test is **negative**, you can return to school once symptoms have improved and you feel well enough. Symptoms of common respiratory illnesses can persist for a week or more. Re-testing is not needed unless you develop a new illness.
- If a COVID-19 **test is recommended but is not done** because you choose not to have the test, or you do not seek a health assessment when recommended, and your symptoms are not related to a previously diagnosed health condition, you should stay home from school until 10 days after the onset of symptoms, and then you may return if you are feeling well enough. If a COVID-19 test is not recommended by the health assessment, you can return to school when symptoms improve and you feel well enough.

Testing may not be recommended if the assessment determines that the symptoms are due to another cause (i.e. not COVID-19). If you answered “YES” to questions 2 or 3, use the [COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) to determine if you should seek testing for COVID-19.

A health-care provider note (i.e. a doctor’s note) should not be required to confirm the health status of any individual.

PARKING LOT REMINDERS...

To all families the parking lot at the end of the day, if everyone follows our procedures and is patient for 10 minutes things will go smoothly and safely. It is with cooperation, patience and following a few simple guidelines that we can minimize the frustrations and keep the parking lot safe for everyone.

Guidelines:

- When double parked or stopping beside a yellow curb you **must** stay in your vehicle so you can move it if the person you are blocking needs to exit the lot.
- Do not block an open parking space.
- It is imperative that we leave a **clear path** through the middle of the lot so traffic can keep moving.
- If you get to the flagpole and your child has not arrived yet, **continue to circle** the lot until they do.
- Do not park at the entrance that funnels traffic into and out of the lot as it blocks traffic flow.
- Use the perimeter sidewalks to walk to the overflow lot rather than weaving in and out of the cars.
- **Travel through the parking lot at idle speed.**

PLANNING and CLASS PLACEMENT 2021...

We are beginning to create our classes for next year. Please be assured that staff devote considerable time, care and attention to this process. This very complex and lengthy responsibility occurs over several weeks and continues into September when class placements are finalized.

Throughout the year, there have been many opportunities for parents and teachers to discuss each child. Staff work together to consider the following criteria very carefully: **social emotional skills and relationships**, as well as **learning styles, strengths and needs**. Our goal is to create safe and engaging inclusive classrooms that balance these factors, as equitably as possible.



If you feel there is further information to consider about your child, you may pick up a **Class Placement Form** and submit to the principal in writing by **May 31, 2021**. (*Please refrain from requesting specific teachers or peers by name.*)

Please be advised that submitting this form does not guarantee that we will be able to accommodate your request. The school will continue to make the final determination of class organization. Because situations change over the summer with families leaving without notifying the school and new families moving into the area, the tentative organizations that are made in late June often change. Specific grade and teacher assignments are not finalized until the end of the first week in September.

GRADE SEVEN NEWS...

Secondary School Visit: Grade 7 Day is cancelled and there will be zoom presentations available from each Secondary school in the evening. More information to come.

KINDERGARTEN NEWS...

We will be hosting a *Welcome to Kindergarten* event during the afternoon on a date to be decided for all upcoming Kindergarten students and their parents. We will keep families posted!



Please note: Current Kindergarten students from Division 11, 12, 18 and 19 will be dismissed at 11:00 am on this day to allow for next year's Kindergarten students to attend this event.

Kindergarten Registration for 2021-22 is on-going. If you know of any families who have not yet registered their child for Kindergarten, or have moved into the area, please remind them that they need to register online on the School District website.

PAC NEWS...

Principal for a Day ~ All entries and monies due Tuesday, April 27, 2021

Neufeld Fundraiser ~ All entries and monies due Tuesday, April 27, 2021

Congratulations to our New 2021-2022 PAC Executive!

President: Laetisha Biles

Vice President: Carrie Pesdirz Zilliax

Secretary: Kelly Wilson-Lorenz

Treasurer: Lawren Caponero

Hot Lunch / Fruit and Veggie - Angela Bell

Fundraiser Coordinator: Vacant

DPAC Rep: Vacant

Our current PAC will stay on till June to help with the transition.

A big thank you to our outgoing PAC - Stacey Burke, Krisy Horne and Kelly Phillips. Hammond greatly appreciates the hundreds of hours you have dedicated to our school!

SPIRIT WEAR ... Orders due Wednesday, April 28, 2021 to the office. The colour of t-shirts and sweatshirts will be burgundy.

2021-2022 DISTRICT SCHOOL CALENDAR

Schools opening day for students	Tuesday, September 7, 2021
<i>Non-instructional day (School Growth Planning Day)</i>	<i>Tuesday, September 28, 2021</i>
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 11, 2021
<i>Non-instructional day (province-wide)</i>	<i>Friday, October 22, 2021</i>
Remembrance Day	Thursday, November 11, 2021
<i>Non-instructional day (district-based)</i>	<i>Friday, November 12, 2021</i>
Schools close for break	Friday, December 17, 2021
Winter break	Monday, December 20, 2021 to Friday, December 31, 2021
New Year's Day Holiday	Monday, January 3, 2022
Schools reopen after break	Tuesday, January 4, 2022
<i>Non-instructional day (school-based)</i>	<i>Monday, January 24, 2022</i>
Family Day	Monday, February 21, 2022
<i>Non-instructional day (school-based)</i>	<i>Tuesday, February 22, 2022</i>
Schools close for break	Friday, March 11, 2022
<i>Schools not in Session</i>	<i>Monday, March 14, 2022 to Friday, March 18, 2022</i>
Spring break	Monday, March 21, 2022 to Friday, March 25, 2022
Schools reopen after break	Monday, March 28, 2022
Good Friday	Friday, April 15, 2022
Easter Monday	Monday, April 18, 2022
<i>Non-instructional day (district-based)</i>	<i>Wednesday, May 11, 2022</i>
Victoria Day	Monday, May 23, 2022
Last day for students	Wednesday, June 29, 2022
Year-end administrative day	Thursday, June 30, 2022
Schools closed for Summer vacation	Friday, July 1, 2022

Important Information and Changes to Hammond 2021 Talent Show instructions....

How to Submit your Video Entry

- **Submissions by USB only**
- **USBs need to be clearly marked with first name, last name and division. Please make sure that the video file is the ONLY file on the USB**
- **NOTE CHANGE: Video should be your full talent submission, and should include an introduction and the name of your act. NO ONE MINUTE AUDITION VIDEO IS NEEDED. If you have already submitted a video, no further action is required, unless you are contacted.**
- **USB submissions are to be brought to the office and placed in a USB basket. Once the video is uploaded by the committee, the USB will be promptly returned.**

Submission Deadline

TUESDAY, APRIL 27th

Students will be informed by the talent show committee if their talent is chosen for the show. We thank everyone in advance for their participation and enthusiasm for the show.

Any questions can be put on a note and given to your classroom teachers, who can forward them to the Talent show committee.

Hammond Talent Show Committee