



The Homeland's Herald



April 2018

HOMELANDS SENIOR PUBLIC SCHOOL

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*Our School Website: <http://schools.peelschools.org/1323>
Follow us on Twitter @homelands323*



Hello Spring!

The weather has been wet, cold, warm and sunny which makes it a challenge for our students to know how to dress but they have been busy in class and outside. Students attended many activities such as Right to Play, The Geography Challenge and the Festival d'art Oratoire. We have seen our hallways and walls filled with the creative artwork from students from all grades, as well as, music flowing from the music room as we prepare for our Spring concert during

Open House. We also had an amazing Celebration Assembly where we celebrated the successes of many of our students. March Break was quickly followed by Easter so our students have had the opportunity to enjoy some time with family and friends.

We look forward to the month of April to further grow and learn with our students during Educations Week, Day of Pink, Ball and Ice Hockey Tournaments and the Peel Skills Challenge. April is also a time when we celebrate Earth Day and our Eco Club has been working hard to plan a garden and instill practices in the school to make us more Eco friendly. We are also working with the School Council and the Board to create an outdoor classroom that will be hopefully established before the end of May.

It is hard to believe but Homelands is 50 years old this year. We have been working hard to plan for a celebration of 50 years on Thursday, May 17th at 6pm. Our theme is Education through 50 Years. Please feel free to join us for a wonderful celebration of student and community accomplishment. Invite any past alumni to this exciting event. Looking forward to seeing you for Education Week and our upcoming 50 anniversary!

Warmly,
Ms. Wilson ☺

Peel Police/Staff vs Students Basketball Game!





Sports Corner

Before March Break we had a high energy and fun staff/peel police officers vs. student basketball game. All money raised from the game went to "Right to Play" and their initiative to use the transformative power of play to educate and empower children facing

adversity around the world.

Our busy spring sport season is starting up. The girls soccer and co-ed floor hockey try outs were held last week. Try outs for Badminton team, Ice Hockey and Cross County will all be held in the first two weeks of April. Four student relay teams will be participating in the 10k race at the Mississauga Marathon in May.



Right to Play

Physical and Health Education

Students have participated in some low organization games, finished up our tchoukball unit and wrapped up our floor hockey unit just before the Easter long weekend. For floor hockey our focus was on stick and ball handling and passing.

In the month of April we will be starting our badminton and health unit on nutrition. Parents, please check to ensure that your child is bringing a change of clothing for gym class, as well as a bag in which to carry it and to carry deodorant. Roll ons only please; No sprays.

Other Interesting News



We have a team of 18 students who will be participating in ACMUN (**Appleby College Model United Nations**). The conference takes place at Appleby College on April 21st.

Homelands was well represented at the Peel Regionals **Festival d'art oratoire** on March 22nd by Heather (French Plus Grade 7), Omar (French Immersion Grade 7) and Samantha (French Immersion Grade 6). In total there were 58 speeches on a variety of topics and our students performed well in their respective categories.

The **Eco Club** members put together a tower of plastic water bottles to demonstrate our waste over a 3 week period in December. The sculpture was on display as part of The Great Gulp, a school-wide event in March 2018. Thanks to Samantha Schmidt's efforts last year, the school won a water station that has now been installed!

The Grade 6 classes are growing **aquatic plants** in the classroom as part of a Toronto Regional Conservation effort to preserve and enhance local wetlands.

From the Art Studio

Students at Homelands have produced a great deal of work over the last month. **The 6's** have been painting with tempera paint and the theme was transition. Some students were painting snowflakes while others were painting leaves. We also watched a few videos that explained why we have seasons. Next up: the printing process.

The 7's finished their study of Art Deco Era (1920's-1930's) and have begun an investigation into the work of Norval Morrisseau Copper Thunderbird as he known in his native language. We will consider the relationship of Indigenous people with nature, the government and their future.

The 8's completed their study of Gothic cathedrals and have started a study into cities and their success. We begin in the Renaissance with Florence. What made that city so successful 500 years ago and what does it have in common with New York City and London? At the same time they will review the rules of perspective and make a drawing of a cluster of skyscrapers.

Mr. Johnston

School Council News!

News: Homelands Parent Council is excited to announce that during **May and the first two Fridays of June** our **Pizza lunch will again be sold at lunchtime on Fridays for \$2.50**. We have taken down the online orders and will revisit this again in September. We are always looking for volunteers to help out with pizza day between 10:45am and 11:15 am. If you are available please check in at the office at 10:45 am on any Friday and we will set you up! **Our next school council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 12, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the Learning Commons.**



Important Dates:

Mondays - Thursdays Lunch Lady Lunches (online/form)

Fridays - Pizza Day

Snack Cart at lunch - healthy cookies, baked chips and other nutritious snacks

April 02 Easter Monday – No School

April 11 Day of Pink

April 12 School Council Meeting 6:30pm

April 20 Grade 8 Grad photos

April 23-27 Education Week

April 25 Administrative Professionals' Day

April 26 Open House

April 27 Grade 7 & 8 Immunization

April 30 Book Fair Begins



The Great Gulp



Peel public schools celebrate Education Week

Peel public schools will host hundreds of special activities and events to celebrate Education Week 2018 from April 23 to 27. The theme for this year's week-long focus on education is *We Inspire*.

Each year, more than 50,000 parents and community members across Peel attend activities and events during Education Week. We are looking forward to an equally successful week this year.



Homelands Sr. P.S. goes pink on April 11

On Wednesday April 11, 2018, Peel District School Board schools will recognize *Day of Pink*. Unlike *Pink Shirt Day*, which is meant to combat all forms of bullying, we celebrate *Day of Pink* in Peel to specifically combat homophobia and transphobia.

"Equity and inclusion is something that all Peel schools teach throughout the year and discuss with students daily—it is embedded in everything we do," says Peter Joshua, director of education. "*Day of Pink* is just one more way for us to ensure students and staff learn, work and develop in environments that are safe, equitable, inclusive, respectful and nurturing for all."

Day of Pink began when a high school student in Cambridge, Nova Scotia, was bullied with homophobic language because he wore a pink shirt to school. The next day, hundreds of students at his school stood up to bullying and wore pink to school to show their support for equity and inclusion.

On this day, students, staff and families from across Peel may wear pink and participate in a number of activities.

Celebrate Administrative Professionals' Day

Thursday, April 25, 2018

Peel schools will pay tribute to administrative professionals on Administrative Professionals' Day on April 25, 2018. The day will be celebrated with special activities and events that provide teachers, students and parents an opportunity to thank the administrative staff who help support student success each and every day.

The Peel board appreciates the important job administrative staff do each school day and April 25 provides an opportunity to give these individuals the recognition they deserve.

April - Earth Month

Earth Month encompasses the international celebration of Earth Day on April 22, 2018. This is the most celebrated environmental event worldwide. Initiated in 1970, this event has been considered the birth of the environmental movement.

Each year, more than 6 million Canadians join 500 million people in over 180 countries in staging events and projects to address local environmental issues. In Canada, Earth Day has grown into Earth Week and even Earth Month to accommodate the profusion of events and projects. Here are some ways that you can celebrate earth week with your family:

- create a backyard or schoolyard habitat
- plant a garden or tree
- start a recycling program at home
- organize a carpooling campaign in your neighbourhood to reduce air pollution
- pick up trash in your neighbourhood
- read a book about an endangered species
- make a visit to your local zoo, aquarium or museum
- visit a local park, wildlife area or farm to provide a fun opportunity to learn about the environment and life

What is Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) is a legislated committee that makes recommendations to the board on matters affecting the education programs and services for students with special needs. SEAC meets monthly during the school year and consists of three trustees and representatives from organizations within Peel.

An important focus for SEAC members is to bring forward the views of their organizations and assist parents in navigating the school system. You can reach out to your trustees or the appropriate organization to discuss any matters regarding special education or join us at one of our monthly meetings. All meetings are open to the public and includes a set time for questions from the community.

For more information about SEAC and the meeting schedule visit,
<http://peelschools.org/parents/specialed/specedac/Pages/default.aspx>



Help us to encourage and enhance parent involvement in Peel

Apply for a position on the board's Parent Involvement Committee

The Peel board's Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) meets regularly throughout the school year to review the board's plans for parent involvement as they relate to parent, family and community engagement, and to make suggestions to schools, councils and the board regarding additional parent outreach.

As mandated by the ministry, the purpose of Peel board's PIC is to:

- support, encourage, and enhance meaningful parental involvement within schools and across the district, including, outreach to parents who find involvement more challenging
- work collaboratively with the school board to support student success
- seek out the advice and ideas of school councils, and other parents and partners as they plan and implement strategies to involve more parents at the regional level
- develop strategies for enhancing parental engagement and outreach

Parent application packages will be made available by April 11, 2018 at www.peelschools.org/PIC.

Register today for Adult ESL or LINC classes

Do you know an adult that is interested in improving their English language skills for work, study or daily life?

Through the Continuing & Adult Education department, the Peel District School Board offers a wide variety of English language classes that help parents experience success in Canadian English in both listening/speaking and reading/writing. Courses are designed for a range of basic, intermediate and advanced English (Levels 1 to 8) as well as the more experienced learner needing to prepare for an IELTS exam.

Classes are ongoing - Register anytime.

All learners that complete a session will earn a certificate of learning from the Peel District School Board.

Classes operate from six locations in Brampton and Mississauga with three specially designed adult centres at:

- **Bramalea** - Adult Education Centre - 25 Kings Cross Road, Unit 3
- **Brampton** - Adult Education Centre - #300 - 7700 Hurontario Street
- **Mississauga** - Adult Education Centre - 100 Elm Drive West, Room 117

To learn more or to register, call **905-270-6000, then press 2**

Also visit www.peelschools.org/adulteducation or follow us on Twitter: @PDSBLearnESL



We Welcome the World Centres

The Peel District School Board's *We Welcome the World Centres* located in Brampton, Malton and Mississauga, are the first point of contact for all newcomer families to become familiar with the educational system in Peel. The centres are open all year—including the summer months— from Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

In addition to providing literacy and numeracy assessments, the *We Welcome the World Centres* provide newcomers with a host of services including: reception, orientation, interpretation and referrals.

At each centre, parents/guardians and students will discover:

- settlement service information
- age and grade appropriate educational and related program resources
- information about various community supports
- translation of materials to support the reception and assessment process
- computer portals— providing information on Peel resources

For more information about the *We Welcome the World Centre* and the services they provide, call 905-366-8791.

Online parent portal to access important student information

The Peel District School Board is excited to announce the launch of ParentConnect, an online parent portal to access important student information. The pilot program was introduced at select schools and phased in to all Peel schools on Feb. 23, 2018.

What is ParentConnect?

ParentConnect is a safe and secure website, created by the Peel District School Board, that acts as a single point to stay informed and to access all electronic services provided to Peel board parents and legal guardians.

The parent-friendly website will allow you to:

- view school-based alerts and information
- access real time absence reporting
- view current and historic elementary report card information
- get up-to-date busing information
- review secondary school credit history and diploma status
- and more

To learn more about the benefits of ParentConnect, visit our school website or www.peelschools.org/parentconnect

Important changes coming to *SafeArrival* system in May 2018

The Peel District School Board is currently using the *SafeArrival* system by Synervoice Technologies. As Synervoice has been sold to West Communications, there will be slight changes to our *SafeArrival* system and how you will report your child's absence from school. The phone number to report your child's absence will stay the same, but there are a few other changes.

Beginning **May 14, 2018**, all elementary school parents/guardians need to report their child's full-day absences, late arrivals and/or early departures from school via our **new School Messenger *SafeArrival* system**.

The phone number will stay the same: 1-855-209-6155

Website has **changed** to: go.schoolmessenger.ca

Download a **new app**: School Messenger App (from Google or Apple)
(please be sure to delete the old Safe Arrival app after May 11)

Please continue to use our current Synervoice system until Friday, May 11, 2018. **The new School Messenger *SafeArrival* will be live on Monday, May 14, 2018.**

Important to note:

The transition to a new company and system will require parents to set up a new account with **School Messenger *SafeArrival*** as data will not be transferred from the old system to the new. More information on how and when to set-up your new account will be coming in the next month.