



# The Homeland's Herald



March 2018

## HOMELANDS SENIOR PUBLIC SCHOOL

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



Happy March folks and welcome to hopefully an early Spring! The students had an exciting February with many activities and learning opportunities. We had an activity afternoon on February 14 where students had the opportunity to attend the dance, head to the games room, electronic room, movie room or the homework club. A great time was had by all with the opportunity to spend some time with friends from other classes while enjoying some treats from the snack room. We also had a Colour House Challenge of the Amazing Race during the afternoon of February 21. Students and teachers were challenging each other with races, physical and mental challenges as well as wellness activities.

Report cards were sent home on Thursday, February 8. Teachers and parents have been reviewing and discussing students success and areas of growth either through phone conversations or meetings. Please remember that if you feel you need to discuss a concern regarding your child's success here at school, you can request a phone call and/or meeting at any time.

We also had a guest speaker and drummer, Babarinde Williams who had our students drumming and engaged in learning about our amazing Black Canadians. Our girls and boys basketball teams participated in a tournament at Erindale Secondary School. We also had a group of students present at the Model UN Conference. Our teams played well and represented Homelands proudly. Way to go teams!

Looking forward, we have a busy March with March Break, a Celebrations Assembly and our Dance Troop performing at the Living Arts Centre. We hope you enjoy March Break with your family and friends.

Sincerely Dana Wilson ☺

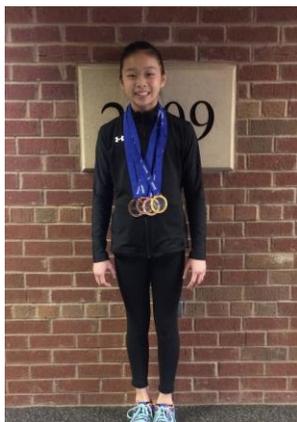
### Model UN Presenters



We had 15 participants from the Model UN at Kings Christian Collegiate on Feb 24 and won 6 awards: Best Delegate (1st) for Charlize, Aarian and Olivia. Outstanding Delegate (2nd) for Kristen. Best Position Paper for Karina and Yash. They all were amazing participants - well dressed, articulate, prepared. So proud!! Looking forward to Appleby College Model UN in April.

**Inspire Hope Confidence and Success In Every Child!**

## Celebrate Our Students!!!



*Congratulations to Taylor-Anne Towle in 705, who placed third overall in her gymnastics competition this month, receiving a bronze medal for her age/level, and placed as follows on each event:*

1st (Gold) - Floor Exercise  
3rd (Bronze)- Vault  
3rd (Bronze) - Balance Beam  
5th (Ribbon) - Uneven Bars

This "qualifier" competition was her third competition of the season that goes towards qualifying for Provincial championships.

Her next competition is an "invitational" meet in Montreal where it is her first opportunity to compete against gymnasts from across Canada and as far away as Bermuda and Jamaica.

Congratulations, Taylor-Anne! Homelands is proud of you!

## Ontario Math Olympiad Regional Winner

Congratulations to several students in Grade 7 and 8 who participated in the CHAMP Math Olympics competition on Saturday, Feb. 10th at Sheridan College in Oakville. Homelands Team #1 won the Bronze medal and will get a chance to participate at the Provincial Math Olympics competition this June.

Team #1 Members included Arul P., Janice A., Leon Z., Deena A., Team #2 - Ryan S., Charlize S., Grant R., Team #3 - Daniel Z., Audrey Y., Orlando H., and Carina G.

## News From the Art Studio

Once again students at Homelands will be participating in the Visual Voices student art exhibit at the Living Arts Centre. This year's theme has changed but still offers an open platform for students to explore their talents. It is IDENTITY. More news to follow.

New pictures that are going to the library will represent what the students have been doing recently. The grade 8's will be sending torn paper portraits. The 7's will be sending comic strips and some incredible pen and ink drawing. I will feature the 6's work next month.

Looking ahead: the 8's will be studying the Great Mosque at Cordoba and the rise of cities. The 7's are studying the Art Deco Era (1920's/ 1930's) and the 6's have begun a painting related to seasons.

Mr. Johnston



## Sports Corner

Congratulations to the girls and boys basketball teams that both competed in our division three tournaments at Erindale Secondary School! Thank you to all of our athletes for your hard work and dedication throughout the season. A special congratulations to the boys team for placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the tournament. Of course, a big shout out to the coaches, Mr. Allen, Mme. Linthwaite, and Ms. Amir, for their time and efforts with coaching.

Basketball intramurals came to an end mid-February. Congratulations to the Raptors for placing 1<sup>st</sup>.

Our next set of intramurals will begin sometime in April.

## Physical and Health Education



Students finished up the European Handball unit in the beginning of February. We took a week to celebrate the Winter Olympics by competing in some modified Homelands Olympic events such as speed skating, biathlon, and curling. We recently started our Tchoukball unit. Tchoukball was invented in Switzerland and contains elements of handball (it is played with hands, and the balls used are similar).

Parents, please remind your child that the expectation is to change for gym classes. Please check to ensure that your child is bringing a change of clothing for gym class in a bag that also contains deodorant. Roll-ons only please; No sprays. As well, students need a pair of running shoes EVERY day.

## Important Dates:

Mondays - Thursdays Lunch Lady Lunches (online/form)

**Fridays** - Pizza Day (**Pre-order via Cash On Line**)

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

**March 5** Celebration Assembly

**March 8** Peel Dance Showcase

**March 11** Daylight Saving Time Begins

**March 12 – 16** Spring Break ~ No School

**March 27** Cultural Food Day Falafels 😊 - Preorders begin March 22- 26, cost \$4:)

**March 30** Good Friday ~ No School

## ParentConnect



### *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](http://www.peelschools.org/parentconnect)

## School Council News - Pizza! Pizza!

**News:** Homelands Parent Council is excited to announce that our **Pizza lunch is pre-ordered! Pizzas will not be sold at lunchtime on Fridays.** All Pizza lunches must be pre-ordered using our **Cash On Line system.** Please see the instructions below included in this newsletter on how to register. If you are having problems registering for the **Cash On Line system** please call the school at **905-822-2031.** We are always looking for volunteers to help out with pizza day between 10:45am and 11:15 am.

So if you are available please contact Chantel Kowdrysh at [Chantel8@yahoo.com](mailto:Chantel8@yahoo.com). **Our next school council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 19, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the Learning Commons**



**KEVGROUP**  
School Cash Simplified

## SchoolCashOnline

For safety and efficiency reasons, Peel District School Board would like to reduce the amount of cash & checks coming into our school. Please join the thousands of parents who have already registered and are enjoying the convenience of paying ONLINE! It takes less than 5 minutes to register. Please follow these step-by-step instructions, so you will begin to receive email notifications regarding upcoming events involving your child(ren).

NOTE: If you require assistance, select the *SUPPORT* option in the top right hand corner of the screen.

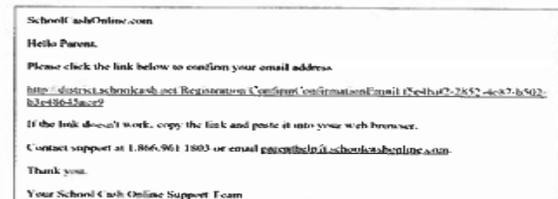
### Step 1: Register

- If you have not registered, please go to the School Cash Online home page <https://peelschools.schoolcashonline.com/> and select the "Get Started Today" option.
- Complete each of the three Registration Steps  
\*For Security Reasons your password, requires *8 characters, one uppercase letter, one lowercase letter and a number.*



### Step 2: Confirmation Email

A registration confirmation email will be forwarded to you. Click on the link provided inside the email to confirm your email and School Cash Online account.  
The confirmation link will open the School Cash Online site prompting you to sign into your account. Use your email address and password just created with your account.



### Step 3: Find Student

*This step will connect your children to your account.*

- Enter the School Board Name
- Enter the School Name
- Enter Your Child's Name & Birth Date
- Select *Continue*
- On the next page confirm that you are related to the child, check in the Agree box and select *Continue*
- Your child has been added to your account  
*Note: you may be required to enter your child's student number.*

#### Find Student

**School Information**

School Board Name: School Board 1575  
Looking for a student in a different school board?  [?](#)

School Name: Eagle High School

**Student Information**

Do you have the student number?

Student Number:

First Name:

Last Name:

Birth Date:   
Date format: mm dd yyyy

(No students? [Click here](#))

### Step 4: View Items or Add Another Student

If you have more children, select "Add Another Student" and repeat the steps above. 8 children can be added to one parent account. If you do not wish to add additional children, select "View Items For Students" option. A listing of available items for purchase will be displayed.

## 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](http://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.

## Using social media safely

With the growing number of social media sites, it is no surprise that social media is the most common form of communication for children and teenagers. Posts, status updates, comments, instant messages, video uploads, tweets and texts have become a regular part of their lives. While there are many positive benefits to using social media, including staying connected with friends and expressing your interests, students must be cautious in their use of these networks.

Among the most popular social media platforms used are Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, YouTube and Whatsapp Messenger. Many of these platforms are free and are available on smartphones and other electronic devices. These platforms are easy to navigate and often allow information to be shared instantly, not only with friends, but with strangers. On social media, it is important to remember that the world is watching.

Here are some tips, provided by the Canadian Safe School Network and GetSafeOnline.org, to keep your children safe and help them make smart choices when using social media:

- Set some boundaries for your child before they get their first 'connected device' (mobile, tablet, laptop or games console). Once they have it, it can be more difficult to change the way they use it or the settings.
- Have a conversation about what is appropriate online behaviour and what actions could have huge repercussions that could damage their reputation and be harmful to others.
- Talk to your child about the kind of websites they look at. Encourage them to speak to you if they come across something they find worrying or upsetting on websites, games or social media.
- Discuss with your child what is safe and appropriate to post and share online. Written comments, photos and videos all form part of their 'digital footprint' and could be seen by anyone and available on the internet forever, even if it is subsequently deleted.
- Explain to your child that being online doesn't give them anonymity or protection, and that they shouldn't do anything online that they wouldn't do face-to-face. Users should only accept people they know in order to protect themselves from spammers, strangers and others who may be using social networking sites to commit crimes.

- Unlike when they're meeting someone face-to-face, children don't always know who they're actually 'talking' to online, even if they think they do. Tell your children they must never email, chat, or text with strangers, and it's never okay to meet a stranger in the real world.
- Ensure your children set their privacy settings appropriately. Take the time to learn how privacy settings work on your children's favourite sites, and teach them how to control their privacy.
- Tell your children never to share personal and private information with anyone online. This includes, but is not limited to, his or her full name, age, birth date, address, phone number, social insurance number, credit card information and parents' full names.
- Limit the amount of time that your children spend on social media platforms and talk about the importance of healthy and appropriate use of technology.

## 2018 March Break Maple Syrup Days at the Jack Smythe Field Centre

**Open Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> - Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Enjoy the beauty and wonder of nature as Spring blossoms. Jack Smythe Field Centre offers an exceptional family experience with a visit to its maple syrup bush. The March Break programs runs from Wednesday, March 14 to Saturday March 17 from 10 a.m. with the last presentations of the day at 3 p.m.

The Peel District Sugar Bush program has been in operation for more than 40 years and provides families with an educational activity and a hands-on experience. The program is run by Peel District School Board teachers and staff during March Break.

Families are invited to get involved as spring come to life in the following activities:

- help tap trees and empty sap buckets.
- Sample some homemade maple syrup.
- Hike along our trails and feed the friendly chickadees by hand.
- Learn how pioneers collected and produced syrup compared to modern-day operations.
- Experience the indigenous roots of sweet water.
- Visit the sugar shack where the sap boils and clouds of sweet smelling steam billow out of the chimney.

The cost is \$5.00/adult and \$4.00/child 12 and under. Lunch will be available for purchase. It will include: hot chocolate, cookies and hotdogs for you to roast over an open fire.

Directions to Jack Smythe Field Centre, 14592 Winston Churchill Blvd., Terra Cotta:

North on Mississauga Rd, Left on King Street (You will see Credit View P.S. on your left), Right on Winston Churchill Blvd (You will pass the Terra Cotta Conservation Area on your left) to the top of the hill and left into the Jack Smythe site.

For more information, please contact the Jack Smythe Field Centre at 1-905-877-7771.

