



The Homeland's Herald



October 2017

HOMELANDS SENIOR PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Our School Website: <http://schools.peelschools.org/1323>

Follow us on Twitter @homelands323



Welcome to October! September has quickly chilled off and autumn has begun. Our students have had an eventful month of getting to know our school routines and have already formed relationships with new friends and teachers. We had an exciting September 20 with students forming our 8 House Colour Teams. There were bright colours of Red, Blue, Purple, Green, Orange, Kiwi, Gold and Light Blue representing the 8 teams. The teams are made up of all students from the entire school, as well as, all teaching staff. We look forward to more House Team challenges throughout the year. Check out your child's House Team Colour T-shirt and

the photos on Twitter.

We went through reorganization this September. As we had classes with numbers over 34 we received an additional allocation of a class. We welcome Mrs. Littlejohn to our team and we are so pleased to have her as the new teacher of homeroom 708.

As we move into month two of school and watch the beautiful colours of autumn emerge, it has been a privilege to watch friendships develop and students building a positive culture and climate here at Homelands. The staff is dedicated to inspiring success, confidence and hope in every student they work with daily. It is truly a honour to work with these wonderful students, staff as well as the wonderful families of Homelands. Wishing you all a wonderful Thanksgiving and hope you take the time to enjoy your family during this beautiful month.

Sincerely Dana Wilson©

House Colour Activity Day:



We Inspire!

Breakfast Program Starting

We are excited to announce the beginning of our Breakfast Club. Our Breakfast Club runs under the direction of Mr. Fralick and his team. Students are welcome to help themselves to bagels, fresh fruit, juice, yogurt, cheese strings and nut free granola bars. Students can come in the school any time after 8 am and proceed to the staffroom to choose a healthy start to their day. For bussed students, this can be a grab and go breakfast if needed and teachers will be allowing students to eat breakfast in their classrooms. We look forward to seeing the students in the morning and ensuring that they have a great start to their day.



Student Safety – Our Priority!



We are very busy during entry and dismissal times with buses, traffic and walking students. We ask that students walk when possible to lessen traffic concerns and congestion. We also request that drivers obey all traffic regulations. We want all our students to safely get on and off the bus, walk to their car or walk to their home safely both before and after school.

There have been concerns raised by community members that students are running across the street to the front of the school. To ensure the safety for your child please consider driving past the school and turning on one of the side streets and dropping your child on the school side of the street. We are aware that morning entry is a very busy time and can be very congested on the street, however students' safety is our priority and we all need to do our part to ensure the safe delivery and arrival for all students.

Reporting Student Absence

The safety of our students is of utmost importance to everyone at Homelands. Our Safe Arrival Program enables the school to verify a student's absence or lateness with the parent/guardian and account for any unexplained absences. Please call **1-855-209-6155** to report an absence.

School Attendance and Punctuality



During the month of September we had a number of students late for school, as well as late for class when travelling in the building. It is vital that we set our children up for success and being on time at school each day is an important routine that must be established. Let's make a conscious effort to be on time, set the alarm a little earlier if required so that valuable learning opportunities are not missed.

The Sweetest Time of the Arrived!

Our annual Chocolate Fundraising drive is back for another year at Homelands. We will be starting our campaign on **Thursday, October 5** when all students will receive a box of chocolates to sell over the next two weeks. We have amazing prizes and incentives for the students to earn as they sell chocolates and help raise money that goes **DIRECTLY TO THE STUDENTS** here at Homelands.

Parents, we ask for your help in supporting our fundraising initiative. Please ensure that your child **NEVER** sells chocolates **DOOR TO DOOR** without an adult there to supervise and help your child keep track of the money that they collect so that they return the entire \$90 when all 30 mini-boxes are sold. Students will be allowed to sell additional boxes of chocolates once they have returned their money from the first box sold.

Our fundraiser will last until **Friday, October 20** - we really appreciate all of your support in helping us ensure that our students have a fantastic year here at Homelands. ~ The Chocolate Fundraising Committee

Nut Allergies– Be Aware!



Please be advised that we have a number of students attending Homelands that have serious and, in some cases, a life threatening allergy to peanuts other tree nuts and products derived from nuts. We ask for your cooperation in ensuring your child not bring items containing any nut products to school. Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.



NO SCENTS GUIDELINES – Be Aware!

Staff, students and visitors are asked to familiarize themselves with the Peel Board “No Scents is Good Sense” guidelines on the poster and booklet. In consideration of those with allergies, staff, students and visitors are urged not to wear or use scented products such as perfumes, deodorants, lotions, shampoo or cologne. Thank you for contributing to a healthy indoor air environment for everyone.



School Council News

We had our first meeting in September and it was wonderful to see so many new parents. We welcome all parents and look forward to hearing your input in regards to school events, activities and fund raising initiatives. The goal of the council is to enhance the opportunities for our students and to ensure that all voices are heard. We value your ideas and hope that you can attend a meeting to see what we are all about and know that you too can make a

difference. We are happy to present Mrs. Kowdreysch and Mr. Knight as our Co-Chairs, Mrs. Paskaramoorthy as our Secretary and Mrs. Murdoch as our Treasurer. Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 19th at 6:30 pm in the Learning Commons.

Lunchtime Reminders

We do not let students sign out for lunch without written permission from you. Be sure that your note clearly states the date, your child's name and has your signature on it. Your child's safety is of utmost importance and verbal permission will not be accepted. An email to laurie.lambie@peelsb.com will also be accepted, as we all know mornings can be hectic and notes are easily forgotten.

We have also had many requests for spoons or forks from students over the lunch hour. Please be sure to provide the necessary utensils your child will need to enjoy their lunch.

Physical and Health Education

September was a busy month for our students. They were introduced to the expectations in the PE class including the requirement to change into gym clothing. Please ensure your child comes to school with a change of shirt and bottoms in a bag. We also ask that deodorant be included. As it gets cooler, the clothing can be sweat pants and sweatshirts. We plan to stay outside as long as possible, even on the fresh, crisp mornings of Fall.

Students played low organizational games in the gym to get up and moving, and in order to learn some of the expectations including fair play and sportsmanship. We then moved outside for our running unit, where students earned a level 3 if they were able to run 6 laps in 12 minutes.

We are currently working on some Ultimate Frisbee followed by Flag Football.

Sports Corner

Homelands teachers offer a lot of opportunities for our students in this division. These range from intramurals to sports teams and other athletics days.

Thus far, the HAC has been created (Homelands Athletic Council) and this group will primarily be responsible for running our intramural program. This program offers lunch time athletics to ALL students whom are interested. Our first league will be European Handball. Sign-ups are always on the sports bulletin board, and students are made aware of these opportunities over the Homelands Announcements page. Games are usually Tuesdays and/or Thursdays. Anyone who signs up gets to play – there are no tryouts.

For our Sports Team enthusiasts, tryouts have already been held for our varsity boys and girls Flag Football teams. Congratulations to those students who were successful. These teams will practice leading up to tournaments held at the end of October. There is usually a cost involved in attending these events to cover transportation and referees.

The Fall Fun Run is our first cross country event that also takes place at the end of October. Tryouts will be held at the beginning of the month.

Following Football, there will be tryouts for Volleyball teams. Again, all information is posted on the announcement page.

Erin Mills Youth Centre

The Erin Mills Youth Centre **FREE** after school program is up and running every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The program supports students with their homework, social and emotional skills and provides opportunities for physical activity for each of the four days. It has been wonderful to see students working and learning together. After a snack to refuel, the students go outside to enjoy physical activities or play various games in the gym. Spots are still available so if you are interested please send your child to the office for a registration form.



Important Dates:

Lunch Lady Lunches Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays

Pizza Day Fridays

October 5 Chocolate Bar Fundraiser starts

October 5 Open House 6pm to 7:30pm

October 6 Professional Development Day No students present

October 9 Thanksgiving Day No students present

October 17 Picture Day

October 19 School Council 6:30 pm Learning Commons

October 26 Celebrations Assembly and House Team Activities

October 31 Activity/Fun afternoon

High Schools News!

Parents and students are invited to attend Peel Secondary School open houses. In preparing for high school transitions we invite families to visit the high school(s) your child may wish to attend.

Here you will obtain all pertinent information. Please note these dates continue to be updated please check the website directly for the most up to date information.

<http://www.peelschools.org/schools/informationnights/Pages/default.aspx>

We will also have a general high school information meet and greet with our home high school Erindale S.S at our Open House on Thursday October 5th.

Peel District School Board program offers flexible school options for student athletes, artists



PEEL REGION HIGH PERFORMERS PROGRAM

Does your child/teen have an intense sports or arts training and competition schedule that makes it difficult to attend school regularly? The Peel District School Board's *Peel Region High Performers Program* will offer flexible timetabling to accommodate student athletes and artists with demanding practice,

competition, rehearsal and/or performance schedules.

Peel Region High Performers Program is offered at:

- Britannia Public School (grades 4 to 5)
- Dolphin Sr. Public School (grades 6 to 8)
- Mississauga Secondary School (grades 9 to 12)

For more information and registration dates, visit www.peelschools.org/HighPerformers.

Regional Learning Choices Programs unlock passions, potential



Regional Learning Choices Programs offered by the Peel District School Board empower students by providing them with opportunities to develop and explore skills in a

particular area of interest. Regional programs are open to all students who meet the criteria for acceptance. Students and their families are encouraged to attend the information night for the program of their choice to receive more information about the program and application details.

Transportation is not provided for students in regional programs. If students have been accepted into a regional program and they live within the school boundary, they are eligible for busing only if they meet the distance criteria outlined in the board's *Transportation Policy #39*.

All regional programs include annual fees, including an application fee. **The application process for secondary regional programs opens Nov. 6, 2017.** Application dates for middle school programs vary from school to school.

Programs	Starts in grade:	6	7	9
Actively in Motion (AIM) – Royal Orchard MS		✓		
Advanced Placement – Central Peel SS, John Fraser SS				✓
Arts – Earnscliffe Sr. PS (starts in grade 6), Queen Elizabeth Sr. PS (starts in grade 7), Cawthra Park SS, Mayfield SS		✓	✓	✓
Arts and Technology – Morning Star MS		✓		
Graphic Design Management – TL Kennedy SS				✓
International Baccalaureate – Bristol Rd. MS, WG Davis Sr. PS, Erindale SS, Glenforest SS, Harold M. Brathwaite SS, Turner Fenton SS		✓		✓
International Business and Technology – Allan A. Martin Sr. PS, Lisgar MS, Williams Pkwy Sr. PS, Meadowvale SS, North Park SS, TL Kennedy SS		✓		✓
International and Executive Leadership Academy – TL Kennedy SS				✓
SciTech – Centennial Sr. PS, Macville PS, Tomken Rd. MS, Chinguacousy SS, Port Credit SS		✓		✓
Sports – Applewood Heights SS				✓
Strings – Central Peel SS, Port Credit SS				✓
Truck and Coach Engineering and Technology – Bramalea SS				✓

A number of other specialized programs that extend beyond the regular curriculum are available to Peel high school students. Learn more:

- Co-operative Education Program
- Dual Credit Programs
- Explore High Skills
- Extended French/French Immersion
- Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program
- Peel Region High Performers Program
- Regional Co-operative Education Programs
- Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) Programs

For more information about program information nights, busing, fees and the application process/dates, contact the school or visit www.peelschools.org/RegionalPrograms.

Apply for a parent position on the board's We Rise Together Advisory Council

The Peel District School Board is currently seeking parent applications from Black Peel parents to fill three available positions for the We Rise Together Advisory Council, beginning October 2017 and ending June 2018. Peel parents interested in this volunteer opportunity can apply using the online form available at www.peelschools.org/werisetgether.

The online application closes Wednesday, October 11, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.

The advisory council will consist of parents, community members, students, trustees and board staff who are committed to achieving the goals set out in the We Rise Together Accountability Report. Parent representatives will provide advice, support and feedback on the implementation of We Rise Together action steps in the areas of Student Leadership, Curriculum, Staff Development and Community Engagement.

An important component of the We Rise Together Action Plan, the following is the selection criteria for parents interested in being a part of the We Rise Together Advisory Council:

- Black Peel parent with a child or children currently enrolled in the Peel District School Board
- one representative from Brampton, one from Caledon, one from Mississauga
- demonstrates a commitment to, and knowledge of the We Rise Together Accountability Report and subsequent action steps
- understands the importance of parent, family and community engagement
- demonstrates a keen interest in public education
- seeks to promote healthy, positive and progressive relationships with the Peel District School Board
- demonstrates advocacy and community development skills

Selected applicants will be contacted. If you have any questions, please contact communications@peelsb.com.

For more information about We Rise Together, please visit www.peelschools.org/werisetgether

National Principals' Month

Throughout the month in October, the Peel board will recognize the contribution of our school principals and their impact on education in celebration of National Principals' Month. Starting Oct. 1, take a moment to thank your child's school principal who supports students, staff and the whole community every day. Let them know that that he or she is appreciated and that they are making a difference.

Thursday, October 5, 2017 Celebrate World Teachers' Day

Since 1994, parents and students from around the world have celebrated World Teachers' Day to commemorate the work of teachers and their contributions to society. On Oct. 5, take the time to let your child's teacher know he or she is truly appreciated. Thank your child's teacher and let them know they are making a difference.

Oct. 25 – Celebrate Peel Teaching Assistant and Early Childhood Educators' Appreciation Day

In 2014, the board of trustees declared the last Wednesday in October as the Peel Teaching Assistant and Early Childhood Educators' (ECE) Appreciation Day. This year, the recognition day falls on October 25, 2017. The Peel board appreciates the important work of teaching assistants and ECEs, and the contributions that they make in the lives of children, families and community members.