



THE VIEW

GLENVIEW PUBLIC SCHOOL

OCTOBER 2009

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Burlington, Ont.
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905-634-6789

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Mrs. Deborah Renton

TRUSTEE:

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905-335-3663

SUPERINTENDENT

OF SCHOOL

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Halton District School
Board: www.hdsb.ca
Glenview:
<http://glv.hdsb.ca>

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

As school begins, time seems to disappear before our eyes. September was a wonderful month of renewing old friendships, starting new ones and immersing ourselves in a new learning community. Staff and students have enjoyed weeks of exploring ways to work together effectively and supportively while engaging in the topics of their new grade curriculums.

The care and support that you give your children contributes to the positive attitude that they express towards learning. I invite and encourage each student to take pride in Glenview by participating in the multitude of activities and special events. I look forward to working with you as we all strive for educational excellence.

Our first assembly of the year at Glenview focused on Respect - the 3 R's. The students enjoyed an interactive assembly in which they could participate by giving examples of the 3 R's.

Respect Yourself

- * be a hard worker and take pride in what you do
- * be on time and prepared for class
- * be honest and trustworthy
- * be accountable for your actions

Respect Others

- * be empathetic to the needs of others
- * allow others the right to learn without disruption
- * use polite language and good manners
- * be a polite and attentive listener
- * respect the personal property of others

Respect Glenview

- * take pride in being part of the Glenview community
- * treat the school and its property with care
- * treat equipment and materials with care

We hope you will become familiar with the 3 R's and encourage your children to follow them throughout their daily lives, as we continue to reinforce these goals through our daily thoughts of the day.

In our second assembly we spoke about the 4 Tribes agreements. (please see page 2)

We would like to welcome all new students and families to our school, especially our Junior Kindergarten students. It is an exciting time for these young children as they begin their school careers.

Thank you to all our parents/guardians who consciously support our school policies and procedures...particularly in regards to school visits. Your cooperation in signing in at the office and wearing a visitor's badge in the school building supports our efforts to ensure a safe school environment. If you are volunteering or just dropping something off for your child, you must come to the office first. Please do not take your child to his/her classroom. In order to maintain a focused learning environment, all parents must pre-arrange classroom visits. During regular dismissal time, we ask that all parents meet their children outside the doors on the playground. Please do not meet them in the hallways. This helps to reduce the congestion in the hallways and school. Thanks.

The education of our students is a shared responsibility. We welcome the support, involvement and cooperation of all community members. Communication between home and school is critical to school success. Please always feel welcome to contact the school with any questions, concerns or suggestions. We value your input in making our school the best it can be.

We would like to thank all parents, relatives for joining us at our recent Open House. It was a great opportunity for staff and students to celebrate their new beginnings with you. The energy and enthusiasm of our students was a reflection of their pride and sense of belonging in their school and talent of our teaching staff in making learning fun, interesting and inclusive.

I am looking forward to the school year. Please remember that you are encouraged to call, or drop by to discuss issues or simply stay in touch.
Deborah Renton, Principal

Glenview is an active TRIBES school.

Tribes is a program which promotes social and interpersonal skills as well as self-esteem. As a Tribes school, Glenview's goal is to engage all staff, students and families in working together as a learning community that is dedicated to caring and support, active participation and positive expectations for all students.

What is TRIBES?

Tribes is a democratic group process, not just a curriculum or set of co-operative activities. The outcome of the TRIBES process is to develop a positive environment that promotes human growth and learning. To do so, it requires learning how to build community through three stages of group development using four agreements among the students and adults with whom they are working.

Community Agreements

All of our classes will use the four TRIBES' agreements which are:

- *Attentive Listening
- *Appreciation (No put-downs)
- *The Right to Pass and the Right to Participate
- *Mutual Respect

Throughout the process we will learn to use specific collaborative skills and to reflect both on the interaction and the learning that is taking place. The TRIBES process not only establishes a more caring environment for co-operative learning, but provides structure for positive interaction and continuity for working groups (classroom, staff, community).

Throughout Glenview, we will be establishing this culture of support and acceptance. Your support through applying the same concepts and using the same vocabulary at home will provide consistency and continuity. Please watch for further information in upcoming newsletters and from individual classrooms. We are looking forward to the positive experiences this program is sure to provide for us at Glenview.

During the month of October, Glenview will be focusing on our first agreement, *Attentive Listening*, through an Assembly and discussions in the classrooms.

"Attentive Listening at Glenview"

During the month of October, Glenview will be focusing on our first agreement, *Attentive Listening*, through an Assembly and discussions in classrooms. *Attentive Listening* is probably the most important social skill to be taught and practiced by everyone in the learning community.

Attentive Listening depends upon:

- a) acknowledging the person who is speaking with full attention and eye contact
- b) withholding one's own comments, opinions, and need to talk at the time
- c) paraphrasing key words to encourage the speaker and to let him/her know that he/she has been heard
- d) affirming through body language that the speaker is being heard
- e) paying attention not only to the words but also to the feelings behind the words

All too often we only "half-listen" to each other as we prepare in our heads what we want to say when it is our turn. Most teachers assume that students have learned at home how to listen. Most adults assume we all do it well - though we may never have been taught the principles. The skill of attentive listening needs to be considered a priority at school and at home because it affects children's ability to learn academic material.

Some of the listening skills that should be practiced include:

- * Attending (listening silently with full attention)
- * Using Non-Verbal encouragement (nodding, "uh-huh")
 - Paraphrasing ("What I heard you say was...")
 - Reflective feelings ("You sound very excited...")

With home and school working together to implement the above strategies, we can help our children become more attentive listeners.

Glenview Reorganization

Over the past three years the Ministry of Education has increased funding to Boards of Education to reduce class sizes in Junior Kindergarten through to the Grade 3 classes. In general, this is a very positive initiative as it supports ongoing and quality assessment of student learning and progress and allows for increased individual and small group instruction in the classroom.

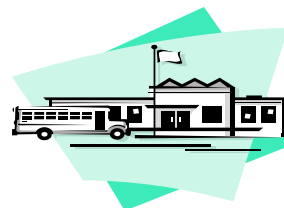
All schools in the Halton District School Board have been working to ensure compliance with this Primary Class Size initiative as required by the Ministry of Education. For the school year 2009-2010, the Ministry expects that 90 percent of JK to Grade 3 classes across the Halton District School Board will have a student teacher ration of 20:1. The remaining 10 percent of primary classes will have class sizes no greater than 23:1. As well, junior class sizes have been reduced due to ministry funding.

The Board has now directed that Glenview reorganize all of the classes from Grades 4-6. Staff meetings took place to make up the new class lists according to the mandated numbers. The turn around time was short as all changes had to be in place by Wednesday, September 30. The number of students who changed classes, although kept to a minimum, were substantial. When making up the new classes, we looked at making workable learning groups, gender balance and social connections.

We understand that news of this type can be unsettling. We worked to make the transition as smooth as possible for the children. Our experience in the past is that most children feel 're-settled' in their new classes within a week. We are asking for your understanding and support by emphasizing with your children their abilities to make new friends and adjust to new situations.

We welcome Ms. Serre who will be teaching Gr. 5/6.

Below is the new school organization for 2009-2010.



Principal: Mrs. D. Renton
Secretary: Mrs. V. Reitknecht

Teaching Staff:

JK/SK - Mrs. C. McAlister
JK (T/Th/F) - Mrs. V. Milosevic-Hill
SK - Mrs. L. Mchaffie

Grade 1 - Mrs. M. Rees
Grade 1 - Mrs. P. Mifflin
Grade 1/2- Mrs. A. Whinton
Grade 2 -Mrs. S. MacIsaac
Grade 2/3 - Ms. B. Langshaw
Grade 3 - Mrs. D. Bryer
Grade 4 - Mr. R. De Jong
Grade 4 - Mrs. S. Flindall
Grade 5 - Mrs. D. Sylvester
Grade 5/6-Ms. J. Serre
Grade 6—Ms. C. Wilson

Music - Mrs. L. Haynes
French Core - Mrs. J. Henry
Resource - Mr. P. Thomson
Planning - Mrs. S. Ellsworth
Mr. P. Gauthier

Educational Assistants:

Mrs. H. Koszalka
Mrs. J. Prescott
Mrs. T. Smollet
Mrs. S. Goodman
Mrs. B. Wood
Mrs. C. Roszniak
Mrs. L. Davis
Mrs. D. Pepper

Lunch Supervisors

Mrs. D. VanWyngaarden
Ms. K. Nelson
Mrs. K. DeWinter
Mrs. M. Brugess
Mrs. Wilkins

Custodians:

Mr. J. Pacheco
Mr. P. Simmons (evenings)

VOLUNTEERS... This is the eighth year that the Halton District School Board's current volunteer process is in effect. Every volunteer must have a **Police Check**. **If you are a new volunteer without a police check on file at the school, go to the nearest local police station between 1:00-6:00 and complete the form (\$15.00 cash).** In time, your Police Check should be ready for pickup. You can go to other area police stations as well. Bring the completed form to the office and a photocopy will be made for the office. If you have the Police Check and Volunteer Form from last year, there is no need to worry. If you are new to volunteering in the school, you are to complete a **Volunteer Form if you have not already done so.** The Police Check and Volunteer Form are all kept confidential in the school office.

THANK YOU SO MUCH...

* **To everyone for not bringing dogs onto school property.** Our four legged friends are to remain on the sidewalk on Townsend Ave. off school property. There are children in the school who are extremely nervous of or allergic to dogs. Even the friendliest of dogs can display unpredictable behaviour.

* To those parents who remembered **not** to park in the **FIRE ZONES—ALONG THE FENCE LINE IN THE DRIVEWAY, BESIDE THE FIRE HYDRANT, BESIDE THE WALL FACING THE TEACHERS' PARKING LOT.** These are all areas that By-Law enforcement officers can assign tickets (\$\$\$).

No child Without... Our school is involved in the Canadian MedicAlert Foundation's **No Child Without** program. There is no cost for students who attend our school and are between the ages of 4 up to their 14th birthday to join MedicAlert through this program. If your child has a medical condition, allergy or is required to take medication on a regular basis, then you should consider the program. A child's MedicAlert identification can alert school staff, friends, coaches and others about your child's medical condition should an emergency occur. For further information come to the office for a brochure to register or go to www.nochildwithout.ca for information. If your child is already part of the program and there have been changes, call MedicAlert at 1-800-668-1507 to update your child's file.



A Reminder... The school's neighbours have asked that parents who drop off/pick up students in the morning and after school do so without blocking the driveways of these homes. Cars parked on the roadway can also prevent the pick-up of garbage/recycling boxes. Please consider dropping off students on side streets and letting them cross with the crossing guard on Townsend Avenue in front of the school. There are **SIX** buses and **THREE** daycare vans that transport students home from Glenview at the end of the day. It is essential that the area where these BUS lines wait and the exit leading to the bus circle path not be blocked. Younger children can easily lose their bus line if confused by too many people in the vicinity. We also have Kindergarten students and their buddies waiting to board buses on the front lawn as well.

Birthday Celebrations

If you wish to include your child's classmates in the celebration of your child's birthday, please consider treats in the form of fancy pencils, book marks, etc. Due to a variety of food allergies within the school, we ask that edible treats not be sent to school for sharing. Thank you for your cooperation.

A FOCUS ON SAFETY

With Hallowe'en approaching, it is timely to ask for your cooperation in carefully monitoring the Hallowe'en candy that comes to school with your child. Many of these treats contain nut/peanuts or their by-products. It is very difficult to know what is in them as the printing is so small and the ingredients change every few months. Students are not to trade snacks with friends. Several of our students have life-threatening allergies to nut/peanut products. Their parents very much appreciate your understanding and cooperation. Thanks to our Glenview teachers who help prevent allergic reactions by reminding students not to trade food. We all work to keep everyone safe

MILK

Just to remind you

- please don't order milk for Pizza Day and Sub Day if you have a long standing milk order.

**COOKIES**

Terra Cotta cookies have no traces of nut/peanut products. The low fat version sweetened with applesauce not sugar are available. They will be sold on Thursdays at the beginning of the second nutritional break (1:25) for 75 cents each.

Sub Days

Mrs. Bruggess has kindly volunteered to be our Sub Day co-ordinator this year.

**Pizza Days**

Welcome back to Mrs. Grafham, our pizza day coordinator.

Pizza days will be held twice each month.

Milk and water will be available for purchase.



Sub and Pizza days will be posted on our monthly calendar.

YOUR GENEROSITY IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!

The lunch supervision donation request forms have been sent out to families by the office. Tax receipts will be issued later this year for donations over \$15.00. Thank you!

Lunch Supervisors

Once again, we would ask parents to consider becoming a lunchroom supervisor at Glenview. Supervisors are needed for both morning and afternoon nutrition breaks as well as relief supervisors in the event that one of our regular supervisors is absent. If you are interested in this paid position, please contact Mrs. Renton.

Bicycles, Skateboards, Scooters and Roller Blades

Students should dismount from bicycles and scooters, pick up skateboards and remove roller blades before coming onto the school grounds. They should wait until they are off school property before putting on roller blades or riding on their bicycles, scooters or skateboards.

**Cross Country**

We would like to congratulate the cross country runners for their incredible effort during our practices. The students have been working very hard to train these past several weeks.

The runners competed in the Cross Country Meet on Friday, October 2 at 10:00 a.m. at Sherwood Forest.



Students wore Glenview colours on October 2nd, Glenview Spirit Day, in support of our Cross Country team.

INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL DAY:

Wednesday, October 7th is International Walk To School Day. Students will be encouraged to participate in this event sponsored by Green Communities Canada and Active and Safe Routes to School by trying to arrange ways to reduce reliance on motor vehicles for transportation and increase physical activity. For some this might mean parking the car a few blocks further away from Glenview and walking 2-3 extra blocks while others will strap on the walking shoes and leave the car at home. Last year, it was amazing to see how many 'Walking School Buses' emerged from this event. Neighbours arranged with neighbours to help in walking children to school.



A safety note for parents: Please remember that students are NOT to be at school before 9:00 a.m. There is no supervision before that time. If there are issues on the bus between your child and another, or with the driver, please direct your concerns to the school office. Parents are not to board the buses and attempt to resolve the problem. The school and the bus companies will work together to improve the situation.

COMMUNITY UPDATES

Any families who are cleaning out toy cupboards and would like to donate complete board games, decks of cards, chess sets etc. Donations to Glenview are appreciated.



Friday, September 25th Terry Fox QDF Activities...

On the 29th Anniversary of Terry Fox's run, Glenview students participated in QDF activities in honour of Terry. Students were asked to donate a looney each. Parents, guardians and grandparents were invited to participate in the event by walking, jogging or cheering the students on as they completed their laps. Thank you Ms. Wilson for organizing this event.



IT'S FALL AND TIME FOR BORDENBALL AT GLENVIEW!

We've had some great weather to start our intramural games for the Grades 5's and 6's. The Stampeders and The Rough Riders play in some fast, spirited, friendly competition. They'll be playing at afternoon breaks for the next three weeks.

SCHOOL COUNCIL... Glenview has a rich tradition of operating with a very active and supportive School Council. The School Council advises the Principal on a variety of school issues, organizes many school events and raises funds to support our students. The next School Council Meeting for 2009-2010 will be October 13 in the library. All parents are invited to attend and assist in establishing the new school council for the 2009-2010 school year.

A BIG THANK YOU GOES TO THIS YEAR'S SCHOOL COUNCIL

On behalf of the entire school community (parents, teachers and students), we would like to thank the members of the Glenview School Council 2008-2009. Some members will not be returning this fall, so we would like to acknowledge the commitment, enthusiasm and support provided by all these parents in our school community. Special thanks go to Mrs. Karen Rushforth and Ms. Karen Stringer-Janicijevic, Joint Council Chairs, for their leadership. The Executive will be reviewing the nominations returned for Council membership.

School Council Members for 2008-2009 were:

Chairs: Karen Rushforth, Karen Stringer-Janicijevic

Treasurer: Karen Steinke

Communications: Karen Rushforth

Secretary: Jill Randall

Special Events: Leyland Brown

Fundraising: Sarah Smith

Members at Large: Danielle Andreychuk, Michelle Brugess, Anthony Brugess,
Jackie Gaulton, Sue Grafham, Karen Hogan, Lynda Kaufmanis, Terri-Ann Lassman,
Alison Paradine

Staff Representative: Paul Thomson

Principal: Deborah Renton



EQAO Results

Our students enjoy coming to school and being successful learners. There is a positive attitude within the students, staff and community and we are extremely proud. The strategies that have been used in the last few years are showing positive results and gains in student learning and achievement as measured through our Student Assessment Portfolios, in-class assessments, report cards and observations of daily work. This information continues to allow us to reflect on our practice, direct our resources and build on our effective school improvement plan.

The following are Glenview's 2008-2009 Grade 3 and Grade 6 results:

Grade 3

Reading - Glenview - 62
Halton - 65
Ontario - 61

Writing - Glenview - 60
Halton - 71
Ontario - 68

Mathematics - Glenview - 79
Halton - 73
Ontario - 70

Grade 6

Reading - Glenview 72
Halton 75
Ontario 69

Writing - Glenview 66
Halton - 69
Ontario - 67

Mathematics - Glenview - 68
Halton—65
Ontario - 63



We were very proud to have EQAO visit Glenview in June to talk to a number of our staff and to see how EQAO data are being used to inform discussions and planning for student achievement. Glenview was chosen due to our trends in student achievement on provincial assessments. This is very positive for our school. It is the trend that is most important not any particular year's results. The EQAO representative also noted that Glenview is noted for its leadership, proactive initiatives, data-driven strategies and whole-school approaches to help every child succeed.

During our PD Days, Staff Meetings, Grade Team Meetings, we will be digging into the results of our test scores to see exactly where we need to focus our efforts. We will be developing and implementing a plan to focus on specific reading and writing strategies. Over the course of the year, our staff will be participating in many learning opportunities that support our School Effectiveness Plan in the area of Literacy, Numeracy and Safety and Well-Being. Our goal is to continually improve upon our knowledge and application of best teaching practices so that we will continue to meet the needs of all Glenview learners.

Exciting Primary Choir News!

We are trying something new this year. We are pleased that we will be having Primary Choir each week during school. To meet the required Music teaching minutes, we will be having Choir with all students in Grades 1, 2 and 3 for one period a week. This will give each child an opportunity to sing for enjoyment in a structured choir. We will have many opportunities to perform both at school and out of school venues. A letter will be going home soon with more details. I look forward to singing with each primary child in our 2009—2010 Primary Choir!



Mrs. P. Mifflin



Glenview Snack Program

...some food for thought

Welcome Back To Healthy Snacks!!

The Glenview Nutritious Snack Program will once again be offered at Glenview for this school year starting **October 26th**. We will once again be running the program on **Tuesdays** and **Wednesdays** at second nutrition break.

The program was very well received last year by students across all grades, as well as staff and parents. The organizing committee, as well as over 25 volunteer parents worked hard last year to provide a variety of fun and nutritious snack options to help promote healthy eating and provide an environment for all students to experience new foods and fun healthy snacks. All snacks are provided free of charge to every student in the school.

In response to the parent/teacher surveys that were completed last year, we will also begin offering a **Healthy Basket Program**, providing containers of food, stocked with healthy non-perishable snacks as well as some fresh fruit, for students to access if needed. The containers are re-stocked each week and are accessible for all children to use if they have eaten all the food that has been provided from home but are still hungry. We are aiming to start this program at the beginning of November.

We are very fortunate again this year to receive some funding from Halton Food For Thought to get the program started for the school year. The Snack Program organizing committee will be looking for ways throughout this upcoming year to fundraise or obtain donations to support the remaining cost of the program for the year.

And, of course, we are always looking for additional volunteers to help in many ways. You do not need to be at the school during the school day to be able to help in some capacity – there are various ways to help keep the program running. We are also in desperate need of food prep volunteers (a 1 ½ hour time commitment on a Tues or Wed). We can tailor your role to the time you have available (once/week, once every two weeks, once/month, etc) – please call Julie Thomson at (905) 637-3230 or e-mail at juliethomson@cogeco.ca if you are interested in helping.

GLENVIEW SNACK PROGRAM WINS “PROGRAM OF THE YEAR” !!!

We were thrilled to receive the news that Glenview received the distinguished honour of winning the “Program Of The Year” award from Halton Food For Thought. Each year, HFFT awards the Program Of The Year honour to one school in Halton and the following is a quote from Teresa Hunter, Case Manager, HFFT: “Halton Food for Thought staff recently chose the Annual Award recipients for the 2008-9 school year, and I am thrilled to announce that **Glenview Public School was chosen School of the Year!!!!** This award recognizes the school who’s Student Nutrition Program meets or exceeds standards in the following areas:

- * Above strength status
- * Substantial effort to sustain revenue stream to meet program budget
- * Sustainable SNP Committee
- * Meeting nutritional guidelines
- * Meeting Food Handling practices
- * Timely monthly tracking forms
- * Participation in HFFT school based fundraiser

I am so pleased that Glenview was chosen, as the honour is well deserved: you have all worked so hard to ensure best practises are followed, developed and grew your committee, tirelessly promoted your program to your parent community, collaborated with your School Council to create financial stability and took the initiative to look to the future to ensure program development was sustainable, and met the needs within your school community. Those are but a few of the many wonderful reasons why your program was chosen as School of the Year! Congratulations to you all!!!”

Members of the Glenview Snack Program committee will be on hand at the HFFT Annual General Meeting at the end of this month to receive this exciting award. Thank you to everyone who helped make this program such a great success!!!

Gr. 6 Letters to Terry Fox...

Dear Terry Fox,

You have made a difference in so many peoples lives. During the Terry Fox run you raised over \$100,000,000 for cancer research. You have given hope to cancer patients world wide. When you couldn't finish the run across the world you don't know this but your family and friends finished the run for you. After you ran we have come closer to finding a cure to cancer. My school holds a Terry Fox run every year in honor of you. Every student gives a dollar for cancer research.

You have shown that one person can make a difference. Thank you Terry Fox. Sincerely, Emma

Dear Terry Fox,

I think it was awesome that you ran half way across Canada. You made a Difference. You showed the entire world know that anybody could do the impossible, if they are DETERMINED.

Even though you didn't make it all across Canada people finished it for you. Now all around the world people do the Terry Fox run. Everybody is very, very sorry that you died. Even though your heart stopped beating your dream beats through all of ours. Sincerely, Bobbi M.



Dear Terry Fox Who is in Heaven,

You may be dead but your legacy remains in us all. No one should ever forget a man who walked 3,339 miles with metastatic osteosarcoma (a leg cancer that killed him). R.I.P. Terry Fox
Nicholas R. 1958 to 1981

Dear Terry,

Thank you for what you have done for kids and adults with cancer. I hope you know you raised \$127,000,000. I think you were brave and courageous because you ran knowing at some point you would die. I like how you thought of other people and not yourself. I hope you made a huge difference. Jamie C.

Dear Terry,

Thank you for running across Canada to raise money to find a cure for cancer. You ran for 143 days but I'm sorry you had to stop at Thunder Bay. Now everyone thanks you for what you did and now most schools in Canada run to raise money for cancer research. I bet your family would be so proud of you if you were still alive. We will still run for you for years until we find a cure for cancer. Sincerely, William G.

Dear Terry Fox,

Thanks to you, tons of people have beaten cancer. You made people believe that nothing is impossible if you try your best. In 143 days, you made changed many people's lives. Thank you for making a HUGE change in our world and for raising millions of dollars for cancer research.

And just to let you know, tons of people recognize your name every year and that we continue to follow your dream. Also, I thank you again for saving my life. Thank you again, Terry, for all that you have done for the people of the world in the fight against cancer. Love from, Rose B.

Dear Terry Fox,

Thank you for helping us so much to raise money to find a cure for cancer. You have inspired us so much! It is incredible that one man could achieve as much as you have. I've been going to the Terry Fox run since 2002 and have never missed a year.

I cannot believe that you ran 3,3339 miles on one leg. I don't even think that I could do that with two legs. In my opinion the greatest thing about you is that you are Canadian!! I am so proud to be a Canadian. I have been running for seven years and I plan to run every year. I KNOW THAT WE CAN DO IT! Sincerely, Jacob S.

Switch days for 2009 - 2010 school year

To balance planning time for our teachers and subject time for our students there will be 7 "switch" days during the 2009 - 2010 school year for all Halton District School Board schools. These switch days will be implemented for Grades 1- 8 students and teachers.

Due to Professional Development Days or Statutory Holidays falling on Monday/Friday students lose significant instructional time in subjects scheduled on those days. Switch days will maintain a balance of student subject and teacher planning time.

Kindergarten classes continue on their A/B schedules and will not be affected by these switch days.

Switch Days 2009 -2010

<u>Date</u>	<u>Grade 1-8 students and teachers follow</u>
Tuesday October 13	Monday schedule
Wednesday November 11	Friday schedule
Thursday December 3	Friday schedule
Friday February 5	Monday schedule
Wednesday March 31	Friday schedule
Tuesday April 6	Monday schedule

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



Parent • Involvement • Committee

PIC Conference: Saturday, October 24, 2009
8:00 a.m – 3:00 p.m. at White Oaks Secondary School

Planning is well under way for our 2nd Annual
PIC Conference for HDSB Parents

Key Note Speakers:

Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Education
Steve Nease, Creator of Pud Comics

We also have a variety of speakers lined up
to address parent interests. Register on-line at
<http://info.hdsb.ca/picreg/> or at your child's school

For more information contact Denise Pearson
at 905-335-3663 ext. 3307 or pearsonde@hdsb.ca.



Halton District School Board

Wayne Joudrie, *Director of Education*

Bruce Jones, *Chair of the Board*

September 16, 2009

H1N1 Q & A for School Staff, Volunteers, Parents, Students

The pandemic H1N1 2009 influenza virus (H1N1) has rapidly spread across the world. In Ontario, the majority of confirmed cases of the pandemic strain have been reported in healthy young adults and most cases have been mild. People between 5 and 24 years of age comprise a larger proportion of cases compared to other age groups. Younger children are most at risk of becoming infected.

What are the symptoms of H1N1 and other influenza-like illnesses (ILI)?

- * Symptoms include fever AND any of the following
- * Cough
- * General unwell feeling
- * Sore throat
- * Runny nose
- * Joint pain
- * Vomiting and diarrhea (more common in children than adults)

Q. How is the Board responding to H1N1?

The Board is working in close cooperation and has regular communication with Halton Region Health Department. The Board is ready and able to take whatever advice or action the Health Department recommends. The Halton District School Board has a comprehensive Pandemic Response Plan that guides our actions. This Plan and regular H1N1 updates are available on the website at <http://www.hdsb.ca>, homepage under the *Noteworthy* heading.

Q. Will Halton Public Health Department contact us if someone in our school has tested positive for H1N1?

Halton Region Health Department is no longer reporting individual confirmed cases to schools. The number of confirmed cases in Halton is reported weekly at www.halton.ca.

Q. What action is to be taken in schools? What if influenza-like illness is occurring in the school?

Principals will:

- * Continue to stress key prevention activities, e.g. hand washing with soap and water, cough/sneeze etiquette and staying home when ill
- * Monitor the overall health of students and staff
- * Ensure that students exhibiting influenza-like illness (ILI) symptoms are separated from the rest of the school population until they can be picked up by parents or caregivers
- * Ensure that staff and student absenteeism is reported through the public health web portal on a daily basis beginning Monday, September 28, 2009.
- * Liaise with school custodial staff regarding environmental cleaning procedures with particular attention to touch surfaces, e.g. door knobs, handrails, etc. using neutral disinfectants in addition to routine custodial cleaning methods.

Q. We have staff members, parents and volunteers who are pregnant or have an underlying health condition or are immuno-suppressed. What advice should be given?

Pregnant women in school setting and individuals with pre-existing health condition are not at an increased risk of contracting the influenza-like illness (ILI). However, they appear to be at an increased risk of secondary complications and should ensure that they practice proper hand hygiene and contact their health care provider as soon as possible if they become ill with symptoms. For women who are pregnant, more information is available in the Public Health Agency of Canada Information bulletin "Pregnancy and the H1N1 Flu Virus" found on their website at <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/>.

Q. Are we recommending exclusion of pregnant women from schools?

Ontario is not recommending exclusion of pregnant teachers from schools or other workplaces during the flu season.

It important to remember that influenza is a community-acquired infection, so avoiding work settings, like schools, will not reduce the risk of exposure. Additionally, this is a relatively mild disease in the vast majority of cases (our provincial hospitalization surveillance database contains 12 or 13 H1N1-related hospitalizations in pregnant women in Ontario - no deaths). Finally, although pregnant women are at somewhat higher risk of complications from influenza every season (all types, including, it appears, H1N1, particularly in the third trimester), the risk is not "high".

Personal protection through frequent hand washing is critical and receipt of both vaccines, when available, also recommended. Our MOHLTC public education campaign is also meant to reduce the risk to others through aggressive messaging which advises people to stay home when sick. We also are working closely with the Ministry of Education to reduce the risks of outbreaks in school settings through environmental, administrative and individual interventions. Guidelines which address these three issues have been developed in consultation with the Ministry of Education and are being implemented by school boards in collaboration with local Medical Officers of Health.

Finally, pregnant women and people with underlying health conditions should speak to their physician to determine if they should be treated if/when they get the flu. The antiviral medication Tamiflu must be administered within 48 hours of onset of symptoms to be effective. (information provided by Dr. Arlene King, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ontario, Sept. 15/09)

Q. Should masks be worn in school?

The Public Health Agency of Canada does not recommend the wearing of masks in school settings to protect against contracting H1N1. Evidence shows that this is not effective in preventing transmission of influenza in the general public. Therefore, staff and students will not wear masks in school.

Q. Are alcohol-based hand rubs (ABHR) allowed in schools?

Since staff, visitors, volunteers and students are able to wash their hands with soap and water in our schools and workplaces, currently we are not providing alcohol-based hand rubs (ABHR) in schools. Students may bring a travel-size container of ABHR to school on a daily basis for their personal use only. We recommend that if an ABHR product is used, it be unscented to avoid environmental sensitivities.

Q. Will the seasonal flu vaccine protect me against H1N1?

This fall and winter, there will be two types of flu viruses circulating – a seasonal flu virus and the new H1N1 virus. A seasonal flu vaccination will not protect you against the H1N1 virus. The seasonal flu vaccine will be available as usual this fall. The H1N1 vaccine will be available later in the fall or early winter.

Q. What steps can we take in order to help reduce the spread of seasonal or H1N1 flu viruses or ILI (influenza-like illness) in schools?

At this time the most important factors in reducing the spread of seasonal or H1N1 flu viruses or ILI in schools are:

- * Early identification of ill students, staff and volunteers showing symptoms of ILI
- * Excluding anyone ill with ILI symptoms from school
- * Using proven infection control measures such as
- * Wash your hands frequently with soap and water especially after coughing or sneezing, or use an alcohol-based hand rub containing 60-90% alcohol
- * Sneeze or cough into your sleeve or disposable tissues. Dispose of tissues immediately.
- * Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth unless you washed your hands immediately before
- * Clean shared surfaces frequently
- * Stay at home if ill with ILI
- * Find out about flu vaccination for both seasonal and H1N1 flu.

Q. In light of new WHO guidelines, are you planning to close schools?

The World Health Organization must consider the broadest possible range of options to address the impact of H1N1, in light of the wide range of health systems and infrastructure support that exists among Member States. Ontario is not recommending that schools be closed this fall. To date, H1N1 has resulted in a mild disease, from a public health perspective.

Any proposed public health impact of school closures will be partially or completely negated if measures to limit contact among students outside of the school setting are not implemented. If students continue to congregate in other settings, they will continue to spread the virus. There also are economic and social costs related to school closures which must be considered. School closures can result in an additional 15 percent increase in workplace absenteeism, including in health care settings. Also, the social costs, must be considered.

On balance, in Ontario, any proposed public health benefits of school closures are outweighed by the risks of significant socioeconomic, including health system, disruption. (information provided by Dr. Arlene King, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ontario, Sept. 15/09)

Q. Where can I get more detailed information?

The Board website (<http://www.hdsb.ca>) has a direct link to the Halton Region Health Department website. This site contains the most current information. As well, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has produced a brochure called *This year it's a different flu season*. This brochure will be delivered to every household in Ontario by Canada Post during the week of September 14.

Additional information sources:

<http://www.hdsb.ca> Halton District School Board website with links to the Halton Region Health Department website or go directly to <http://www.halton.ca/health/>

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/updates/archives/hu_09/swine_flu.html Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

<http://www.oahpp.ca> Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion

www.ontario.ca/flu information about seasonal flu, pH1N1 and pandemic preparedness

1-866-797-0000 or TTY: 1-866-797-0007 Telehealth Ontario

<http://www.ontario.ca/healthcareconnect> Health Care Connect program for those who do not have a health care provider

<http://www.fightflu.ca> Public Health Agency of Canada

http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/alert-alerte/swine-porcine/faq_rg_swine-eng.php Public Health Agency of Canada

<http://www.who.int/en/> World Health Organization