John MacNeil Elementary

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**January 2018 Newsletter**

**Happy New Year!!!!** I hope everyone had a restful break and enjoyed time with family and friends. January always seems like a new beginning and it is fun getting back into the routine of school. It is no surprise that *winter has definitely arrived*. Please make sure that your children are dressed appropriately for the weather. The winter weather may cause some closures, late starts or early dismissals. Please make sure to listen to the radio, check the HRSB website, twitter account, or sign up for text/email notifications

Our newsletters will be posted on the website as well as being emailed. This will help us save paper and gives us a way to send home regular and urgent notifications in a timely manner. If you do not have access to a computer, please let us know and we will be happy to print one off for you. *Please note that teachers have up to two business days to respond to emails. Please call the main office for something requiring immediate attention.*

Some important reminders we wanted to share:

* **There is absolutely no driving for unauthorized vehicles on school grounds. Use our Kiss and Go Lane (the roundabout at the beginning of the parking lot). Driving on school property is a safety issue!**
* **Please ensure we have a valid working phone number and we are able to contact you.**
* **Parents must call the office or send an email to make an appointment to speak with the principal, vice principal or teachers.**
* **All visitors must stop and check in at the office when they enter the building.**
* **The main office doors are for emergency or appointment entrance only.** We have students that use that door to get on their bus so it needs to be kept clear.
* **Please do not wear scented products in and around the school.** Many children and adults have strong reactions to the heavy scents in perfumes, deodorants, hair sprays, latex products and other cosmetic products.
* **Cell Phones – Students are not allowed to have cell phones out during class time or at recess and Lunch.** Using them during class is disruptive. Students are not allowed to take pictures and post to social media as this is against our privacy policy.

**Head Lice**

Please remember to check your child’s hair on a regular basis. Head lice can happen to everyone but if you are proactive and have open conversations then it will be much easier to take care of. If you do find lice or nits in your child’s hair please let us know. If there is anything we can do to help you we are more than happy to.

**Messages for Students**

Please do not give messages for students on the phone. It gets very busy in the office and messages may not get to students in time. Please make sure you confirm after school arrangements with you child before they leave in the morning.

We all know that emergencies happen and you may need to let your child know about changes to their day. We will definitely let you child know when these emergencies happen.

**Student Pick Up**

Students are done for the day at 2:45pm. Please do not pick up students before then unless your child has an appointment. The last 20-30 mins are important times for talking about their day and preparing their message bags and homework.

**Breakfast Program**

The breakfast program runs Tuesdays, Thursday and Fridays. The doors open at 8:20am. Please remember to use the breakfast program doors.

We will be having some fundraisers for the Breakfast Program in the upcoming months. Keep your eyes and ears open for more information.

**Primary Registration**

Just a reminder that February is the month for Primary Registration for September 2018. Please share this information with friends that have children who will be starting school in September. All new primary students must 5 by December 31st.

If you know of someone that is looking for French Immersion, Shannon Park is having an “Early French Immersion Information evening” that will be taking place on February 13th at 6pm at Shannon Park School. Their phone number is 902-464-2084 ext. 2

**Important Dates**

* Jan 11 – Breakfast Program starts again
* Jan 15 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
* Feb 1 – Registration for 2018-2019 begins
* Feb 19 – Mona Louise Parsons Heritage Day – No classes