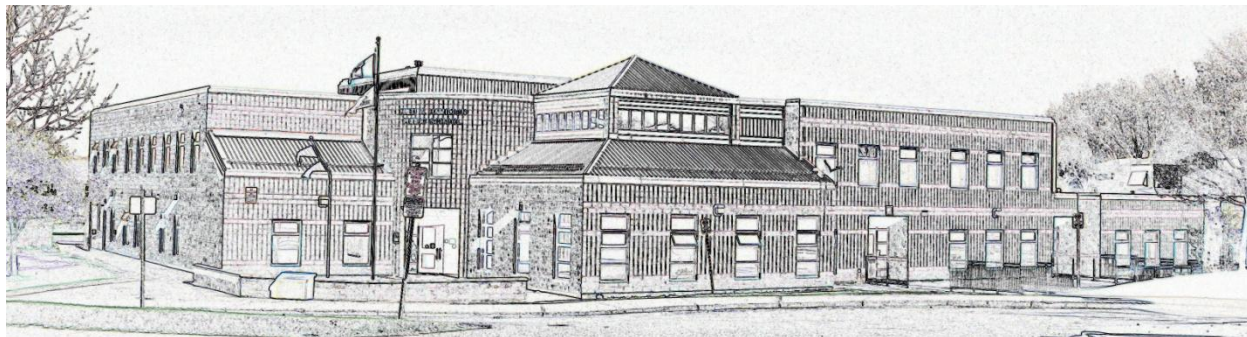


L'ÉCOLE FRED A. HAMILTON



David Marquis, Principal

Franca Manni, Office Co-Ordinator
160 Ironwood Road, Guelph ON, N1G 3R4
Tel: (519) 836-0080 Fax: (519) 836-6027

DECEMBER 2011

Principal's Message

“Oh, the weather outside is frightful, but learning at FAH is delightful!”

It's almost holiday time and our second term is well underway. As always, December promises to be an extremely busy month both at home and at school.

Of particular interest will be our Community Carol Sing on December 15th. We're looking forward to an evening of seasonal spirit with carolling, hot chocolate, a Winter Book Fair, Basket Raffles and plenty of fun for all!

I'm sure you and your children will also look forward to the holiday break to enjoy some quality family time together. Don't forget to curl up with a few good books over the holidays!

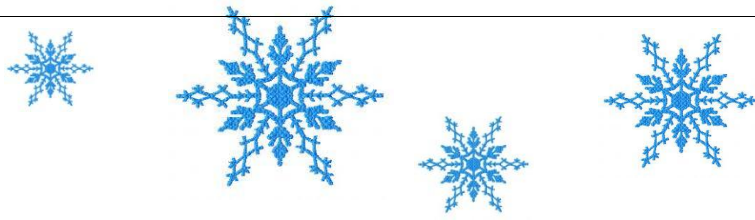
Best wishes for a Happy Holiday, and see you in 2012!

David Marquis



HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

December 23	Last Day of School
December 25	Christmas Day
January 1	Happy New Year
January 9	First Day Back



Winter

It's simply a matter of time before the snow flies! This is a reminder to ensure that all our learners come to school prepared for the weather. Appropriate jackets, boots, mittens and hats are a must as temperatures get colder. Also, a reminder to students that due to safety reasons, snowballs are not allowed to be thrown on school property nor on the way to and from school.

Literacy Corner

Current educational research into reading skills has found that modelling reading skills is a key strategy to improving children's reading comprehension. Teachers and parents can improve children's reading comprehension of any kind of text (stories, newspaper reports, math problems, science topics) by reading the material aloud to the child.

The key to modelling reading is to share your thinking process, or to think out loud, as you read.

For example, if you are reading a primary level book to your child and you encounter a difficult word (one that you feel may be challenging for your child to read), think aloud about how you would decode the word (e.g., picnic- "Hmm, I know the word starts with the letter p and that makes a puh sound, so I will try to sound the word out.").

This kind of "thinking out loud" demonstrates to the child how better readers solve reading problems.

Don't be afraid to make mistakes as you read aloud with your child. By sharing your reading mistakes, you can demonstrate how to correct reading errors.

Happy reading!



Acorn Card Fundraiser

Thank you to all Fred A. Hamilton families who participated in this new fundraising opportunity. Our fundraising efforts raised \$1,549.37 which will be used to purchase take home reading materials for our students. The student artists produced such wonderful artwork. A special thank you to parent volunteers Karen Walker, Noelle Green-Williams, Hermione Kim and Tess De Nardis for organizing, collating orders and distributing artwork. Thanks as well to the teachers who facilitated the students artwork on a tight timeline! We look forward to repeating this fundraiser next year!



Student Punctuality

Being on time is an important life skill that we encourage all our students to display. When students arrive on time, they receive an overview of the day's activities and allow the teacher to efficiently complete the general housekeeping activities such as taking attendance or the collection of forms and money. They hear the announcements which inform them of general school information and are a part of the opening exercises. Being on time also eliminates unnecessary disruptions to classes. We appreciate the effort made by most students to be on time. Punctuality is a benefit for the students as well as a courtesy to others.



Student Council

Grade 5 students interested in having a voice in student life at FAH are coming together to form the first Huskies Student Council. Students were asked to write a letter of application to Mr. Marquis explaining how they would make contributions to our school as a member of Council. With so many excellent candidates, 3 groups of seven were selected, and each group will meet twice with Mr. Marquis before the end of the school year. When meeting, students will be asked to provide a student's perspective on how to make FAH a better place. In addition to becoming ambassadors of the school, they will plan "Fun" days, welcome visitors during special events and help to plan school assemblies. Stay tuned as our Student Council will be setting a first "Fun" day this month.

School Council

A reminder that Council meetings are a great way to become involved in your child's education. Generally, we meet the second Tuesday of each month. All meeting dates for the year are posted on the school website under the School Council link.

Our School Council has been busy this year, and your fundraising initiatives have already supported the school in many ways:

Guided Reading books	\$3800.00
SmartBoard Technology	\$2400.00
Scientists in School	\$1800.00



The success from the Dance-A-Thon (\$3801.35) will allow us to invest in much-needed gym equipment as well as to support Art programs at FAH. The Acorn Cards raised \$1549.37 which we will spend on take home reading libraries and profits from the Basket Raffles on December 15th will be going towards purchasing math manipulatives across all grades. Thank you School Council, for all your organization and hard work!



La moustache de M. Marquis

On November 30th, Mr. Marquis' moustache turned a bright hue of pink for the day! Our collection of "loose" coins added up to \$131.31 which will now be donated to the Candian Cancer Foundation. In addition to supporting men's health issues, we were able to tie in our Character Education trait of Compassion during class discussions, and it became a learning opportunity for all. Thank you to all for your support!

River Run Student Trips

Many thanks to the Linamar Corporation for once again sponsoring students in Guelph schools and giving them the opportunity to see artistic and dramatic performances first hand at the River Run Centre.

3 Up 2 Down

We are pleased to announce that in the new year, FAH will be participating in a "Healthy Choices" initiative called **3 Up 2 Down**. The focus of this initiative is for students to reflect on 3 things they can do to improve their health and consequently their ability to learn.

- Healthy eating
- Exercise
- Getting enough sleep



At the same time it encourages students to limit 2 things that can negatively impact their health and reduce their ability to learn.

- Reduce sugar intake (& junk food)
- Reduce "screen-time"

Studies show that students who eat healthy meals, get enough sleep and exercise regularly are better able to absorb and retain new information. We hope to focus on helping our students make these life-long habits that will serve them well while here at FAH and into the future.

Look for more information in January. We will be starting to talk about **SLEEP** as the first part of this program and challenging students to get to bed at appropriate times. We will also be using our school curriculum focus on numeracy to track, graph and analyze sleep patterns across our classes. We thank you in advance for your support!!



Buses

Just a reminder that if the buses are cancelled in the morning, they do not run in the afternoon. If you decide to drive your child to school in the morning, please be sure to pick them up at the end of the day as well.

French Immersion Homework Toolbox

Visit the FSL Homework Toolbox website to discover a world of resources to assist with learning the French language. www.FSLHomeworkToolbox.ca

School Improvement Plan

This year, the focus of our School Improvement Plan is on specific instructional strategies in the area of numeracy. Our professional development has been centered around improving students' abilities to critically reflect in a problem solving model using a three-part lesson.

Numeracy Support:

You can help at home by using the following questions to help students not only reflect on the work they are doing in numeracy, but also in their daily decisions in all areas of their lives.

- 1. Does your answer make sense? - Why or Why not?**
- 2. Is this the best way to solve the problem?**
- 3. What was the easiest part of solving the problem,....what was the hardest?**
- 4. Can you explain why this strategy works?**

By critically reflecting on their problem-solving strategies, students will have a much deeper understanding of how a process works and be more likely to adapt the same strategy to new situations they are faced with in the future.

Encourage your child to give explanations...

- When your child is trying to solve a problem, ask what he or she is thinking. If your child seems puzzled, ask him or her to tell you what doesn't make sense. (Talking about their ideas and how they reach solutions helps children learn to reason mathematically.)
- Suggest that your child act out a problem to solve it. Have your child show how he or she reached a conclusion by drawing pictures and moving objects as well as by using words.
- Treat errors as opportunities to help your child learn something new.

Bullying: It's Up to Everyone to Stop It**Bullying is:**

- being mean to others, on purpose, to hurt them or their feelings
- about power and control
- occurring every seven minutes on elementary school playgrounds and most often happens while others watch
- does not stop when children are left to deal with it themselves

What to Do If a Child is Being Bullied:

- Believe what they say, listen and try to understand their feelings
- Involve children in community activities to help them make friends
- Contact the school to talk about the problem and get support

Communication is important, talk to your child about bullying.



Public Health

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health
1-800-265-7293 ; www.wdgppublichealth.ca
info@wdgppublichealth.ca