FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK...

It certainly was a very warm September! Thanks to all students and staff for persevering despite the temperature. Now that the weather has cooled, we remind all students to come prepared for the weather. As students are expected to go outside for both fitness breaks, it is important for them to be dressed appropriately.

It was great to see many of you at our Open House. If you have not had a chance to come in and meet your child’s teacher, please do so as soon as possible. This will help to establish a strong home-school partnership. Both curricular and extra-curricular activities are in full swing. Encourage your children to participate in all that our school has to offer.

We thank the parents and guardians who have come forth and offered their services as volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering at the school, please speak to your child’s teacher or to Mrs. Lockhart so that you can complete a volunteer form.

Our Hallowe’en activities will include a parade, classroom fun and for the grade 7 and 8s, a dance. More information will be sent home later this month.

I hope you enjoy a wonderful Thanksgiving weekend, spending time with family and friends, and taking time to reflect on the many blessings in your life. Enjoy!

Mrs. De Luca-Gates

HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO THE WILLIAM HAMILTON MERRITT COMMUNITY! (no school on Monday, Oct. 9th)

OUR FIRST CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY IS ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4th AT 9am (please note day and time change) AND OUR NEXT ONE IS ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd AT 1:30pm. ALL PARENTS AND GUARDIANS ARE WELCOME!
DATES TO REMEMBER:
October 4th—Celebration Assembly
October 6th—P.A. Day
October 9th—Thanksgiving Day
October 16th—Magazine orders due
October 24th—Picture Retakes
  - Wear purple
  - SAC Meeting
October 27th—Crazy Hair Day
October 31st—Hallowe’en

PHOTO RETAKES
are Tuesday, Oct. 24th

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6th IS A
PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY DAY
(no school for students-have a great long weekend!)

EQAO RESULTS FOR 2017
The percentage of students who achieved level 3 or 4 are displayed below. On our October 6th P.A. Day, staff will be examining the particulars of our students’ achievement on EQAO in order to plan for instruction that meets the needs of students. More information will be shared in future newsletters.

Parents and guardians are reminded that parking on The Meadows is allowed only on the east side. Please ensure that you are not blocking the driveways of the residents on this street. Thank you!

Thank you to the WHM Community for supporting our Terry Fox Walk. Through your generosity, we raised $300.00 for this most worthwhile cause!
Starting high school is a huge step in a student's life. While it's definitely an exciting time, it also brings with it many questions, such as "What's life in high school really like? What programs and options are available to help me achieve my goals?" A great way to have your questions answered is to attend an open house. Grade 8 students and their families are invited to attend High School Open Houses from November 27-30. Details about open houses will be shared with parents/guardians mid-October.

High School Open House Dates and Times:
Sir Winston Churchill: November 27 – 6:30 p.m.
St. Catharines Collegiate: November 28 – 6:00 p.m.
Thorold Secondary: Tuesday, November 29 – 7:00 p.m.
Governor Simcoe Secondary: November 29 – 6:00 p.m.
Laura Secord Secondary: November 29—TBA
Eden High: November 30 – 6:30 p.m.

HALLOWE’EN COSTUME GUIDELINES
As you begin thinking about a Hallowe’en costume for your child, we appreciate your support in assisting your child with selecting a creative costume. As a courtesy to our younger students who may be easily frightened, and in accordance with Safe Schools Policy, **COSTUMES OF A VIOLENT NATURE, AS WELL AS ANY TYPE OF WEAPON ARE NOT PERMITTED.** As always, the safety of our students is our highest priority.

School Council
News for October

This year’s Council members are:
Claire Gregory (chair)
Cathy Fletcher (vice chair)
Mirella Colantoni (secretary)
Kristina Dickinson (treasurer)
Debby Leigh
Jennifer High
Abolfazl Rafiepour
Cheryl D’Costa
Erica Lawrence
Tricia Hall
Kerri Rogers
Mr. Pawlik (teaching rep)
Mrs. De Luca-Gates (temporary principal)

Planning has begun for the various fund-raising and community events that we support. Our next meeting is Tuesday, October 24th at 6:30pm in the Learning Commons. All parents and guardians are welcome to attend all meetings. Please consider joining one of the committees needing volunteers.

QSP MAGAZINE FUNDRAISER

By now you should have received a package of info about our QSP magazine fundraiser. Last year our campaign helped raise funds that benefitted all the classes in the school. Magazine subscriptions are a wonderful gift for the holidays, or just a treat for yourself. There are so many great titles to choose from! The students can also win prizes for the number of subscriptions that they sell. We hope you’ll find something that interests you, because that in turn can benefit our school. Orders are due on Monday, October 16th.
Halloween Safety

Some pointers to keep the trick or treaters safe.

- Children under nine years of age should go out with an adult or responsible older child.

- Be sure your child stops at all curbs, looks left, right and left again to check for traffic. Remind children to cross at crosswalks, street corners or intersections. It is important they walk on the sidewalk, or walk facing the traffic if there is no sidewalk.

- Bright coloured costumes make your child easier to see. You can use reflective tape on a costume to make your child more visible. Face paint instead of a mask helps them to see well. Have your child carry a flashlight.

- When they get home, check all of their treats carefully. Throw out any treats that aren’t wrapped, if the wrapping is torn or loose, or if the wrapper has a hole. Remember that small treats can cause your child to choke.

- You might want to offer an alternative to sugar based treats. Stickers or multicoloured pencils can be a nice surprise in place of, or in addition to, traditional treats.

FREE MONEY FOR YOUR CHILD’S FUTURE!

What is the Canada Learning Bond (CLB)?
The Canada Learning Bond (CLB) is a government program that gives $500 in education money to children born on or after January 1, 2004 whose families receive the Canada Child Benefit Supplement (family net income of $45,916 or less or more based on number of children).

Sound good? Keep reading…
- The Government will add $100 more every year the child is eligible, up to age 15.
- Each child could get up to $2000 (plus interest) in RESP contributions!
- NO family contribution is required
- The Canada Learning Bond is retroactive for children born 2004 or after

Great! Here is How You Get Started:
Go to: StartMyRESP.ca/EFNiagara

October is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Students at our school and across the DSBN will be wearing purple on Tuesday, October 24th for “Go Purple Day”.

Niagara Region Public Health