



Houghton Elementary School November 2017

Doreen Klingbeil, Superintendent
Anders Hill, Principal

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Houghton Elementary School will hold our Parent/Teacher Conferences for all our students on Thursday, November 9th and on Friday, November 10th. Please make every effort to attend this conference. If you do not have an appointment, please contact your child's teacher to schedule.

Parent involvement is a key to your child's education. If for some reason you must reschedule this meeting, please contact your

child's classroom teacher as soon as possible. Scheduling can be very difficult.

If you would like to meet with any of our essential teachers, their schedule and location is as follows: Mr. Lawson will be here in the gym, Mrs. Hronkin will be in the art room, Mrs. Mechlin will be in the library, Ms. Rutz will be in the computer room and Mrs. Fontaine and Mrs. Campbell will have a sign up sheet if parents would like to talk to them.



Coats, Hats and Mittens

Please make sure that your child is dressed for the weather each day. Children who are appropriately dressed in warm coats, hats, and mittens have a much better time at recess. We will also send students inside from recess to get coats on.

If there is snow on the ground, please send children to school with boots and snow pants.

Please let the school know if your child has a need for winter clothes and we will do our best to help.

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

- November 2nd- Picture Retakes
- November 3—First Marking Period Ends
- November 5—Turn Back Clocks 1 Hour, Daylight Savings Time Begins
- November 6—10 - PTO Book Fair
- November 9— Students Dismissed at 12:20 pm, Parent Teacher Conf. 1- 3 pm & 6—8 pm
- November 10—Students Dismissed at 12:20 pm, Parent Teacher Conf. 1-3 pm
- November 22—Professional Development Day, Students Dismissed at 12:20
- November 23 & 24— Thanksgiving Break

OCTOBER TEAM STUDENTS

Every month we are recognizing a student in each class that exemplifies our schools TEAM goals:

Take Responsibility

Earn Respect

Act Positively

Make it Safe

These students will enjoy a snack with the principal and receive a certificate. Our October honorees are:

Young 5's: Elizabeth Bates

K: Julianna Carter, Josie Roth, Ellen Mattila, Silas Bergstrom, Marlena King

1st : Joseph Niedzwiecki, Kahliel Hayrynen, Daisy Ferguson, Zoey Kangas, Hayle Klarich

2nd: Isabella Hassell, Holly Cooke, Alia Asti, Wyatt Hiner

3rd: Ma'Kai Anderson, Michael Solena, Ivan Johnson, Lucas Lee, Della Lypsinmaa

4th: Gage Gullstrand, Daniel Xie, Wells Huotari, Zhi Tao Yap

5th: Neeko Ebnenasir, Aubriana Chalgren, Aelah McCloskey, Carter Campioni

Congratulations!!!

TEAM Students



PTO CORNER

PTO's Mission: Houghton-Portage Township Elementary School PTO (HES PTO) is organized solely for the purpose of enhancing our children's education through fundraising, and the collaborative efforts of parents, teachers, and administration.

PTO Helps! During our October meeting, PTO voted to designate \$325 to purchase an easel for Sarah Hampton's kindergarten classroom, \$700 toward the fifth-grade class going to see the movie adaptation of "Wonder," and \$300 for Houghton Elementary Lego Robotics Junior. **PTO Thanks!** Thank you to Teri Ozarowicz for coordinating PTO's Giving Trees. See our Giving Trees in the school lobby, and take a leaf to help provide a need in your student's classroom.

PTO Dates to remember:

- Scholastic Book Fair November 3-10
- 31 Gifts fundraiser November 1-13
- PTO Meeting Tuesday, November 14 5:30 p.m., Inside the school library

Want to get more PTO updates?

Like PTO on Facebook: [facebook.com/HPTSPTO](https://www.facebook.com/HPTSPTO)



To be consistent with local preschools and help get our students outside more during the winter months, students will go outside for recess unless it is below 0 degrees (with wind chill accounted).



Preparing for Winter Weather— Cancellations and Delays

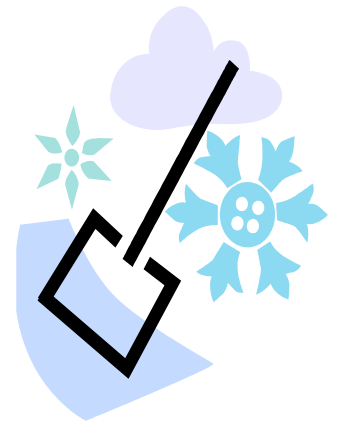
When inclement weather causes the closing of school, the following procedures will be followed:

School Closing: Announcements will be made via the Parent Listserv, the school website, text (Remind 101), the television station (Channel 6) and local radio stations by 7:00 a.m. that school will not be in session.

Late Starts: When weather conditions warrant, the start of school may be delayed. Such an announcement will be

made as soon as possible. Buses will run two hours late.

Early Dismissal: Our office will be notified of early dismissals due to bad weather as early as possible. Dismissal time from classes and bus schedules to transport children will be determined by the Superintendent. Parents, please review your plan with your student and please contact the office ASAP if your initial plans have changed.



Flu Season and Houghton Elementary Students

We would like to emphasize an important piece of information to all our parents— children should stay home if they are sick (fever, cough etc.) Students should then stay home until the fever goes down and stays down

for 24 hours without medication. We will continue to talk to our students about proper habits (coughing into their elbow, washing hands, sanitizing class-

rooms etc.). If you have further questions please contact the school.

Students should then stay home until the fever goes down and stays down for 24 hours without medication.



PTO Book Fair

We are excited to announce that the Scholastic Book Fair will be arriving at our school November 6th— 10th.

The PTO needs your help to make this book fair a success. The spring carnival and the book fair are the major fundraisers for our school. Our families are able to avoid the need to fundraise door to door by actively participating in these events. The money raised by these events help to pay for many activities including: butterfly kits for science, Fort Wilkins trips, books for the library and playground equipment.



Navigating Parent- Teacher Conferences: Tips for Parents

Parent-Teacher Conferences are just around the corner. Here are four quick tips about how to successfully navigate this important meeting with your child's teacher.

Please come! We understand you are busy, but we encourage you to make time in your schedule to attend conferences. First of all, your child will see how much you value education. Your child will also benefit simply knowing you have open communication lines with the school.

Be prepared. Be ready to discuss how your child can reach his/her full potential. The scheduled time goes quickly, so it is helpful to make notes prior to the conference concerning topics you wish to discuss, such as: your child's progress in a particular subject area, information about your child and life at home or questions about school policy or programs.

Ask important questions. Engage in a candid conversation with your child's teacher. Your questions may include: What are my child's strengths and weaknesses?
How does my child get along with classmates?
Is my child working up to ability?
Where could he/she improve?
What can we do at home to support what you are doing in the classroom?

Initiate the action plan. The conference time might be used to develop an action plan to better support your child's academics or behavior. Start immediately on the action plan you and the teacher put together. Discuss the plan with your child at home and regularly track progress toward the intended goal(s). Stay in touch with your child's teacher about your child's growth via email, phone, or other scheduled meetings.

We value the role of families within the Houghton Elementary TEAM. When parents and teachers work together, we can ensure children will have a successful school year.

Submitted by:

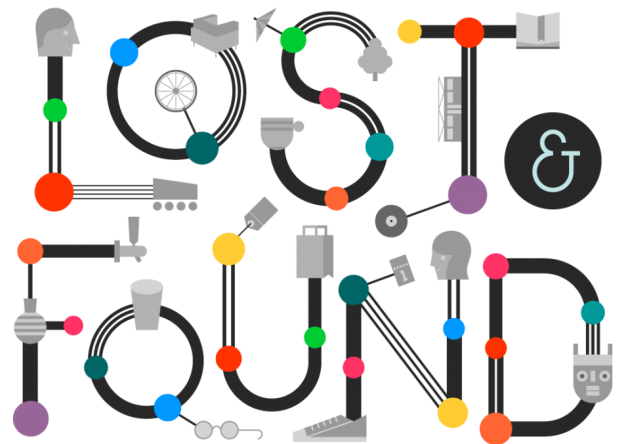
Mollie Trewartha, 5th Grade Teacher

Adapted from Parent Partnership Resources, www.nea.org



Lost & Found

Parents, please stop by our lost and found by the fish tank during Parent-Teacher conferences. We are overflowing with sweatshirts, jackets and hats. We are planning on donating the clothes left at Holiday break to a charitable organization.





ATTENDANCE MATTERS

every student, every day

Improving Attendance Matters Because It Reflects:

Exposure to language: Starting in Pre-K, attendance equals exposure to language-rich environments especially for low-income children.

Time on Task in Class: Students only benefit from classroom instruction if they are in class.

On Track for Success: Chronic absence is a proven early warning sign that a student is behind in reading by 3rd grade, failing courses middle and high school, and likely to drop-out.

College Readiness: Attendance patterns predicts college enrollment and persistence.

Engagement : Attendance reflects engagement in learning.

Effective Practice: Schools, communities and families can improve attendance when they work together.

(For research, see: <http://www.attendanceworks.org/research/>)

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Yearbook order forms are due Friday, November 10. Yearbooks cost \$15.00 and will be in full color. Yearbooks will be distributed in mid-May.

Thank You!!!

I would also like to take this opportunity to let all parents, students and staff know how thankful I am to work with all of you in providing a great education for all students. I feel very lucky to be working at Houghton Elementary!

- Mr. Hill



Counselor's Corner

**Micah
Stipech**

The Secret to Raising Smart Kids

What is the secret to raising smart kids? The secret is....don't tell them how smart they are. Our society values talent and natural ability. Yet research shows that praise focused on effort - not on intelligence or ability - is the key to promoting success in school and in life.

Here is an interesting study:

2 groups of students were given easy problems to solve. The first group quickly solved the problems and they were praised for being smart and intelligent. The second groups quickly solved the problems and were praised for their effort and hard work. Then both groups were given another set of more difficult problems. The first group became discouraged and lost confidence. The second group stuck it out and continued to work hard. Finally, a third set of easy problems was given to both groups. The first group did not perform well. The second group improved their performance markedly. Similar studies date back decades.

What's going on here?

People seem to develop 2 possible views of their abilities. A fixed mindset or a growth mindset.

A fixed mindset has a static view of intelligence. "I am what I am." "It is what it is."

A growth mindset has a dynamic view of intelligence. "Let's get smarter." "I love a challenge."

Students with a growth mindset are more likely to take on challenges and bounce back from failures. Students with a growth mindset, adapt more and give up less. Help your kids by focusing on something within their control - their effort!