



Dundana Elementary School

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PRINCIPAL: S. JOHNSTON

December 2015 Newsletter

December was a busy month full of many exciting activities for our students. Students again enjoyed the annual December skate, thank you to all of the volunteers that supported students during this trip and again a special thanks to Mme Komar for her leadership. Our holiday food drive was a huge success, with over 2600 items donated, that is over seven items for every student. Congratulations to Mme Harper's class who averaged 25 items per student and will be having a pizza party in the New Year. Our holiday lunch was once again a huge success for all students, a special thanks to all of the volunteers and again thank you to Mr. Gibson our School Chair for all of his organization and leadership. Another thanks goes out to all of our teachers for all their efforts in making the holiday concert a huge success. Please join me in congratulating Mr. Sawatzky on his recent retirement and wishing him all the best as he has a chance to sit back and relax. We welcome Mrs. MacDonald to Dundana, she will be taking over all of Mr. Sawatzky's classes. As well, I wanted to say thank you to Mrs. Bell who has been filling in for Mr. Sawatzky. Finally, I want to say thank you to our entire Dundana community for their support during the first four months and wishing everyone a safe and happy Holiday Season and a Happy New Year. We are looking forward to seeing everyone in 2016.

Labour Update

Thank you to our families for their patience during our recent job action. We know it was a challenging time in our schools and we appreciate your support as we worked through the process. We are slowly returning to business as usual in our schools. We have now reached local agreements with many of our groups such as elementary teachers, secondary teachers and caretakers. Discussions continue with our office staff, educational assistants and social workers and we are hopeful that we will reach local agreements with these groups soon. Updates will continue to be provided through the school and board websites.

School Safety – Office Check-In

Just a reminder that all caregivers must check in at the office when entering the school. Please do not enter the school to drop off your child or to pick up your child without checking in at the office.
Thank you in keeping all of our student's safe at Dundana.

We are a Nut Sensitive School

Parent and/or students are asked to carefully read labels of all food items that are brought to school to ensure that they **have no traces of nuts or nut products**. Many products now carry a clearly marked "Nut Free" logo.

Dressing for the Weather

Just a reminder that students will be going outside unless there is extreme cold or rain. Students may go outside during these days for a shortened period of time. Please remember to send your child with appropriate clothing:
-hat, gloves, boots, snow pants, winter coat, raincoat etc.

Temporary Excusal from School

Just a reminder that if you will be on an extended holiday and your child will be off for an extended time, please come into the office to complete a Temporary Excusal from School form.

Pets on School Grounds

Please do not bring any pets onto school grounds. We need to ensure the safety of all of our students, staff and community. Thank you for your cooperation.

Anaphylactic Management Plan

If you have not completed the appropriate paper work to ensure the safe administration of epinephrine please pick up a form from your child's teacher or the office. Once your Dr. has completed this form your son/daughter's Anaphylactic Management Plan will be completed. **These plans must be updated each school year.**

Parking Lot

Just a reminder to all parents, if you are dropping your child off at school we ask that you do not park in the parking lot or stop in the emergency stopping zone. This is becoming a safety issue for our students. All students should be picked up and dropped off on the playground where students are supervised with staff members. Thank you for your continued support.

Attendance

Regular attendance and punctuality are very important habits and routines for all students. There is a direct correlation between regular school attendance, positive work habits and enhanced student achievement. Consistent with the Safe Arrival Check Policy of the HWDSB, it is the parent's responsibility to inform the school when a child is going to be late or absent. Please call and leave a message at any time (905-628-2622) with your child's name, teacher, grade and the reason for their absence.

School Cash Online

Did you know that a prepaid Mastercard or Visa can be used to make payments in School Cash Online? Using a prepaid credit card with a set dollar limit is a great option for parents/guardians who aren't comfortable entering their personal bank account numbers or credit cards online. Prepaid cards can be purchased at many grocery stores and other retailers selling generic gift cards

Agendas

All students in grades 1-5 will receive a Dundana Agenda. This is a great tool to help keep the communication between home and school open. Agendas should be taken home and returned to school every day. Please take a few minutes to review these pages with your child(ren).

Milk Sales

White and Chocolate Milk is for sale every day during second break in the gym.

Cost \$0.65 each or student can purchase tokens for:

5 for 3.25, 10 for 6.50, 15 for 9.75, 20 for 13.00, 30 for 19.50

Personal Electronic Devices

Students may use their personal electronic devices outdoors during nutrition breaks. At all other times, these must be turned off and put away. **Taking pictures or video using any electronic device is strictly prohibited, unless part of instructional program under the guidance of a staff member.**

Students may only use these devices outside, or if a teacher asks students to use them for instructional purposes only.

Please note: The school is not responsible for loss or damage to any personal electronic devices.

It is a parental choice to allow their child to bring an electronic device to school.

School Council News

School Council meeting dates for the 2015-2016 School Year:

Dec. 9th

April 13th

Jan. 13th

May 11th

Feb. 10th

June 8th

March 9th

Dundana's School Council has started up a Face book page and Twitter account. Please take a moment to visit both areas.

<https://www.facebook.com/DundanaSchoolCommunity>

<https://twitter.com/dundana4ourkids>

Canadian Parents for French

DUNDANA HAS BEEN SELECTED TO HOST FRENCHAPALOOZA, Tuesday, February 23rd! This is an annual evening event for Hamilton families with children learning French, organized by the Hamilton-Wentworth chapter of CPF. We will have guest speakers, a French book sale, and French activities for children! As the host school, Dundana will also receive a percentage of total books sales, to grow our library. TO HELP THIS EVENT RUN SMOOTHLY, 7-10 VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED. Please contact Claire Rivlin for more information at cpfhamilton.membership@gmail.com *Merci beaucoup*

Next chapter meeting: Tuesday, January 12th, Hamilton Public Library, Terryberry branch (Mohawk & West 5th), 7-9 pm. The Hamilton-Wentworth chapter meets every second Tuesday of the month. Join us, everyone welcome! cpfhamilton.ca

My 2 favourite websites: forvo.com for help with pronunciation; bonpatron.com is a French grammar & spell checker (instructions, commands are available in both French and English)

Helpful French info can be found here: Dundana French Immersion Parents public group on Facebook, and

Facebook: www.facebook.com/cpfhamilton

Twitter: www.twitter.com/cpfhamilton

Pinterest: www.pinterest.com/cpfhamilton

for **French-Language events in Hamilton**, visit centrefrancais.ca

Bell Times 2015-2016

Please remember that instructional time begins with the bell, please have your child at school prior to the bell.

Start time: 8:55 AM

End time: 3:15 PM

**please note that supervision on the playground begins at 8:40 am until the entry bell and ends at 3:30 pm after dismissal.

Mabel's Labels

Just a reminder if you are ordering Mabel's Labels for your child(ren), please indicate that you are associated with Dundana School.

Busing

If you have a question if a bus is running late please contact the carrier listed below for your child's bus.

Routes 6102 and 6157 (Bus 1) - Attridge-905-690-2632

Routes 6219 and 6166 (Bus 2) - Attridge-905-690-26323

Route 6132 (Bus 3) - Attridge-905-690-2632

Route 6017(Bus 4) – Sharpes - 905-679-0001

Route 5006(Bus 5) – Sharpes - 905-679-0001

Lunch Wizard

Once again Dundana students will have an opportunity to order Lunch Wizards. Please note we cannot accept late orders.

January 20th and 27th

April 20th and 27th

February 17th and 24th

May 11th and 18th

March 23rd and 30th

June 8th and 15th

Pizza Days for 2015-2016

Jan 8, 22

Apr 8, 22

Feb 5, 19

May 13, 27

Mar 4, 24

June 9, 24

HWDSB 2015-2016 School Calendar

The 2015-2016 school year calendar is available at: <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/elementary/plan-for-school/calendar/>

Upcoming Dates for 2015-2016

Jan. 4th – Classes Resume

Jan. 29 – PA day

Feb. 15th – Family Day – no school

Feb. 26th – PA day

March 14-18th – March Break

March 25th & 28th – Holiday – no school

May 3rd – Open House 5:30-7:00

May 5th – FDK (SK) Grad Photos

May 13th – Volunteer Tea

May 23rd – Holiday – no school

June 10th – PA Day – no school

June 24th – Play Day

June 27th – G5 Celebration

June 29th – Last day of Classes

June 30th – PA day

Please see Dundana's Web site <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/dundana/> for additional dates throughout the school year.

Nutrition Policy Non-Compliance Days for 2015-2016

Feb. 12th, April 2nd, June 19th, 22nd, 24th, 25th

Spirit Days for 2015-2016

January 8th – Beach Day

February 12th – Red and Pink Day

March 11th – Crazy Hair Day

April 13th - Day of Pink – Anti Bullying Day

May 20th – Mismatch Day/Wacky Outfit Day

June 17th – Canadian Colours or Canadian Clothes Day

***PLEASE NOTE THAT MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS WILL BE POSTED ON OUR WEB SITE AND HARD COPIES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE OFFICE IF NEEDED. TO REDUCE OUR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT NO HARD COPIES WILL BE SENT HOME. YOU CAN SIGN UP FOR EMAIL FROM THE SCHOOL'S WEB SITE IF YOU WISH TO BE INFORMED OF UPDATES.