



# Cootes Paradise Elementary School

900 KING ST. W.  
HAMILTON, ON L8S 1K6  
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EMAIL: [cootesparadise@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:cootesparadise@hwdsb.on.ca)  
[www.hwdsb.on.ca/cootesparadise](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/cootesparadise)  
Principal: Denise Minardi  
Vice-Principal: George Gould

We invite you to **volunteer** on trips or at the school for one of the many activities that we have planned at Cootes Paradise. We are walking to Westdale Secondary School on November 25 to watch a performance of the **Sound of Music**. We will leave the school around 9:30 and welcome parent volunteers. Please let your child's teacher know if you can join us for this excursion. Volunteer forms and police check applications are available at the office for parents and guardians who would like to volunteer more regularly at school.

**Progress reports** will be distributed on Friday, December 11.

Teachers will determine the need for **interviews** with parents / guardians of students in grades 1-5, and conduct these interviews by phone or in person. Parents / guardians should contact their child's teacher if they have any questions about their child's progress. If an interview is requested by the teacher, it will occur either Thursday, November 26 in the evening or Friday, November 27 in the morning, unless otherwise scheduled between the staff member and parent.

**Full Day Kindergarten Observations** continue to take place during instructional time and will be completed by December 11. Parents / guardians are asked to contact their child's FDK teacher if they have any questions about the program or their child's progress.

**All of Me Day** is taking place Friday, November 20. This day focuses on student health and wellness and is generously funded by the Home & School. All students will receive a 'passport of activities' to bring home to share with you on the weekend.

**Congratulations to the Cootes Paradise swim team.** We were the Overall Boys Green Division Swim Champions 2015/2016, Overall Girls Green Division Swim Champions 2015/2016 and the Overall Green Division Swim Champions 2015/2016. Thank you to all of our staff and volunteers for your help at practices and the swim meet.

The next **Home & School / School Council** meeting will be on Wednesday, November 25 at 7:00 p.m. All Cootes Paradise community members are welcome to attend. Babysitting is available at no cost. We look forward to seeing you at this parent meeting.

Please check the **online school calendar** for upcoming events and remember to look for updates on the Cootes Paradise website - <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/cootesparadise/>. Please check your child's agenda regularly for notes and updates from his/her teacher.

The Cootes Paradise **Arts Council** will meet Monday, December 14 at 4:00 p.m. Please email [laura.cleghorn@gmail.com](mailto:laura.cleghorn@gmail.com) to help with one-time events, or to join the council.

The **Blank Canvas Gallery** returns this year thanks to the efforts of the Cootes Paradise Arts Council parent volunteers. All parents are welcome to join this group of volunteers who meet monthly and keep the Arts alive at Cootes Paradise. Please check out the art online or visit the school to see the original works of art.

Please send in all magazine orders as the **magazine campaigns** ends on Wednesday, November 25. Thank you for your support of this school fundraiser which will fund extra student activities and purchase more technology to put in our classrooms.



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The **Centre Français** is organizing a French language afterschool program. The program will run 2 nights a week from 3:30-5:30 p.m. It is designed for FI students in grades 1-6 and will expose them to French outside of the school and provide homework help. A minimum number of students is required for the program to start up – contact Anabela Imbeault at [anabela@centrefrancais.ca](mailto:anabela@centrefrancais.ca) or 905-741-8820 for more information or to register your child.

For safety and efficiency, HWDSB would like to reduce the amount of cash and cheques coming into schools. Please join the thousands of parents who have already registered and are enjoying the convenience of paying online! If you need assistance to register, the Parent Help Desk is available to solve any puzzles that parents may have when using **School Cash Online**, or to answer questions regarding online security. Please contact 1-866-961-1803 or email [parenthelp@schoolcashionline.com](mailto:parenthelp@schoolcashionline.com). Kindergarten students and students who arrived at Cootes Paradise after January 2015 will receive a custom PIN in the new year.

Please inform us if your child will be absent due to illness, an appointment, vacation plans, etc. **Our phone lines are open 24-hours a day**, and you can leave a detailed voicemail message by calling (905) 522-0601. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

To ensure that all students are accounted for, Mrs. Fulford or Mrs. Baines will signal your child's classroom when you check into the office **late (after 9:15 a.m.)** or to sign-out your child during the day. They will notify your child's teacher that your child is on their way to class or that you are waiting to pick-up your child in the office.

The Cootes Paradise **food and toy drive** begins December 1. We are supporting a local breakfast program at the North Hamilton Community Health Centre. A detailed note from the Home & School and Cootes Paradise student council will be sent home soon with your child.

The **winter concert** will take place on December 10 at 6:30 p.m. Non-perishable food items will be collected in lieu of an admission donation. A bake sale will take place after the concert.

Please do NOT drop off or pick up your child off in the **staff parking lot** as this is a serious safety concern.

We encourage students to **walk, bike, scooter**, etc. to school whenever possible. To this end, bike racks are located at the front and back of the school for students to lock up their bikes during the day. To keep all students, staff and parents safe, we ask that bikes, scooters and skateboards not be ridden on school property between the 8:45 and 3:35 bell.

With the great weather that we are having, it is nice to bring the family dog along for the walk to school. We ask that **dogs** be tied up by the fences near the bike racks at the front and back of the school or the fence by the walkway in from Churchill Park. Although you know that your dog is friendly, some children and adults are afraid of dogs. We strive to make all members of our school community feel comfortable at school and appreciate your support with this.

To view HWDSB **Draft Policy** and **Public Consultation** and provide comments, please visit the Board website at <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/>.