

# The Paradise Chronicle

January 2019 Edition



May the New Year bring  
joy, peace and happiness  
to you and your entire family!



Happy New Year and welcome back to the beginning of the 2019 school year! We hope you all had an enjoyable holiday season with time well spent with family and friends.

As the new year begins, please know that at Cootes Paradise, students are always front and center and every decision made will have your child's best interest in mind. As students come to school each and every day, our goals are to ensure that your child:

- Feels safe and happy at Cootes;
- Is part of a productive learning environment that provide appropriate innovative learning experiences;
- Works toward their academic learning potential; and
- Develops social skills that allow them to interact with others in a positive manner.

We are eager to work together to continue to build a positive relationship between all staff, students and parents to make an amazing school year.

Best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year!



## Dates to Remember:

- Every Wednesday is Lunch Lady
- Jan 7 – First Day Back
- Jan 11 – Subway Day
- Jan 18 – Pizza Day
- Jan 21-Feb 3 – Read-a-thon
- Jan 23 – Home and School Meeting @ 7:00pm
- Jan 24 – Dress up like your favourite book character
- Jan 25 – PA Day
- Jan 27 – Family Skate 1-2pm
- Jan 30 – Mad Science Begins
- Feb 4 – Kindergarten Registration Begins
- Feb 12 – Term 1 Reports Sent home
- Feb 13 – School Council Meeting @ 6:30pm



We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Miss Marrone to our Cootes Family. Miss Marrone is our new Office Administrator and brings much enthusiasm and knowledge to her role. Please feel free to come by and introduce yourself to her.

New Year: This is the beginning of anything you want!

# Winter Weather

## Bus cancellations and school closures

### How does HWDSB decide on bus cancellations and school closures?

- When bad weather is expected, Hamilton-Wentworth Student Transportation Services (HWSTS) carriers check weather reports, road conditions and road clearing, starting as early as 4 a.m.
- Based on this information, the Director of Education makes the decision in conjunction with Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board.
- For clear communication, HWDSB **does not** announce when schools are open – we only announce when schools are closed.



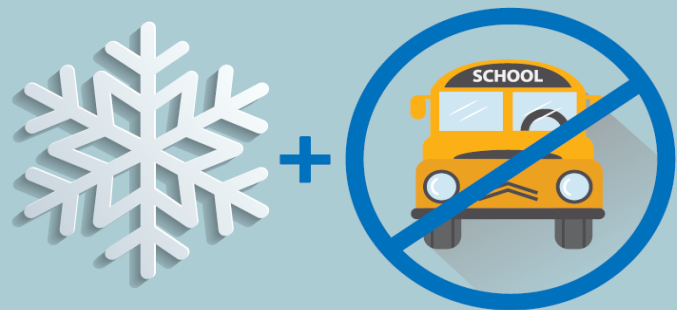
### When do we make decisions?

HWDSB will announce the cancellation of school and board operations by 6 a.m. based on the best information at the time.

### The HWDSB Rule:

**Inclement weather  
+ Bus cancellation  
= No school**

When HWDSB cancels busing due to inclement weather, we have deemed the roads unsafe and this triggers the closure of schools. Some boards have different procedures.



= No school

# HWDSB

## Snow-clearing at HWDSB Schools

A responsibility shared by Board staff, contractors and the City of Hamilton



### HWDSB Staff

*Clear, salt and/or sand...*

- walkways from the city sidewalk to the school
- school steps and portable steps
- walkways to the portables
- ramps to schools and portables
- area outside entrances and Fire Exit Doors
- Fire Exit stairs & ramps



### HWDSB Contractors

*After 5cm+ of snow, will...*

- Plow parking lots and sidewalks when HWDSB Facilities staff deem it necessary
- Salt and sand the parking lot before school starts
- If required, Head Caretakers may also salt or sand parts of the parking lot



### City of Hamilton

*Responsible for clearing...*

- Snow and ice from sidewalks directly in front of schools, a top priority for the City.
- **Note:** It may take up to 24 hours after a snowfall for sidewalks to be cleared. Report a sidewalk fronting a school in need of clearing at **905-546-CITY (2489)**

## What about playgrounds?

Playgrounds **are not** plowed or cleared. Head Caretakers inspect playgrounds and sand and/or salt areas made slippery by changing temperatures.

Students, take extra caution when walking or playing on school property that may be slippery. Principals concerned about weather or playground conditions may hold indoor recesses and lunch/nutrition breaks.





## Benefits of outdoor play

Time spent outdoors is an integral part of the school day. There are great benefits when children experience **fresh air, exercise and time spent time outside**. Outdoor play is also a break from the structure of the classroom.

## Preparing for the outdoors

It's important that children come to school **prepared for the cold**. This means boots, mittens/gloves, hats and even extra mittens and socks in case they are needed.



Hello Parents, Guardians and Caregivers!

My name is Christine Bingham and I am your School Board Trustee representative for Wards 1 and 2.

As a school board trustee, my role is to maintain a focus on student achievement, well-being and equity and to participate in making decisions that benefit our board's entire jurisdiction while representing the interest of my constituents.

I look forward to visiting our schools and seeing all of the hard work that is taking place by students and staff.

I'd invite you to reach out to me to introduce yourself and share any positive feedback or concerns you might have about the schools in our wards. I can be reached by email at [cbingham@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:cbingham@hwdsb.on.ca) or by phone at 289-339-6902.



### Grade 5 Volleyball Club

Many of our grade 5 students participated in the volleyball club held during nutrition break and after school. The students explored the skills and strategies needed to play full court volleyball. They are ready for Dalewood!

The next grade 5 club will be basketball, beginning in February.



## Thank you Thank you!

Once again our Lunch Clubs were a huge success. Students were given the opportunity to participate in various clubs such as Floorball, Knitting, Healthy Cooking, Crafts, Dodgeball, Science, Lego, Board Games, Skipping, Building Blocks and Jewelry Making! Thank you to our parent volunteers and staff members who lead and organized these amazing activities during the lunch hour.



## Socks, Hat & Mitten Drive

Thank you to everyone who donated to our Sock, Hat & Mitten Drive! It was great to see so many students excited about this amazing initiative. The response has been overwhelming and we will now be able to keep many children warm this winter because of your help! All donations will be going to a school in need. Many thanks to Ms. O'Breza, Mme Titian and our Student Council for organizing this event!



**Remind** is a fantastic way to keep you notified of important events and reminders in our school!

Join our Cootes Paradies School Parent Community! Download the Remind App to receive school reminders directly to your phone. To join, simply go to:

<https://www.remind.com/join/cootes>



## MEDICAL ALERT

**Just a reminder that Cootes is a NUT FREE School. We have both staff and students with severe life-threatening allergies to peanuts and tree nuts. Do not send any nut products to school with your child. Thank you!**

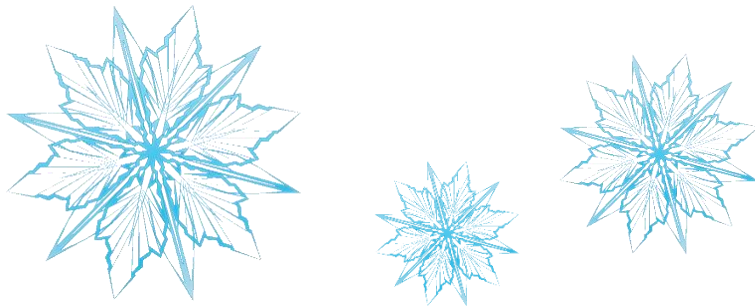


## Attendance - Lates/Absences

Just a reminder that our school day starts at 9:00 a.m. Any students arriving past this time will be considered late.

Absenteeism and/or lateness often has an impact on a student's academic achievement. In order for all of our students to fully benefit from the learning opportunities provided at Cootes Paradise Elementary School, we ask that your child attend on time and on a regular basis.

If there is something that we should be aware of causing these recurring absences and/or lates, please feel free to contact the office and we will gladly support in any way we can.



## HWDSB NUTRITION POLICY

The HWDSB has an approved Nutrition Policy set forth by the Ministry of Education. The purpose of the policy is to guide school communities in the development of healthy school nutrition environments in which everyone is encouraged to make nutritious food choices and beverage choices.

Schools are entitled to 10 Special Event Days in which food & beverages sold or served in schools are exempt from the nutrition standard outlined in the Policy. These 10 days are pre-determined and include special holidays and lunches.

Unfortunately, birthdays do not fall under the 10 Special Event days. Please refrain from sending in cakes, cupcakes, donuts or other sweets to celebrate a birthday unless it is a take home treat. Cheese, vegetable and fruit trays are a great alternative!



## Coming to Cootes on February 8<sup>th</sup>!

Carousal Players will be coming to Cootes on February 8<sup>th</sup> to present to our Grade 4 & 5 students! **"Whole World"** is about Omar who is a refugee newly arrived in Canada. He's trying to feel at home in his new school, but his efforts keep getting lost in translation. This is a story about understanding that all kids can learn from. Thank you to Home & School for funding this great learning opportunity. A similar presentation will be coming to Cootes in the spring for our primary students!



## Cootes Paradise Home & School Association



Welcome back! The Home & School Association has a number of fun events coming up in January that we hope you and your child(ren) will participate in. Also, please join us for our next Home & School meeting January 23 at 7pm in the library. Childcare is available.

### **Read-a-thon - January 21 - February 3**

Our school is once again celebrating Literacy Week with the annual Read-a-thon, with the help of the Home & School Association. This event is aimed at encouraging a love of reading; we hope this school event encourages all students to read a little extra and to take the initiative for that reading. Every minute spent reading alone, listening to someone reading, or reading to others can earn their class a pizza party! Forms will be sent home on Monday January 21 and students are asked to keep track of their reading from January 21 - February 3. Any questions, please email Veronica at [veronica.riemer@gmail.com](mailto:veronica.riemer@gmail.com). Happy reading!

### **Family Skate – January 27 1-2pm**

Bring the family and join us for a fun afternoon of family skating at Coronation Arena (81 Macklin St. N) on Sunday January 27 from 1-2pm followed by hot cider. There are a limited number of spots, so go to <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/cootes-family-skate-tickets-53248648140> to reserve your free tickets. Donations to help cover the cost of the ice rental are welcome, but are not required.

### **Paisley Coffeeshouse Art Exhibit - February 1 – March 15**

Coming Soon! February 1-March 15, Paisley Coffeeshouse will be running an art exhibit featuring Mme. Trepanier's class' works – watercolour on watercolour paper. Home & School is very excited to be partnering with Paisley Coffeeshouse to offer you a Cootes Paradise student art exhibit for the first time! Stay tuned for details on an opening event. We hope you'll check it out.

### **Class Parent/Guardian Reps Needed**

We still need a few Class Parent/Guardian Reps. Classes without reps are the following:

Ms King-Rankin/Carla Patterson (Room 119);

Ms Harrison (Room 107);

Mr Persaud (Room 131);

Ms Edgar (Room 225);

Ms Mastroluisi (Room 224).

If you are interested, please email: [cootesclassparentreps@gmail.com](mailto:cootesclassparentreps@gmail.com)

### **Fundraising**

Thanks to everyone who baked or bought treats at our bake sale at the holiday concert which raised \$206!

Try this at home:

Help your child become  
a better **READER**  
Questions to ask your child while reading  
fiction text.

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- Who is the main character?
- What is the setting in the story? Does the setting change?
- What was the problem in the story and how was it solved?
- Did the character change during the story? How?
- How are you like the main character? How are you different?
- What do you predict will happen next in the story?
- Why do you think the author chose this title for the story?
- Do you like the title of the story? Why or why not?
  - Can you think of a different title for the story?
- Which character from the story would you choose to be your friend? Why?
- Which part of the story was the most exciting? Why?
- Did you like the end of the story? Why or why not?
- Which parts in the story could really happen? Which parts could not really happen?

fun-in-first.blogspot.com