

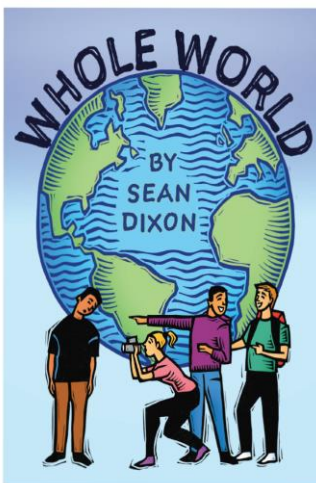
# The Paradise Chronicle

## February 2019 Edition

Now that we are well into the New Year, February will be a productive month keeping our staff and students busy!

Students in grades 1-5 will be receiving their First Term Report Card on February 12<sup>th</sup>, and students in JK/SK will be receiving their Communication of Learning on February 12<sup>th</sup>. We kindly ask that you please take the time to review the Report Card with your child and work through the Student/Parent Comment Section of the handout that will be sent home with the report. Please complete the form and return it with your child.

On behalf of the Cootes staff, we hope you enjoy time off with one another on Family Day and let's hope for some enjoyable outdoor weather!

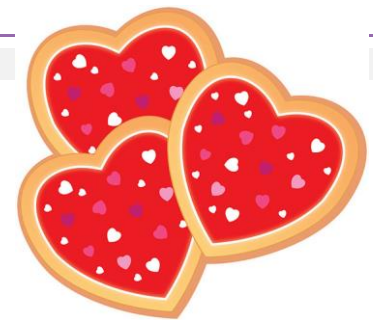


**Thank you** to our Home & School who generously donated funds to pay for our "Whole World" Presentation. The presentation will be for our Grades 4 & 5 students and will be held on February 8<sup>th</sup>.

# February

## Dates to Remember:

- Every Wednesday is Lunch Lady
- Feb 1 – Subway Day
- Feb 4 – Kindergarten Registration Begins
- Feb 8 – Whole World Presentations for Gr 4-5
- Feb 8 – Pizza Day
- Feb 12 – Term 1 Reports Sent home
- Feb 13 – Parent Council Meeting @ 6:30pm – the focus will be on EQAO
- Feb 14 – Rm 216 Valentine's Day Bake Sale
- Feb 15 – Subway Day
- Feb 15 – FDK Pizza Day
- Feb 18 – Family Day (no school)
- Feb 22 – Pizza Day
- Feb 25 – Fire Safety Presentation
- Feb 27 – Chinese New Year Celebration
- Mar 1 – PD Day
- Mar 7 – Lockdown Drill
- Mar 8 – Move & Groove-A-Thon
- Mar 11-15 – Winter Break



You don't have to see the whole staircase. Just take the first step!

# 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.



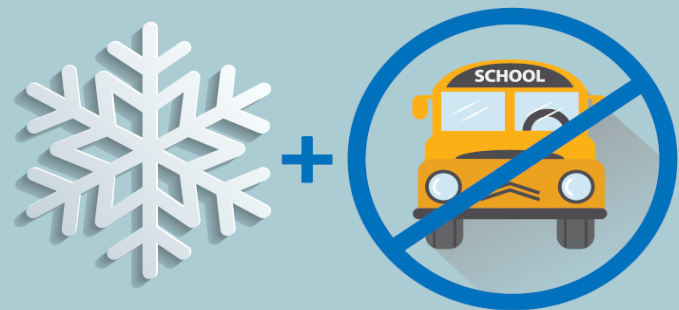
### When do we make decisions?

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.

## *Countdown* to **KINDERGARTEN**

Kindergarten registration begins on **Monday, February 4th, 2019**, for the 2019-20 school year! Please come into the office and see Miss Marrone or Mrs. Baines to fill out a registration package or complete your registration on-line.

**Only parents or legal guardians can register their children for school. The following documents are required:**

- **Proof of age (child's birth certificate or passport);**
- **Proof of address (identification that shows parent/guardian's current home address);**
- **Proof of immunization;**
- **Verification of date of arrival/immigration documents (if the child was not born in Canada).**
- **Completed Student Registration Form - available at the school or online at [www.hwdsb.on.ca/kindergarten](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/kindergarten)**

### **Drop off/Pick-Up**

If your child is late or returning from an appointment, please drop them off at the office and we will direct them to their classroom. Please do not accompany your child to class. This applies with our pick-up procedure as well.





## From the Library

There have been a lot of wet library books being returned to the library recently. Some of these books have to be discarded as they are so badly damaged. Please put your library book in a bag to protect it in your backpack from wet mittens and outdoor clothing. Thank you for your support! Let's keep the books clean and dry so many others may ENJOY them.

Mrs. Rich 📖



## Cold Weather and Outdoor Play

Time spent outdoors is an integral part of the school day. Children need fresh air and exercise and time spent outside affords students an opportunity to break free from the structure of the classroom. It is important that children come to school prepared for the cold. Boots, mittens or gloves, snow pants and hats should be worn to school and it's a good idea to provide extra mittens, socks, etc. in the event they are needed. As always, Principals use their judgment in determining whether or not students remain inside during recess given the weather conditions. However, the City of Hamilton's Public Health and Community Services Department recommends individuals stay indoors when the temperature drops below minus 15 degrees Celsius without wind chill.

This is the approach we will take at Cootes Paradise School.



## 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!**





Students at Cootes Paradise continue to benefit from the TasteBuds Snack Program. Mrs. Parlar and Mrs. Steele, our parent volunteers who work behind the scenes for the program would like to thank Anna, Selena, Zachariah and Ryan. These reliable Grade 3 students have helped deliver snacks to classrooms since October. We welcome Tatiana, Ahmad, Anna and Samira who will continue as Tastebuds helpers. Please visit <http://www.tastebudshamilton.ca/> to learn more about this invaluable community partner that helps fill hungry tummies so that students can focus on the important task of learning.

## Moving Edgeucation

Through the generous financial support of our Home & School Association, teachers at Cootes Paradise have another powerful tool to engage students in their learning. Teachers began unpacking this active online digital resource with their students in October. The activities support students to be more actively engaged, creative and confident in their learning. Click on this link [https://youtu.be/6\\_-3OmRcQB8](https://youtu.be/6_-3OmRcQB8) to understand how Moving EDGEucation activities re-energize students AND educators. Visit <https://www.movingedgeucation.com/> for additional information.



## Valentine's Day Bake Sale

On February 14th, Room 216 will be having a bake sale to raise funds for Food4Kids!

Food4Kids is an organization dedicated to fighting child hunger in Ontario. Food4Kids provides healthy food for kids with limited or no access to food each weekend, and during the holidays. Packages of healthy food are prepared by volunteers and delivered to schools weekly and homes during the holidays to ensure children do not go hungry.

We promise that our treats will be delicious, homemade and nut free. (All Ingredients will be included)

Our goal is to raise \$400!

**\$ 1.00 a treat (1 treat per person)**

**For more information, visit:** <https://www.food4kids.ca/>



# BAKE SALE



## Chinese New Year Potluck Party

**When: Wednesday, February 27th, 2019 from 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.**

**Where: Gymnasium, Cootes Paradise Elementary School  
900 King Street W, Hamilton, ON, L8S1K6**

Please bring a healthy, nut-free Chinese dish (no junk food), and join us for a Chinese New Year and Lantern Festival feast! We welcome all Cootes Paradise families, friends and those who are interested in the Mandarin Program to attend!

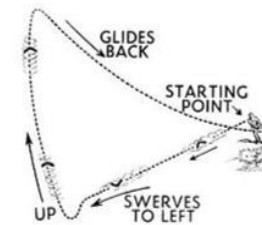
## BOOMERANG LUNCHES!



Modern sport boomerangs



*Dear Parents, Guardians and Students:  
Please help the Cootes Paradise Elementary Eco Team reduce waste by not throwing out compost and recyclable plastic. We would kindly like your children to bring home compost and recyclable plastic from their lunches. At home you can compost, recycle, and reuse. Boomerang lunches start in February! Hope you participate!*



A boomerang returns to the point from which it was sent



More information to follow!



### School Update. What's Cooking at The Lunch Lady?

It always surprises me how quickly the month of January feels like it comes and goes! That said, February is one of my favourite months! From Valentine's to Family Day, it is a month of *enjoying the little moments* ♥ with friends & family!

This year, The Lunch Lady is going bananas over our Valentine's Special menu! We love this fun lunch and can't wait to share it with Cootes Paradise!

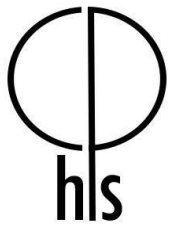
Our Valentine's Special menu features a choice of our whole grain pancakes or French toast with three different side options - something for everyone! A kid favourite is sure to be the pancakes or French toast with our delicious (& healthy) chunky monkey parfait - made with Greek vanilla yogurt, bananas 🍌 & chocolate chips!

*The Valentine's Special menu will be offered alongside the regular menu on your Lunch Lady Day.*

### Grade 4 CCAT Results

The results of the Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test (CCAT7) have arrived. Parents of students who qualify for further gifted screening will be notified by phone and in writing. Individual results are available by contacting your child's teacher, as well as Mme Swan or Mrs. Morgan.





## Cootes Paradise Home & School Association

### H&S Funds

Thank you to all of the families that came to the Cootes Family Skate on January 27<sup>th</sup>! It was a fun hour of skating and “hot” apple cider! We look forward to putting this on again next year. Over the next couple of months, the students and teachers will get to enjoy theatre performances, artists in the classroom and print making baskets for the kindergarten students – these are all made possible through funds raised by H&S.

### Spring Lunch Clubs

Can you spare time once a week for six weeks to help with Lunch Clubs? We plan to start the spring clubs again after March Break. If you are able to lead a club, we'd love the help. Past clubs have included Lego, Dodgeball, Crafts, Knitting, Board games, Cooking, Gardening, and many more. If you can help, please email Sarah Henderson (s22hender@hotmail.com), and let her know the day of the week that is best for you, the club you'd be interested in running, the grade levels, and the number of students who could join you.

### Staff Appreciation Lunch – Feb 26th

Every year we organize a staff appreciation lunch to say thank you to the fabulous staff at Cootes Paradise. This year's event is Feb 26<sup>th</sup>.

We're looking for people to provide a dish for this event - entree, salad, side, dessert... We have a staff of over 60 at Cootes Paradise, so we need a number of dishes to make this happen. Food items can be dropped off in the Community Kitchen (near the gym) any time before 10am. No nuts or pork please. Sign up at the following link if you can help out <http://signup.com/go/aXrAMNs> or email Heather at [heharvey@hotmail.com](mailto:heharvey@hotmail.com).

### Read-a-thon

KEEP READING! The Read-a-Thon wraps up on Sunday Feb 3 and forms are due back Monday Feb 4. Be sure to record all the minutes that your child read, was read to or read to someone else. The winning class will be announced later this month.

### Silent Auction Fundraiser

Planning is underway for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual **Cootes after Dark Silent Auction!** At this time, we are looking for volunteers to collect donations and/or help for the night of. *Do you have your smart serve certificate and would be willing to serve for a block of time during the evening of Friday April 5<sup>th</sup>? Do you or someone you know own a business and would like to donate an item or service for the auction?* Please contact Nicole Howe and Molly Griffioen at: [cootessilentauction@gmail.com](mailto:cootessilentauction@gmail.com).

### Items to Note:

Forms for Friday lunches, move-a-thon, and lunch clubs will be going home in early February – keep your eyes open for those!

Paisley Coffeehouse Art Exhibit – ‘Our Inspiration’ featuring art from Mme. Trepanier’s class is running from Feb 1 – March 15. **An Opening Night will be held on February 7<sup>th</sup> from 5:30pm – 7:30pm!**

We are still in need of Class Reps for the following four classes: King-Rankin, Harrison, Persaud and Edgar. If you are interested or would like more information about the position, please be in touch.