

The Paradise Chronicle

March

March 2019 Edition

Dear Parents/Guardian:

After a long winter, I know we are all ready for spring and all the wonderful things that come with it. Families are getting ready with excitement for March Break which begins on March 11th and we will all come back refreshed and ready to continue with all the wonderful learning that happens at Cootes Paradise on March 18th!

Your child's first term report cards were sent home in February. Report Cards focused on student achievement that has been covered from September to the end of January. I hope you've had a chance to read over the report with your child to identify and discuss their areas of strength, next steps and goals for improvement.



Dates to Remember:

- Every Wed. is Lunch Lady
- March 1 – PD Day
- March 7 – Lockdown Drill
- March 8 – Grade 4 & 5 Level Public Speaking
- March 8 – Groove-A-Thon
- March 8 – Subway
- March 8 – National Sweater Day
- March 10 – Daylight Saving Time begins
- March 11-15 – March Break
- March 17 – St. Patrick's Day
- March 22 – Subway
- March 22 – Kindergarten Pizza
- March 27 – Home & School Meeting @ 7pm
- March 29 – Pizza Day
- April 5 – Cootes After Dark Silent Auction
- April 10 – International Day of Pink
- April 10 – School Council Meeting



Thank you to our Home & School and all the parent volunteers for the amazing staff appreciation luncheon you provided on February 23rd. You generously go above and beyond! The food was delicious and the attention to detail made it even more special for us.

We are forever grateful – from the Cootes Paradise Staff!

The Smoke-Free Ontario Act

Smoking cannabis or tobacco and vaping any substance is prohibited anywhere on school property and in public areas within 20 metres of the perimeter of the school grounds. If you are caught smoking or vaping in school or on school property, you may be ticketed and fined. Fines start at \$305.



After School Scholars Program

Grade 3 students have been invited to participate in the After School Scholars Program, which is designed to offer small group instruction in the area of Mathematics. This program will help students strengthen their skills, preparing them for the EQAO assessment and for future grades. Thank you to Mrs. Mastroluisi who will be delivering the program after school beginning on March 4th.

Artists in the Classroom!

Thank you to our Arts Council for helping to initiate our Artist in the Classroom program. Through funding provided by our Home & School, professional artists are able to come our classrooms to provide rich learning experiences for our students!



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!





Kindergarten registration is now open for the 2019- 2020 school year!
Please come into the office and see Mrs. Baines or Miss Marrone to fill out a registration package or complete your registration on-line.



School Parking Lot

Just a friendly reminder that when drop off or pick up your child please do not block the bus loading zone or enter the parking lot. We want to ensure the safety of all our students as they are being transported to and from Cootes. Please leave all accessible parking spots free unless you have a valid permit.

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 go to your child's class without signing in at the office first. This applies with our pick up procedure as well.



The Forest of Reading club ran for 6 weeks and ended on March 4. We had a huge response and an enthusiastic group of students. We voted on the 10 Blue Spruce Award titles, and the favourite book was "Tricky" by Kari Rust. The Blue Spruce Award is a provincial primary reading program and is based on recently published Canadian children's picture books. These 10 books will be available at Cootes library after March Break. You can also look for them at the Hamilton Public Libraries. We love to see happy, engaged listeners!

Thank you to Mrs. Rich and Mrs. Tiringier for facilitating this amazing program!

Oral Communication Festival and The Concours d'Art Oratoire for our Grade 4 and 5 Students!

As part of our Language curriculum, over the last few weeks, grade 4 and 5 students were invited to prepare for and participate in the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board's Oral Communication Festival as well as The Concours d'Art Oratoire. For this Festival, which is a public speaking contest, the students will be responsible for the writing and delivery of short, researched speeches in English and French. The first stage in the competition is at the classroom level where students present their speeches to classmates. Winning speeches will be selected from each participating class to compete at our school competition on March 8th and March 22nd for our French Immersion classes. One winning speech will be selected to move on and compete at the next level.

Thank you in advance for your support of this learning experience. We recognize this may be a first-time experience for many of our students but we will support them in the challenges they may encounter when faced with Public Speaking.

Thank you to Mrs. Morgan and Mrs. Swan for organizing and leading these valued programs at Cootes!



The Fountains of Uke Program

Beginning in January of this year, Mrs. Rudzroga has been teaching how to play the ukulele to Mrs. Reeson's Grade 5 students. The Fountains of Uke program is a McMaster student run community engagement program that uses musical and non-musical activities to connect seniors who live in long-term care (LTC) with elementary students in order to bridge intergenerational gaps.

This year, students will be visiting Shalom Village March 18th and April 1st during the last hour of school to participate in musical activities with the senior residents.

Please visit the attached link to read about the benefits of this intergenerational project:

<https://imhope.ca/fountains-of-uke/>

Cootes students have had the opportunity to participate in The Fountains of Uke for the past five years. A great big thanks to Mrs. Rudzroga for making this possible for students at Cootes Paradise Elementary School.



National Sweater Day

National Sweater Day is a WWF-Canada campaign, which asks Canadians to turn down their heat and turn up their sweaters in the name of energy conservation. National Sweater Day is about valuing energy. It's a chance to think about how we use energy, where our energy comes from and how we play an important role in fighting climate change by using energy wisely, not wastefully.
(http://www.wwf.ca/events/sweater_day/)

Although it is usually observed in February, at Cootes we will lower the temperature on **Friday March 8th**. **Students are asked to wear a sweater as it might be a bit chilly.**

At home, your child may want to discuss how your family can change its behaviours around energy consumption. On National Sweater Day, if all Canadians lowered their thermostats by just two degrees Celsius, it would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about four megatons – equivalent to taking nearly 700, 000 cars off the road.



World Water Day

World Water Day (March 22) tries to remind people about the significance of fresh water and to promote sustainability for fresh water resources' management. It's a day to celebrate water. It's a day to prepare for how we manage water in the future.

Each year World Water Day highlights a specific aspect of freshwater. For 2019 this is: 'Leaving no one behind'.

The Eco-Club is very excited to be launching some activities and recognition. Please stay tuned.



Earth Hour

Our connection to Earth and nature is undeniable: our planet's gain is everyone's gain.

Healthy nature makes our life better by providing us good food, clean air, and fresh water - but it is all under the threat of climate change. Our #Connect2Earth campaign aims to raise awareness on the important role of nature in our lives and the benefits nature provides, from good food, clean air, fresh water, to so much more.

This Earth Hour, join millions around the world to turn off the lights and speak up why nature matters.

#Connect2Earth From www.earthhour.org

At Cootes, we will observe Earth Hour on **Friday March 29, 2019 from 12:30-1:30 p.m.** We will kick off the event with a short video from www.earthhour.org. Then, wherever it is safe and possible to do so, we will turn off or dim the lights. We will avoid using electrical devices.

Want to do more? Why not take part in Earth Hour at home? The actual date and time to observe Earth Hour is on March 30, 2019, from 8:30-9:00 p.m.

Visit www.earthhour.org for more information.

A New Way to Report Student Absences

We work to ensure that **all students arrive at school safely each day.**

To improve our safe arrival process, we are introducing a new system that will make it easier and more convenient for you to report - and respond to - your child's school absences.

SafeArrival allows families to report or schedule a future absence in one of three ways:

1. Website



2. App



3. Phone



This will save time when a school needs to verify student attendance, and when notifying families of unexpected or unplanned absences.

Watch for more details in the weeks ahead. We will be confirming family email addresses, sharing details about SafeArrival and giving you plenty of notice before its launch.

We look forward to all families taking part.

Coffee with a Cop!



Parents are invited to join our Community Police Officer P.C. Lindsay David on Wednesday, March 27th from 9:00am – 10:00am at Cootes Paradise for a coffee. No agenda and no script!

Hot Chocolate with a Cop!



Following the parent invitation, our Grade 2 students will be invited to have hot chocolate with our Community Police Officer as well. Through scheduled session, the students will have the opportunity to chat and ask questions in the hopes of getting to know her a little better and to learn about her role.

COOTES PARADISE ELEMENTARY
HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION PRESENTS:

Cootes After Dark

SILENT AUCTION AND FUNDRAISER
FRIDAY, APRIL 5

Cootes Paradise Home & School Association



We have some activities that are student favourites coming up in March! We also have our Home & School meeting at the end of the month and invite all interested parents to attend. This past month we funded drama performances for the students as well as Artist in the Classroom. We also donated money to Sir Wilfred Laurier Public School to help fund an end of the year trip for their Grade 8 students – something that they've not been able to do before. This is part of our outreach efforts to higher needs schools in Hamilton who are not able to fundraise to the same extent as Cootes Paradise. More information on all our events is below.

Staff Appreciation Lunch

Thank you so much to all the volunteers who contributed to the staff appreciation lunch. I received many personal thank-yous from staff and some lovely notes saying how much the lunch was appreciated. Thank you so much for taking the time out of your very busy schedules to provide food for the staff and to let them know how much we appreciate them.

Move and Groove A Thon – Friday March 8

This Friday, March 8th is our annual Move and Groove A Thon! This popular event gives students a chance to move and groove to their favourite songs while raising money to support events such as “Artists in the Classroom”, professional drama presentations, and “Cootes Draws”. Contributions can be made by cash or cheque (payable to Cootes Paradise Home and School Association) or online at <https://move-and-groove-a-thon.cheddarup.com>. Don't forget to send some change on Friday to buy glow sticks (4 for \$1).

Lunch Clubs – Forms due Friday March 8

Lunch clubs will run again after March Break and forms went home this week. Thanks to all the parent and teacher volunteers that helped to make these popular activities happen. Be sure to have your child's form handed in by Friday March 8th with their first and second choice indicated. Space is limited, so participants will be selected using a lottery system, if necessary.

Cootes After Dark Silent Auction

Book your babysitters now! The 2nd Annual Cootes After Dark Silent Auction is being held on Friday April 5th - doors open 6:30 - auction bidding runs from 7pm-9pm. There will be lots of amazing items to bid on, live music, food and refreshments to enjoy and to purchase! Last year's event was a huge success and we are excited to be holding it again for parents and the community to enjoy. This year, Sir Wilfred Laurier will be hosting a table at the auction - their Gr. 8 students have been working hard to canvas local businesses in their area to fill their table with great items! All proceeds from their table will go directly towards funding their Gr. 8 end of year trip.

Home & School Meeting – Wednesday March 27

Join us for our Home & School meeting on Wednesday March 27 at 7:00pm in the library. Child minding is available.

Paisley Coffeehouse Art Exhibit – ends March 15

If you haven't had a chance to stop by Paisley Coffeehouse in Westdale to check out the student art exhibit featuring Mme. Trepanier's class, be sure to stop by before March 15 to view the art and grab a drink and/or a snack. It is a fabulous exhibit that you don't want to miss!