

The Paradise Chronicle

April Edition



Dates to Remember:

- April 2 – Evacuation Drill
- April 2 – World Autism Day
- April 5 – Cooties after Dark Silent Auction
- April 5 – Subway Day
- April 9-10 – Dental Screening for our FDK and Grade 2 students
- April 10 – International Day of Pink
- April 10 – Parent Council Meeting @ 6:30 pm
- April 12 – Pizza Day
- April 17 – Wear Yellow Day
- April 18 – Arts Council Meeting
- April 19 – Good Friday (No School)
- April 21 - Easter
- April 22 – Easter Monday (No School)
- April 24 – Fire Drill
- April 25 – Water Walk
- April 26 – Grade 1-3 Theatre Performance
- April 26 – Kindergarten Pizza Day
- April 26 – Subway Day
- May 6 – 10 – Education Week – Children's Mental Health Week
- May 6 – Music Monday, Open House, Book Fair
- May 12 – Happy Mother's Day



Day of PINK

On Wednesday, **April 10, 2019** staff and students across HWDSB will join millions of people worldwide who wear pink on the International Day of Pink.

We do this because we want to make a statement that we stand against all forms of bullying. It also reminds us that if we stand up and speak out, we can make a difference.

The International Day of Pink began in Nova Scotia when two high school students saw a classmate being bullied for wearing a pink shirt.

The two students intervened, but wanted to do more. A few days later they were able to get their entire school to wear pink. That school sent a message that together we can stop bullying.

We know that bullying is a problem in our schools and in our wider community. Bullying can happen to anyone, anywhere. Collectively, we can stand up and speak out against bullying.

We will continue to support anti-bullying efforts that make our schools safe and welcoming places for all of our students.

Please wear Pink on Wednesday, April 10th to show your Support!



Secure School Information

During the second term, Cootes will be required to conduct at least 3 Fire Drills, 1 Lockdown Drill and 1 Evacuation Drill so that students are prepared in the event of a real emergency. Please do not be alarmed if your child tells you that the alarm went off at school. This is all part of our Emergency Plan of Action.

The BIG Crunch!

On March 28th, the Cootes community participated in the Big Crunch. At this assembly we also thanked our parent and student healthy snack volunteers. The entire school read the book "No Ordinary Apple: A Story About Eating Mindfully" by Sara Marlowe. We had a great time exploring our apple through the five senses and with over 650 participants, our big crunch was REALLY BIG!!

Thanks to Drummond Farms for the donation of the apples and Mrs. Mackenzie for leading this engaging event!



EQAO

On **May 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 28th, 29th & 30th**, our Grade 3 students will be participating in the Education Quality and Accountability Office's (EQAO's) Assessment of Reading, Writing and Math. If possible we ask that you please avoid booking any appointments for your child during this time. Students have been preparing for this assessment throughout the year and we are proud of all their efforts and wish them all the best!



CRAM-A-CRUISER FOOD DRIVE!

The Pinball Clemons Foundation is hosting the JUST GIVE Cram-A-Cruiser Food Drive in partnership with the Hamilton Police Service and Hamilton Food Share. This campaign was designed to inspire kindness throughout our communities by filling the food banks for the summer; a time when they are usually empty. Last year Cootes Paradise School did an amazing job and we are offering the challenge once again!

LETS COLLECT ENOUGH NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS TO CRAM AN ENTIRE POLICE CRUISER!

From April 29th to May 13th please send a non-perishable food item or two! The police cruiser will arrive at Cootes on May 15th and the police will then deliver the donations to the food banks.

Thank you to Mme Ly who will be organizing this amazing Food Drive!



The "Learning Through the Arts Program"

Our Grade 5 Core French and French Immersion students will be part of a fantastic learning opportunity that focuses on differentiated instruction of CORE curriculum using the Arts as the vehicle for learning. This program is made possible by the Art Gallery of Hamilton.

The goal of this program is to integrate the Arts as instructional strategies into core curriculum by having community artists partner with our teachers. The professional artists receive extensive and ongoing training to support education, have numerous classroom experiences and many have been principal artists with the program for many years.

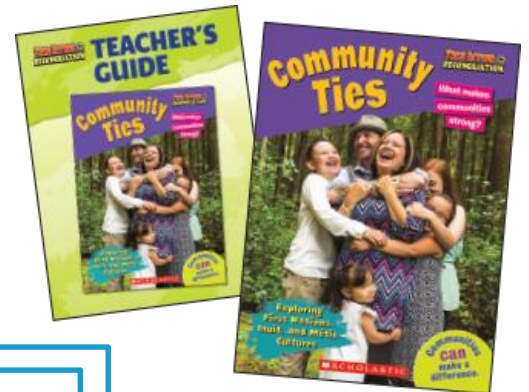
We are extremely excited about this opportunity for our Grade 5 students. The program will be introduced within the next few weeks.



New Resources @ Cootes

Announcing the arrival of some brand new Indigenous Resources! These Take Action for Reconciliation booklets are in class sets and are a wonderful, colourful fact-filled addition to Cootes. With titles such as: "We Are the Land", and "Community Ties", students will definitely gain important knowledge in this area.

Thank you to our *Home and School* for their generous donation for these well-needed resources!



Education Week - Open House

Monday, May 6th from 5pm-7pm

Kindergarten Information Night

Thursday, May 16th from 4pm-5pm

**SEE YOU
SOON ...**



Carousel Players Presents: The Incredible Adventures of Mary Jane Mosquito

MARY JANE, THE WINGLESS MOSQUITO, IS DETERMINED TO FIND NEW FRIENDS.

In this story of a misfit searching for her place in the world, Mary Jane is a mosquito who doesn't have wings. At home in Petit Petit Le Paw she is teased by the other mosquitos, who won't be friends with her. She is sent off to school, and then to live with her auntie in the city, as she searches for a place where she can fit in and make friends. After many adventures, Mary Jane learns to make friends sharing her language, her kind heart, and her songs with the world.

This musical show explores themes of feeling like an outsider, dealing with bullying, moving to a new place, and feeling different from the what's considered normal. As Mary Jane tells her tale through song and story, Tomson Highway has woven in Cree words and phrases that are taught to the audience through playful interaction. With live music throughout, and supported with puppetry and fanciful costumes, this is an engaging piece for younger audiences.

Thank you to Home & School for funding this great learning opportunity.

Our Grade 1 to 3 students will have the amazing opportunity to see this show on April 26th at Cootes Paradise.



Randomly selected Cootes students were part of a fantastic research project partnership with McMaster University. Our input helped inform the development of the Physical Literacy Environmental Assessment (PLEA) Tool. The PLEA Tool is a program evaluation tool for sport, physical education and physical activity programs to assess how they are implementing the principles of physical literacy. You can access the PLEA Tool free-of-charge on [Sport for Life's](#) website.

Wear Yellow Day!

Wear Yellow Day (WYD) is a celebration and awareness raising event about active and sustainable school travel. Students, parents, and staff are encouraged to wear yellow; and to walk or wheel to and from school. Not only is this a great way to be physically active, it also helps decrease our carbon footprint.



Water Walk



On Thursday April 25th the students of Cootes Paradise will be participating in a water walk. They will walk the track to get an understanding of how far some people have to walk to collect water on a daily basis. Students will

also have the option of carrying a bucket of water with them while they walk to understand what the walk back from the watering source would be like. Students are being asked to donate \$2 for the event. Any money raised will be donated to WaterAid Canada. Fruit infused water will be available for students to enjoy throughout the event. Students are encouraged to bring a reusable water bottle to fill. If they do not bring a water bottle paper cups will be available and should be recycled after use. More details will follow closer to the event.

Thank you Mrs. Mastroluisi and her Grade 3/4 class for leading this fabulous initiative!

Design the Agenda Cover Contest

Our grade 4 students will soon be given the opportunity to design our agenda cover for the 2019/20 school year! We are looking forward to seeing all the entries!

More information to follow shortly for our grade 4 students!



Our Attendance Reporting System is Changing

One of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely to school every day. To improve our safe arrival process, HWDSB is adding a new system that will make it easier for you to report – and respond to – your child's school absences. This will take effect on April 22nd, 2019. SafeArrival will let you use a **website, mobile app**, or an interactive toll-free **phone number** to report an absence in advance. This will save time when a school needs to verify student attendance, and when notifying families of unexpected or unplanned absences. An email address is required to log in to SafeArrival and to receive notifications. This new, automated SafeArrival process is part of the SchoolMessenger notification system from West, a company used by many Canadian school boards. There is also a new SchoolMessenger mobile app for iOS and Android devices. It will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to make it convenient for you to report future absences. You will soon receive more details on how to sign up for SafeArrival, as we look forward to all families taking part.

Learn more about SafeArrival at:

bit.ly//safearrivalHWDSB



The ECO Team Needs Your Help!



The Eco Team is asking for community support to improve our waste reduction initiative that was launched as a Boomerang lunch challenge.

Our paper recycling program has been highly successful and now the ECO Team would like to bring back plastic recycling at school.

We would like to teach students environmental stewardship by creating a successful plastic recycling program that is mostly contamination-free. For this, we need community support. In addition, we would also like to add composting at the school level, and for this parent assistance is needed as well.

We are looking for volunteers to come forward so these initiatives can begin as soon as possible.

Responsibilities could include:

- collecting compost and bringing it home
- quality control of plastic recyclables
- other possible roles to be determined once the plastic and compost programs are piloted in phase 1

If you are interested in helping us with our ECO Team, please contact Mme Trepanier or Mlle Rodrigue at the school!

Class Placements 2019/20

With a new school year approaching, many parents wonder about who their child's teacher will be. This process for organizing classes will soon be underway. When creating classes, teachers meet with each other and school administration to discuss the needs of each student. Some of the issues that are considered are:

- Balance of ability, interests, and talents
- Balance of males/females
- Learning styles of students
- Teaching styles of teachers
- Resources and remedial needs, enrichment needs
- Students to be kept together or separated because of the positive/negative influence on each other's learning.



We appreciate your trust in our professional judgement in balancing the considerations mentioned above. The final decision for class placements is the responsibility of the principal. If you have further information regarding your child's learning needs that we should consider, please send me an email or note with the specifics. **We will not entertain requests for specific teachers.** Please consider the bullets listed above. We will do our best to accommodate your child so that we can maximize their learning opportunities and be successful. **Please note that all requests are due to Mr. Fede by May 13th , and that class placements are tentative until the end of September.**

Out of Catchment Requests

It is hard to believe that the end of the school year is soon approaching. For the 2019/20 school year, both Cootes Paradise & Dalewood schools are closed to any families who live outside of the catchment area.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all of our Out of Catchment families that have children in Grade 5, that they will have to be registered at their home school for their transition into their Grade 6 academic year. Please contact your home school to inquire about any Grade 6 Information or Open House sessions that might be available to help with this transition.

If you are unsure of your child's home school, please use HWDSB's School Locator found at:

www.hwdsb.on.ca/find/



Cootes Paradise Home & School Association



It's hard to believe spring is here! As the end of the school year quickly approaches, Home & School activities are starting to wind down. As a result, we're starting to plan for next year and looking for volunteers to participate on our Executive and volunteers to help coordinate various fundraising activities and events. If you're at all interested in taking on more of a leadership or coordination role, please speak to a member of the Executive or email us at cootes.paradise.hsa@gmail.com. We have one last fundraising event this year – our **Cootes After Dark Silent Auction**. It's a great chance to get out with some other parents and come home with some fabulous things. Hope to see you there!

Cootes After Dark Silent Auction

Join us this Friday – **April 5th from 7-9pm** in the Cootes Gymnasium, for an evening of fundraising, refreshments, food and live music – to benefit the students of Cootes Paradise and Sir Wilfred Laurier Elementary School. There are over 100 amazing items to bid on – something for everyone! The kids have also been working hard to put class canvasses together – word is they look amazing! Come for the evening or just for a bit – it is surely to be a great night out with other parents of the school community!

Move and Groove A Thon

This year's Move and Groove A Thon raised over \$3000! Thanks to everyone who donated so generously. This money will go towards professional drama presentations, Cootes Draws as well as help to purchase equipment for recess and DPA for the students. A special thank you to Lynda Brewer and Ashley Francis for their leadership and coordination of this fundraising event.

Grade 5 Farewell – June

Following the Grade 5 Farewell, Home & School always hosts a small celebration for the Grade 5 students and their families. We're looking 2-3 parents to volunteer to coordinate this. You're needed the morning of the event to help decorate, set-up, put out food and then clean up following the event. It's not too much and the Grade 5s and their families really appreciate it. Please email cootes.paradise.hsa@gmail.com if you're interested.

Spring Lunch Clubs

Lunch Clubs are under way! There were about 170 spots and over 300 kids requesting – so once again, as in the fall, we had to choose spaces lottery style. Thanks again to our parent/teacher volunteers who help make these clubs run!

COOTES PARADISE ELEMENTARY
HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION



SILENT AUCTION

Eat, drink & Bid

Over 100 amazing items from local
artists, stores, restaurants,
breweries and more!

Join us for an evening of fundraising, refreshments and live
music to benefit the students of
Cootes Paradise and Wilfrid Laurier Elementary

FRIDAY, APRIL 5TH

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

COOTES PARADISE ELEMENTARY GYMNASIUM

Contact: CootesSilentAuction@gmail.com



PROFILING *Excellence*



*Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board and the
Parent Involvement Committee invite you to attend...*

PROFILING VOLUNTEER EXCELLENCE 2019

AN OPEN HOUSE CELEBRATION OF HWDSB VOLUNTEERS

We are celebrating those who give their time and energy so that our students succeed. HWDSB and PIC are proud to celebrate the excellence of one of our greatest assets – volunteers!

All volunteers are welcome. Registration is required.

Details:

Thursday, April 11, 2019 - 6 to 8 p.m.

Remarks at 6:30 p.m.

HWDSB Education Centre

20 Education Court (behind Marks Work Warehouse on Upper Wentworth)

Refreshments and appetizers will be served. Business casual attire.

To register and for more information:

Email communications@hwdsb.on.ca or call 905-527-5092 ext. 0

Registration deadline is **12 p.m. Friday, April 5, 2019**

Child minding is available.

We look forward to seeing you!



Cool Little Kids®

An Anxiety Prevention Program: Working with Parents/Primary Caregivers to support young Children

Cool Little Kids is an Evidence Based program grounded in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy

Information Night

April 9, 2019

6:30 pm-7:30pm

Education Centre

20 Education Court

Hamilton, Ontario



RSVP by:

April 5, 2019

Call: 905 527 5092 ext. 2923

Email:

coollittlekids@hwdsb.on.ca

If you are a parent/primary caregiver of a student in JK-Grade 2 and if your child is described as shy, withdrawn or worried, come and learn about the Cool Little Kids Program. Learn practical strategies that will help to build your child's confidence.

**THIS IS A PROGRAM FOR PARENTS AND PRIMARY CAREGIVERS.
CHILDREN DO NOT ATTEND.**



This program is offered by the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board Social Work Department.

Families Worrying Less Together

*A Program for Parents/Primary Caregivers of Kids
Whose Worries Get the Best of Them*

FWLT is an
evidence-informed
program based on
Cognitive
Behavioural Therapy

Information Night

April 9, 2019

6:30 pm-7:30pm

Education Centre

20 Education Court

Hamilton, Ontario



RSVP by:

April 5, 2019

Call: 905 527 5092 ext. 3555

Email:

FWLT@hwdsb.on.ca

If you are a parent/primary caregiver of a student in Grade 3-6 who is excessively shy, or has intense worries and fears, come learn about the “Families Worrying Less Together” program. This program will give you practical strategies to help your child learn to cope differently.

**THIS IS A PROGRAM FOR PARENTS AND PRIMARY CAREGIVERS.
CHILDREN DO NOT ATTEND.**



*This program is offered by the
Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board
Social Work Department.*