

# The Paradise Chronicle

September 2019 Edition



Welcome back! We hope that you have had a fantastic summer break and you are eager to get the year at Cootes School underway.

This year, we will continue to foster your child's strengths through their curiosity, creativity and possibility. We have an amazing staff that will help make that all happen. Through our morning announcements, students will learn more about how they can get involved in the many fun things that Cootes offers. Parents and guardians – check out our monthly newsletters and our school website for important information and upcoming school events.

Here at Cootes, we are proud of our parent and guardian volunteers for their involvement and encourage those interested to view our website and contact the school.

Please remember you are welcome to come and see us if you have any questions, concerns or simply would like to chat.

Welcome back to the 2019-20 school year – let's make it our best yet!

*Mr. D. Fede & Ms. L. van der Put*



## Dates to Remember:

- Sept. 20 – P.A. Day
- Sept. 26 – Terry Fox Run
- Sept. 18 – Home & School Meeting @ 6:30pm in the Library
- Sept. 19 – Outdoor Movie Night – Toy Story 4 @ 7pm
- Sept. 25 – Lunch Lady
- Sept. 26 – Parent Council Meeting @ 6:30pm in the Library
- Sept. 30 – Orange Shirt Day
- Oct. 3 – Olympian Eleanor Harvey Presentation
- Oct. 4 – HWDSB Cross Country Meet
- Oct. 7 – Picture Day
- Oct. 10 – Meet the Teacher
- Oct. 17 – Bus Safety Presentations

Give A Cheer For The New School Year!

L. VANZWOL & M. RISTIC  
 L. FEIL & B. RAJSIC  
 S. KING-RANKIN & C. PATTERSON  
 K. GARDNER & L. ASCENCIO  
 I. JOHNSTON, K. HARRISON & B. HIGGINSON  
 S. PERSAUD  
 L. HENKEL  
 J. McDONALD-SULYMKA  
 C. EDGAR  
 S. DUMITRU  
 S. HOUSTON  
 A. MAGUIRE (LTO) for A. MASTROLUISI  
 R. ROBINSON  
 S. O'BREZA  
 W. REESON  
 R. DANIEL (LTO) for I. FOX  
 K. LEDLIE  
 S. GALLI-LAMARCHE  
 H. JOUINI (LTO) for K. TIRINGER  
 A. TITIAN  
 C. RODRIGUE  
 S. TREPANIER  
 J-M. BARRAY  
 B. HOWELL (LTO) for K. CAMPLANELLA  
 L. WANG & L. TANG  
 L. DING  
 N. ZHANG  
 J. METNI  
 K. MACKENZIE  
 H. LY  
 L. BOOTH & L. PURIC  
 K. HARRISON  
 S. RICH  
 C. MORGAN & V. HEYDRICH-SWAN  
 S. CARTER  
 K. CORNETT  
 K. BROEMSER (LTO – Heather Foley)  
 T. KENESKY (LTO)  
 K. KESSLER  
 T. BLONSKI  
 J. VANBLARICUM  
 L. DECOSTE (.5PM)  
 L. REGLISZYN  
 C. MYKE  
 C. HARRIS, P. FERLEYKO, N. MINIGAN  
 V. MARRONE  
 M. BAINES  
 L. VAN DER PUT  
 D. FEDE

FDK  
 FDK  
 FDK  
 FDK  
 FDK  
 Grade 1  
 Grade 1/2  
 Grade 2  
 Grade 2  
 Grade 2/3  
 Grade 3  
 Grade 3/4  
 Grade 3/4  
 Grade 4  
 Grade 5  
 Grade 5  
 Grade 1 FI  
 Grade 1 FI  
 Grade 1/2 FI  
 Grade 2 FI  
 Grade 2/3 FI  
 Grade 3/4 FI  
 Grade 3/4 FI  
 Grade 4/5 FI  
 FDK Mandarin  
 Grade 1/2 Mandarin  
 Grades 3/4/5 Mandarin  
 Core French & Core English  
 Phys. Ed & Dance  
 Phys. Ed & Core English  
 ESL  
 Music & FDK  
 Library/Health/Media  
 LRT  
 Core English  
 Reading Specialist  
 Educational Assistant  
 Educational Assistant  
 Educational Assistant  
 Educational Assistant  
 Educational Assistant  
 Educational Assistant  
 Educational Assistant  
 Caretaker (AM)  
 Caretakers (PM)  
 Office Administrator  
 Office Administrator  
 Vice-Principal  
 Principal



**Please note that all  
 class placements  
 are tentative until  
 the end of  
 September.**

# HERE'S THE NEWS



Please be sure to read the Volunteer Handbook published on our website. A reminder that new volunteers must provide a Vulnerable Sector Screening Criminal Reference Check (CRC) for review, and that documentation must be completed for each volunteer as outlined in the Policy Directive. Also, all returning volunteers must sign an annual offence declaration and should begin updating their Criminal Reference Check if the three-year window is coming up.

## Parent Parking

Just a friendly reminder that when you are dropping off or picking up your child at school, **please do not use the Cootes Paradise Parking Lot.** To ensure the safety of all our students we are asking for your cooperation in this matter.



## FORMS....FORMS....FORMS!!!

You have received and will be receiving many “**very important**” forms from the office. Please take the time to fill them out and return them to the school with your child ASAP.

## Medical Information



Based on need, your child will soon be coming home with medical forms that need to be completed i.e. asthma, anaphylaxis, diabetes etc. This information will be posted in your child's classroom, the office and in the staff room so that all staff is aware. Just a reminder about **Ryan's Law** – All students who require inhalers are always able to carry them with them.

## Indoor Running Shoes Reminder

Running shoes/boots that are worn outside bring mud and dust into the school. For P.E. & classroom activities students need to wear INDOOR running shoes to help keep the school safe and clean.



### Student Fees

School Fees this year will include Gr. 5 Yearbook, School Lunch Days (pizza days, sub day, Lunch Lady etc.) and Picture Day Pictures. These opportunities are voluntary for our families.

Additionally, families will be asked to pay for costs associated with class trips. Although the decision to participate lies with the parent/guardian, we believe that these excursions are valuable extensions of the learning that is happening in the classroom.

*In the event of a situation where a family is experiencing a hardship related to a school expense (e.g., a class trip), please contact Mr. Fede to confidentially work out a plan for participation.*



### Secure School Information

During this term, Cootes School is 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.

### DISMISSAL POLICY

**ALL bus** students will gather in the gym at 3:15 pm for dismissal.

Students attending After School Care will continue with their regular routine.

Bus students will line up in the gym in their respective bus line and attendance will be taken. They will then be dismissed from the gym and escorted by the teacher on duty to their bus.

Any student being picked up will be dismissed through the back playground. Please do not stand close to the doors as it makes it difficult for students to find their families.

**Please make the office and daycare aware of changes in afterschool/dismissal plans.**



### Visitors Please Report to the Office

All visitors must first check in at the office. If you need to see or pick up your child, Ms. Marrone or Mrs. Baines will page the classroom and have the student meet you at the office. If you are dropping something off, please label the item and leave it with our office staff to avoid disruptions in the classrooms. **For safety reasons, we are asking that parents do not visit classrooms on their own during the instructional day.**

# Kindergarten News!

- Kindergarten parents please note that all JK and SK students are to go into the Kindergarten Pen during morning entry.
- Please do not leave them in the main playground.
- Staff will be in the K pen to supervise your children every morning beginning at 8:45am.
- The West gate is the only gate to be used and must only be opened by a Cootes staff member.
- The gate by the shed is a Fire Exit Gate Only and should not be used to bring students to school.
- If your child arrives after the bell, please walk them to the main office and we will send them to their classroom.
- Students will not be accepted through the West gate after the bell.
- The following Educators will be dismissing their students in the **K Pen area at 3:20**
  1. Johnston/Harrison/Higginson
  2. Wang/Tang
  3. Gardner/Ascencio
- The following Educators will be dismissing their students through the **back doors on the playground**
  1. Vanzwol/Ristic
  2. Feil/Rajsic
  3. King-Rankin/Patterson



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**There is a severe apple and apple food product allergy in room 125! We are asking that parents do not send apples or apple food products with their child who is in room 125.**





## 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.

All food and beverages fit into one of 3 categories: **serve/sell most, serve/sell less and not permitted for sale or to be served**. Currently, we are in the process of evaluating the food we serve and sell to our students to ensure we are following the guidelines set within the Policy.

Below are **a few highlights** that reinforce the Policy & its implementation:

- Food incentives or rewards are permitted for groups, clubs or classes if it complies with the standards of the policy. For example, **cakes, donuts, candy or other sweets are not permitted for classroom birthday celebrations**. Instead, families are welcome to send in healthy snacks such as fruit or vegetable trays.
- Nutritional standards do not apply to food & beverages available for purchase during field trips off school premises.
- 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 will be planned with Staff, Parent Council and Home & School. These dates will be sent to you soon.

### The LUNCH LADY is back at Cootes!

Have a lot on your plate? No worries!

Let us ease up your schedule  
because....

The Lunch Lady is coming back to  
Cootes beginning **September 25<sup>th</sup>!!**

Stay tuned for more information!



### Cross Country (Grades 3-5)

The work at Churchill Park is coming to an end however it won't be ready for the morning running club or Cootes Cross Country meet this year. The team for the HWDSB Cross Country Meet will be selected through time trials during regularly scheduled DPA. Students who qualify to attend the HWDSB Meet will run at Christie Conservation Area on October 4/19. If you have questions, please connect with Mrs. MacKenzie via your child's agenda.



## MEDICAL ALERT



Just a reminder that Cootes Paradise 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.

In addition, there is an **apple and apple product allergy in Room 125**. For safety reasons, we are politely asking that no apples or apple products are brought into room 125.

## Bus Information

Please note: The school office is closed at 4pm and therefore there is no one to answer inquiries regarding late buses. Parents please contact Hamilton Wentworth Student Transportation Services (HWSTS) at 905-523-2318 regarding any busing issues and to check on arrival status. HWSTS regularly updates its website <https://www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca/index.aspx> for parents to check on the status of their child's bus. Parents can also visit the website to access the Parents Portal tool, an information tool to provide parents / guardians enhanced information and features such as email notifications for bus delays.



## Parent School Council 2019-20

### SCHOOL COUNCIL



As a school council member, you can help your council discover new and exciting ways to contribute to the education of students in your school. Education is a partnership and your involvement gives you the opportunity to strengthen that partnership, and to be part of a dedicated team working to ensure a high quality of education for all students. Your participation can make a difference!

**Join us on Wednesday, September 26 @ 6:30 PM** in our Library to vote for our Executive Council. Please see the **purple** handout in our information packages that were sent home for nomination forms.

## Welcome to the Cootes Paradise Home and School Association!



The Cootes Paradise Home & School Association is a volunteer run organization whose goal is to work with Cootes Paradise staff and students to provide the best for each student. We do this through raising funds and coordinating events for the school community such as our Outdoor Movie Night, Pumpkin Night Hike, Lunch Clubs, Silent Auction and Friday Lunches.

Some things we are funding this coming school year:

- Professional Theatre Productions
- Artist in the Classroom for Grades 2 & 4
- Field Trip Subsidies
- Physical Activity Resources
- Scientist in the Classroom
- And More!

We rely solely on volunteers to coordinate all of these activities and are always looking for people who can help out. To learn more, join our Facebook Group (Cootes Paradise Elementary Parent Community) or email [Cootes.Paradise.HSA@gmail.com](mailto:Cootes.Paradise.HSA@gmail.com). You are also welcome and encouraged to join us at our first meeting on September 18th at 6:30pm in the School Library - child care provided.

This year's Home & School Executive is:

President: Molly Griffioen

Vice-President: Sarah Henderson

Secretary: Allison Henderson

Treasurer: Erica Hemsworth

Class Rep Coordinator: Michelle Balcers

**OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT** - Join us for our first event of the school year and come watch Toys Story 4 on Thursday September 19th. Concession opens at 7pm - Movie starts at 7:30pm. Pay What You Can - Suggested Donation \$20/Family. See you there!



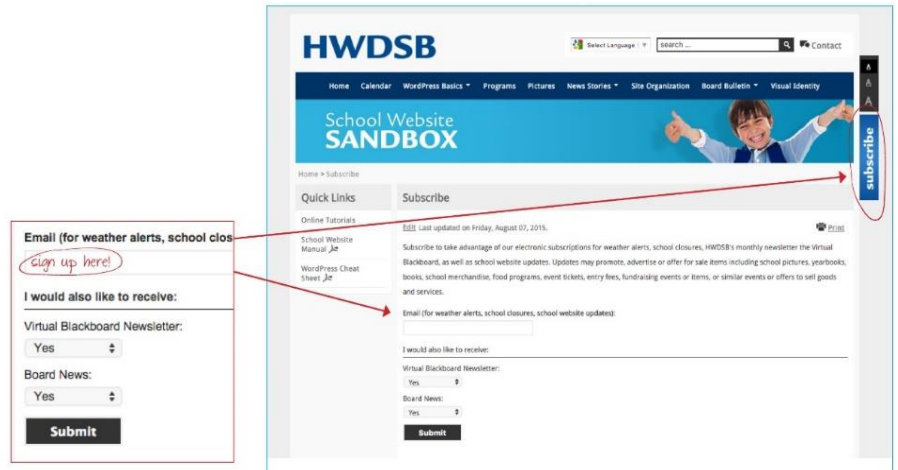


## For the 2019-20 School year, Cootes Paradise will continue to communicate with families using our website.

Please subscribe to receive updates at:

<http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/cootesparadise/>

*Subscribers receive an email notification when we post updates to our website. You can unsubscribe at any time using the link at the bottom of any notification emails.*



Most updates are about school and/or board initiatives and activities, including newsletters. Updates may promote, advertise or offer for sale items including school pictures, yearbooks, books, food programs, event tickets, fundraising events or items, or similar events or offers to sell goods and services.

