

The Paradise Chronicle

A Message From The Principal...



As the new school year began, our students arrived with excitement in their eyes, expectations for new challenges and the hope for new adventures. We would like to thank all our parents, students, and school staff for making the first school month a productive and successful beginning.

The busy month of September has come to an end, and October is now underway. As part of our School Learning Plan, we will continue to focus on Student Learning and Achievement in the areas of Reading and Mathematics, as well as Positive Culture and Well-Being.

With the 2019-20 school year under way, we hope you will continue to be involved in your child's life at Cootes. Together we can make a difference in the learning and growth of your child.

On behalf of the Cootes staff, we wish you a happy Thanksgiving!

October Happenings

Dates to Remember:

- Oct. 1st – Fire Drill
- Oct. 2nd – National Custodial Workers Day
- Oct. 3rd – Olympian Eleanor Harvey presentation
- Oct. 4th – Pizza Day & HWDSB Cross Country Meet
- Oct. 4th – Fire Drill
- Oct. 5th – World Teachers Day
- Oct. 7-11 – Mental Illness Awareness Week
- Oct. 7th – World Day of Bully Prevention
- Oct. 8th – Bus Patroller Training
- Oct. 11th – Subway Day
- Oct. 14th – Thanksgiving Day
- Oct. 17th – Bus Safety Presentation
- Oct. 23rd – School Council Meeting
- Oct. 25th – Pumpkin Hike
- Oct. 25th – FDK Pizza Day
- Oct. 29th – Progress Reports sent home
- Oct. 31st – Halloween Day



Meet the Teacher



Due to ongoing labour action our Meet the Teacher Night Scheduled for October 10th has been cancelled. Keep up to date at:

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/about/labour-update/>

School Reorganization

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board reviews its student enrolment numbers in each school at this time of year. The enrolment numbers are compared to the projected enrolment numbers determined at the end of the previous school year. Due to current enrolment, several students were moved to new classes. New classes began on September 30, 2019. Notes have been sent home with all students who have been affected by this. Teachers have worked together on deciding which students would be moved, taking into consideration all student needs and balancing classes as best as possible. The new organization will be as follows:

English

JK/SK – x5
Gr 1
Gr 1/2 – x2
Gr 2 – x2
Gr 3
Gr 3/4 – x2
Gr 4
Gr 5 – x2

French

Gr 1 – x2
Gr 1/2
Gr 2
Gr 2/3
Gr 3/4 – x2
Gr 4/5

Mandarin

JK/SK
Gr 1/2
Gr 3/4/5



Halloween Parade at Cootes

Join us for our Halloween Parade on October 31st right after our second nutrition break (approx @ 2:00 pm). All students are asked to bring their costumes to school and they will get dressed during second break. Reminder: For student safety, we ask that all masks and costume props such as magic wands, swords etc, remain at home during the school day.

Terry Fox Run

On Thursday September 26th our Cootes Chargers did an amazing job by showing their support for Terry Fox. They showed up in red and white and ran/walked around our field numerous times. Thank you to everyone who came to support our students and donated for such a great cause!

Thank you to Mr. Johnston and his team for Organizing this amazing event!



Photo Day

Please note that Picture Day will be on **Monday, October 7th**! All details regarding Picture Day were sent home with each student.



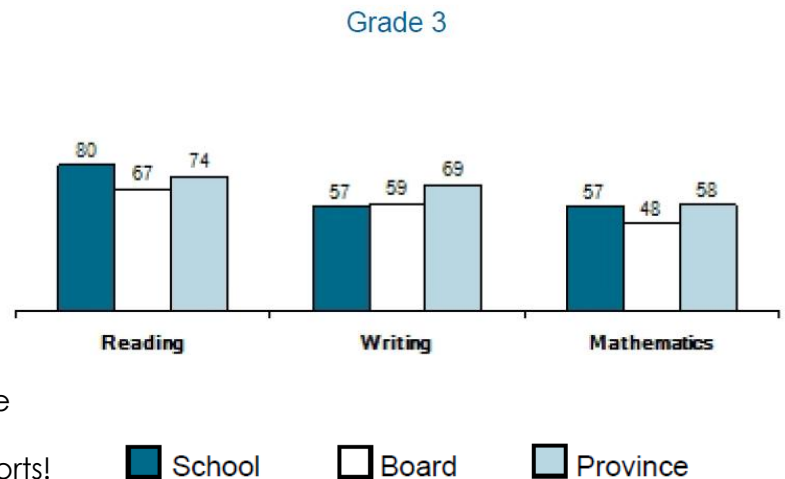
MEDICAL ALERT

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!



EQAO Results

The following are the Grade 3 results for the assessments of Reading, Writing, and Mathematics. Individual student results were sent home this week with all students in grade 3 who participated in the spring. We are so very proud of all their efforts!



Secure School Announcements

During the fall term, each school is required to conduct at least 3 Fire Drills and 1 Lockdown 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 Cootes's Emergency Plan of Action.

Parent Parking

Just a friendly reminder that when you are picking up your child at dismissal, **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.



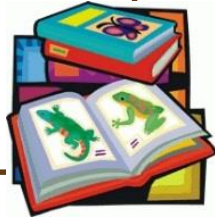
Library News!

At Cootes Paradise we have a 2-book limit for borrowing library books.

Please remember to treat school materials with respect and keep food and liquids away from books and other reading materials.

Remember to put your books in a safe spot, away from younger siblings, animals or where they may get lost.

Happy Reading Everyone!!



Progress Report Cards

Progress Reports will be going home with your child on Tuesday, October 29th. This is a great opportunity for you and your child to celebrate their accomplishments, as well as review some next steps and to set some goals. You will have an opportunity to discuss the report on the evening of Thursday, November 7th and on Friday, November 8th during the instructional day.



Cross Country

Cootes had a great day at the HWDSB Cross Country Meet at Christie Conservation Area! Our students demonstrated a positive attitude towards themselves and others. Thanks to our staff members and volunteers for helping make it a great day. We look forward to our celebration assembly!

School Newsletter and School Website

Just a reminder that our school chronicle will be posted at the beginning of each month.

Our School Website is also always up-dated with new information. Once there, you can subscribe to have an email sent to your in-box whenever new information is posted to the website. Please visit our website at:

www.hwdsb.on.ca/cootesparadise

Fortinos Receipts

Home & School collects receipts from the **Fortinos on Main St. W.** to help fund our TasteBuds Snack Program. For every dollar spent at that store they will give us 1% towards the Snack Program at the school. No receipt is too small or too big! There is an envelope on the bulletin board across from the office, or you can send them in your child's agenda.

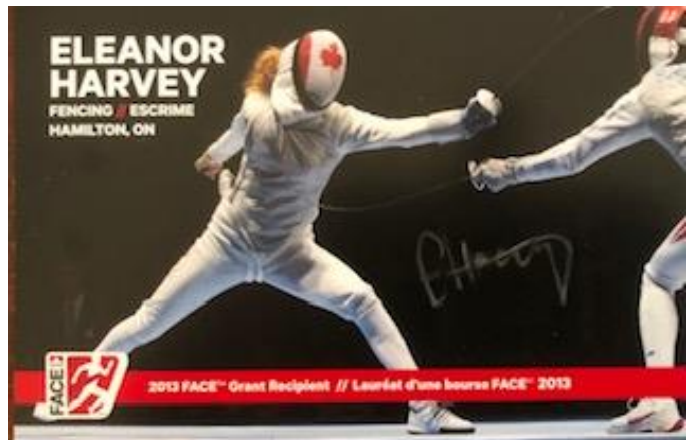
TasteBuds Snack Program

Our snack program will begin shortly. A big thank you to our parent volunteers Mrs. Steele and Mrs. Parlar who help ensure snacks are available every Monday and Wednesday for students who need additional food.

Olympian Eleanor Harvey Visits Cootes Paradise

We were so fortunate to have had an alumnus of Cootes Paradise, Eleanor Harvey who is a Canadian Olympic Athlete visit us on October 3rd. Her presentation was inspiring and taught us that with hard work and perseverance that anything is possible! A framed photograph of this Olympic Fencing Champion hangs in our front foyer as a reminder that hard work and determination - whether academic, athletic or artistic - pays off!

Best of luck in the 2020 Olympic Games! The Cootes Chargers will be cheering you on!



Active School Travel



Did you know:

- 67% of our students live within walking distance of the school and only 39% actually walk
- 33% of our students are eligible for HWSTS bussing and only 22% take the bus
- 29% of our student population are being driven to Cootes Paradise every day

(Data = 2018/2019 Cootes Paradise)

We are so fortunate to live in Westdale! It's such a walkable neighbourhood with lots of conveniences easily accessible by walking or cycling.

Cootes Paradise was fortunate to be chosen for the Parent Engagement Strategy Pilot Project. A few of our Cootes Paradise School parents have been working with the City of Hamilton to develop a strategy to get more kids walking or wheeling to school.

The goal is to increase the number of parent champions for active school travel, and increase the number of students and their families using active school travel.

Our partners from the City of Hamilton will be giving an information session to all parents interested in discovering ways to embrace a more active school travel plan. **Please join us at our October 23 School Council meeting** to see how you might become involved in choosing Active School Travel Plan Priorities for Cootes Paradise Elementary School.

In the meantime, [Join The Movement](#) by signing up for a monthly newsletter and invite other parents to join as well. Find up-to-date information about this project in the Parent Corner of the Hamilton Smart Commute [Newsletter](#).

Please email Faye.Parascandalo@Hamilton.ca or MaryLynn.Balardo@Hamilton.ca if you would like more information.

Naturalized Schoolyard Maintenance Committee

Thanks to the foresight and financial acumen of members of previous & present Cootes Paradise School Councils and Home & School Associations, Cootes Paradise Elementary School has a lovely playground with lots of green space, trees, natural wood structures, sand and mulched areas to play in. Both parent organizations have committed to the on-going maintenance of our naturalized playground. In the past, these important maintenance tasks fell primarily on parent work groups that came in on weekends to weed, spread mulch etc.

This year we will be making the shift to having our students play a more active role in keeping our school's naturalized areas in tip-top shape so that they and future students of Cootes will continue to enjoy our green spaces for years to come.

Our School Council will be striking up a Naturalized Schoolyard Naturalization Committee made up of parents who will work directly with our student Eco Club and teachers in the school to arrange for Spring and Fall schoolyard clean-up activities during the school day.

More information will be included in the November issue of The Cootes Chronicle.



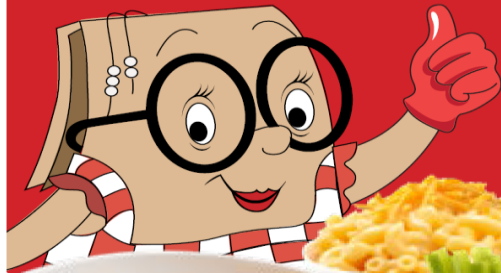
Home & School Association October Update

The fall is a busy time for the Home & School Association. Thank you to everyone who came out to our annual movie night. We had a great crowd and thank you for your generosity. The money raised at Home & School events is used for student enrichment activities, such as subsidizing field trips, purchasing classroom equipment and maintaining the outdoor space.

Thank you also to everyone for coming out to our meeting on September 18. Our next meeting will be on November 20 at 6:30pm. This is an opportunity to learn more about school activities, meet our principal and vice principal and learn about ways to get involved.

Pumpkin Night Hike: The Pumpkin Night Hike is almost here! Join us on Friday October 25th as we hike through the forest on a trail lit by pumpkins that have been carved by the students. This is a popular and unique event for the whole family. Meet at the trail head near the Aviary (85 Oak Knoll Dr.) in Churchill Park between 6:30 and 8:30pm. The hike is about 1km and in some places is a bumpy, dirt path that isn't suitable for strollers, so we recommend carriers for infants. We've taken measures to limit the number of people and to control the flow on the trail, so people should be able to make their way through without too much waiting on the trail. Suggested donation \$15-20 per family. Money raised helps with maintenance of the school playground. Students will carve pumpkins in class and students can also carve additional pumpkins after school on October 25th in Churchill Park. Please join us if you can. We need lots of volunteers to make this happen. If you can help volunteer, even for an hour, please email heharvey@hotmail.com or sign up online at <https://signup.con/go/LyrmZct>.





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Fork-free Lunch

Put down the fork and pick up a homemade beef taco, grilled cheese, hamburger & more. Served with side vegetables or fruit.

Breakfast for Lunch

Try our whole grain pancakes, french toast or egg & cheese sandwich with a variety of side options.

Wraps, Salads & Sushi

Parent & kid approved choices including whole wheat wraps, entree chicken salads, Lunchie's sushi & more.



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Round up your lunch!

- Assorted Drinks
- Garden/Caesar Side Salads
- Cookies & Smoothies
- and more online!

Ordering is easy at theLunchLady.ca

Sign up or login to find out your school's Lunch Lady days!

Orders due 2 school days before lunch day.

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