



The Paradise Chronicle

It's hard to believe that 2019 has almost come to a close. December is a month where we look back and reflect on the wonderful things that Cootes Paradise has been a part of so far. December is also a month where staff and students will continue to be busy and partake in many exciting things. During this special time of year, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our students for the joy and enthusiasm they bring to our school each day. We are also very thankful to our teachers, DECE's, educational assistants, office staff, custodians and parent community for their ongoing commitment and for working hard every day to support our students and each other. There has been a buzz in the air at Cootes as students begin to get excited for the upcoming Winter Holidays. As we enter into this holiday season, we want to remind parents, guardians and students that our school will be closed from December 23rd, 2019 until January 3rd, 2020. We hope you take this opportunity to spend time with family, and most importantly enjoy the time off. We have had a great start so far and are excited to continue learning and growing together in the New Year!

Happy Holidays!



Dates to Remember:

- Dec 2 – French Immersion Application Process begins
- Dec 4 – Lunch Lady
- Dec 5 – Winter Concert @ 6:30pm
- Dec 5-6 – Vision Screening SK's
- Dec 6 – Subway Day
- Dec 6 – Hold & Secure Drill
- Dec 9 – Poinsettia Delivery
- Dec 9 – FDK presentation of The Berenstain Bears
- Dec 11 – Lunch Lady
- Dec 13 – Pizza Day
- Dec 17 – Lockdown Drill
- Dec 18 – Lunch Lady
- Dec 18 – School Council Meeting @ 6:30pm
- Dec 23 – Jan 3 – Winter Holidays



School Parking Lot

Please note that the school parking lot is for **staff parking only**. We do have limited spots and for safety reasons we do not want parents or students walking through the busy parking lot. If you are driving your children to school, we advise you to park up Kipling Rd. or Bond St. North of Glen Rd. and walk the short distance to school with your children. Thank you.

Holiday Food Drive

Cootes Paradise Elementary is excited to be organizing its' 13th annual food drive to help supply the Compass Community Health Breakfast Program.

This is a voluntary project and we hope that those families who are able to, will contribute.

Your child has been given a sticker in their agenda identified with a non-perishable food item listed on it. We kindly ask that you please bring the food item on the sticker since the Breakfast Program requires specific foods to meet nutritional guidelines.

The items range from cereal and granola bars, to baking supplies for making healthy muffins and baked goods. Items will be collected in classrooms until the final day of collection.

This project will run from Monday December 2nd to Thursday December 12th. Parent volunteers will then deliver the food collected by our school to the North Hamilton Community Health Centre on the morning of December 13th.

If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Tapajna at nancytaps@hotmail.com or Mme. Titian at Cootes Paradise School.

Thank you for continuing to make this important Cootes Paradise Out-Reach event such a huge success!



The Lunch Lady Holiday Menu

It is hard to believe that it is almost December and everyone is gearing up for the Holidays. We are here to add a little more fun to December with our Holiday Fun Lunch.

Our Holiday Lunch is sure to please both Staff & Students! Featuring our Traditional Holiday Lunch with Roasted, Sliced Turkey Breast, Homemade Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Stuffing & Gravy, this is a favourite at schools across the country. The menu also features two Mealshare options this year, Chicken Drumsticks & Holiday Pancakes. *Such a great way to support youth in need in Hamilton this holiday season!*

The Holiday Lunch menu will be offered alongside the regular menu on your lunch service days from December 9th - 20th.



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!



Sock Drive

We would like to support the adults in our community who are in need. Please send a pair of new adult socks to your classroom teacher, and Ms. Henkel will collect them. The Mission indicated that thicker sport socks are the best for warm winter feet.

We will hang them over the hearth in our main hallway (coming soon), and Ms. Henkel will deliver them to the Mission the Friday before Christmas. For more information about the wonderful Helping Hands Mission Community, please visit <https://www.hhsmhamilton.com>

Thank you so much for your support!
Cootes Cares!



Hat, Mitten & Scarf Drive

Mme. Titian along with the Student Council will be hosting a hat, mitten and scarf drive. If you would like to help out and can provide any of these items to help some needy families over the holidays, please send them to school with your child. Some items will remain at Cootes. Most of the donations will be sent to HWDSB schools who also have families in need of this support.



Winter Clothing Drive:

Cootes Paradise will be collecting gently used children's coats, boots, and snow pants from December 2nd to 14th. Items can be put in the drop box found in the Community Kitchen.



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 am 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.





What's the rule for extreme cold?

In extreme cold, buses may not start or run as expected and HWDSB may need to cancel transportation. But this **does not** automatically mean that schools will close. *In 2014, Trustees gave the Director (or designate) the discretion to keep schools open when busing is cancelled due to extreme cold.*



Where do I find cancellation information?

We will share this announcement in a variety of ways:

- The HWDSB website www.hwdsb.on.ca
- HWDSB's Twitter account www.twitter.com/HWDSB
- HWSTS website www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca
- Local media outlets:
CBC Hamilton, CHCH TV, CHML, CKPC Brantford, Hamilton Community News, Hamilton Spectator.



Families always have a choice

A school cancellation is a tough decision – and some families may disagree with HWDSB's call. Families can always make the choice they feel is best when it comes to sending their child to school.

Dressing for the Weather

With winter weather upon us, please make sure students are dressed appropriately for outdoor activities. On days where cold weather and snow are in the forecast, boots, mittens or gloves, a warm hat and a winter jacket should be worn. Snow pants may also be needed for children who will play in the snow.

Please remind your children of this as many feel that they do not have to wear what they come to school with during outside nutrition breaks. Please come see us in the office if you need, or know of someone who would benefit from winter clothing.



Holiday Concert

December brings excitement in the air! We would like to invite our families to our Holiday Concert lead by Ms. Harrison and our amazing students on Thursday, December 5th @ 6:30 pm in our school gym.

Not only will this be an evening of great musical performances, but our Home & School will also be hosting a bake sale for the evening.

In addition, we will also be collecting non-perishable food items for the Food Drive that evening, to help support our Cootes Cares campaign. Please help us if you are able.



Stay Tuned...

We will be having a **Hold & Secure Drill** on December 6th and a **Lockdown Drill** on December 17th. In case of a change in date, the new date will be posted on our website.

Staff will be preparing students in advance of the drill and our Community Liason Officer will be invited to join us as well.

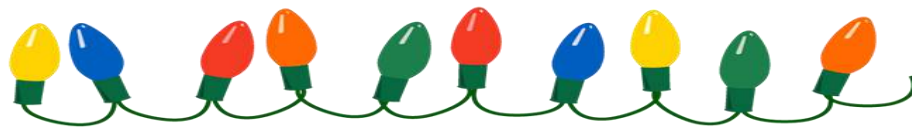


We are proud of Avery and Bree who participated in the Ancaster Rotary Club's Spelling Bee on Saturday, November 23rd at Mohawk College. Both students competed in this challenge in a group with grades 4-6 students. They took the stage with poise and confidence and finished in the top half of the group.

Art Gallery



Thank you to the following classes for featuring their art work on our Gallery Wall: Ms. Henkel, Mrs. Dumitru, Mrs. Edgar, Mrs. McDonald and Mme Titian. A special thank you to our parent volunteers who set up our Gallery Wall each month.



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imaging

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHY

Last chance...

School photos make the perfect personalized holiday gift!

Our holiday order deadline is **December 9th.**

Visit edgeimaging.ca/order to get started.

Happy holidays!

- The Edge Team



Light up the School with Kindness



This holiday season, staff and students are taking our school motto, "It's cool to be kind", just one step farther. Teachers will be exploring the concept of random acts of kindness and the idea that someone can choose to be kind without being recognized for it! Students will then have a chance to choose to do a random act of kindness at home or at school. They will be encouraged to reflect on what it feels like to do something good for someone else who is not expecting it and to remain anonymous while doing so.

Beginning the week of Dec.9, students will have a chance to write one random act of kindness they have done recently on a colourful holiday lightbulb printed on card stock. They will then hang their lightbulb on strings of tinsel that will be placed throughout the school.

Get ready to Light up Cootes with thoughtfulness, compassion and kindness!!



Encourage Your Children to Use Active Travel to Get to School

Walking and wheeling are healthy ways to get to and from school. Skipping car travel for more active travel can help children meet the recommended minimum of 60 minutes of daily physical activity. Trips powered by active travel, rather than vehicles, can help to improve air quality, reduce your carbon footprint, and make neighborhoods friendlier places. Commit to walking or wheeling to or from school at least once, then build from there.



Join the
MOVEMENT
ActiveSchoolTravelHamilton.ca



Westdale BIA's Winter Wander

The annual tradition continues! Grade 1-5 students at Cootes are busy decorating small bags that will line King St. on Friday, December 6th at Westdale BIA's Winter Wander. Tiny battery operated tea lights will light up the bags.

Home & School Update

- The Home and School October Pumpkin Night Hike will be donating \$150 to the RBG to cover the cost of the trail, and \$150 to McMaster's Smiling over Sickness Foundation.
- The Poinsettia Holiday Fundraiser has ended and sales brought in approximately \$500 for the school's enrichment programming. These beautiful flowers will set the tone for the holidays this month and will doubtlessly look lovely in any setting! A reminder that the poinsettia pick-up date is Monday, December 9, between 3-6pm in the portable. You must be able to pick up on this date; unfortunately, we cannot accommodate any other time.
- The Cootes Holiday Concert will be held Thursday, December 5, and we are still looking for bakers to contribute goodies to the Concert Bake Sale, to be held after the concert (cupcakes are always popular!). If you can bake something, please head over to the Bake Sale page on Facebook (Cootes Paradise Bake Sale Bakers) to sign up! Please drop off baked goods before the start of the concert.
- Class Parent/Guardian Rep Update: Approximately half of the Cootes classrooms are now represented by Class Reps—yay! The following classes still do NOT have Class Reps: Ms Feil, Ms King-Rankin, Ms McDonald-Sulymka, Ms Dumitru, Ms Edgar, Ms Maas, Mr. Daniel, Ms Ledlie, Ms Wang, Ms Ding, Ms Zhang. To learn more about what Class Reps do and/or to volunteer to be a Class Rep for one of the above classes, please email: CootesClassParentReps@gmail.com.
- Looking forward: The Cootes Room 307 Paisley Art Show will be mounted at Paisley Coffeehouse in Westdale for the month of February (February 3-29, 2020); details to be posted in the January Home and School update.
- Home and School wants to thank two Home and School student fundraisers directly here: Hunter and Morgan participated in a craft sale by designing and selling bracelets to raise funds for the Home and School Association. In their words, they wanted to raise money for the Home and School "to do more fun things like movie nights and the Pumpkin Hike." Thank you very much, Hunter and Morgan!!

Wishing everyone a restful and happy Winter Break! See you in January--the next Home and School Association will be held on January 22, at 6:30pm. Childcare will be available. We look forward to seeing you in 2020!



Try This At Home:

GROWTH mindset

HOW YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD

1 TALK ABOUT IT

Talk with your child about their day, but guide the discussion by asking questions like:

- Did you make a mistake today? What did you learn?
- What did you do that was difficult today?

2 PRAISE THE PROCESS

Instead of saying, "You're so smart!" praise effort, goal setting, persisting through challenges, or being creative.

You can say something like:

- "Wow! You must have worked really hard on this!"

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ENCOURAGE FAILURE (SAY WHAT?!)

Your child needs to know that failure can (and often does) happen and it is okay! Remind them that each time they fail and try again, their brain is growing stronger! Don't step in to prevent your child's failure - this is how they learn to persevere in the face of challenges.

THE BRAIN CAN GROW!

Remind your child that their intelligence is not fixed. Remind them that when things are difficult, their brain grows if they persist through the challenge. Each time they learn something new, their brain is making new connections. Your child needs to know this is possible!

HELP THEM CHANGE THEIR DIALOGUE

The way your child talks to themselves makes a huge impact on their mindset. If they say, "This is too hard!" help them change that to "I can't do this yet, but I will keep trying." Give them the words to say when they are feeling defeated by modeling it yourself!

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FUN LUNCHES Holiday Lunch

December 9 - 20

Visit theLunchLady.ca to see your school's Lunch Lady days.

Traditional Holiday Lunch

Lunch Lady's roasted, sliced turkey breast served with mashed potatoes, corn, stuffing & gravy. Gluten free available.

\$6.95

Jolly Pasta Holiday Lunch

Festive, tri-coloured, buttery parmesan pasta. Served with green peas & crunchy apple slices.

\$5.95

Deck the Halls Roast Chicken

Chicken Drumstick with mashed potatoes, corn, stuffing & gravy. Includes \$1 donation to Mealshare.ca to help feed local youth in need.

\$6.95



Fa La La French Toast or Holiday Pancakes

French Toast with turkey sausage, side syrup & fresh orange. Mealshare Holiday Pancake & Yogurt Parfait also available!

\$6.50



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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

Orders due 2 school days before lunch day.

Login or setup an account then look for the **HOLIDAY LUNCH** Menu in the **PICK MENU** list beside the student's name.

☑ Gluten Free ☑ Vegetarian

Halal Options Available



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ALLERGY AWARE

Your Lunch Lady is
chrissy@theLunchLady.ca

theLunchLady.ca