

The Paradise Chronicle

January 2020 Edition

JANUARY

Happy New Year
2020

Happy New Year and welcome back to the beginning of the 2020 school year! We hope you all had an enjoyable holiday season with time well spent with family and friends.

As the new year begins, please know that at Cootes Paradise, students are always front and center and every decision made will have your child's best interest in mind. As students come to school each and every day, our goals are to ensure that your child;

- Feels safe and happy at Cootes;
- Is part of a productive learning environment that provides appropriate innovative learning experiences;
- Works toward their academic learning potential; and
- Develops social skills that allow them to interact with others in a positive manner.

We are eager to continue to work together to continue to build a positive relationship between all staff, students and parents to make an amazing school year.

Best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year!

D. Fede & L. van der Put

Dates to Remember:

- Every Wednesday is Lunch Lady
- Jan 6 – First Day Back
- Jan 10 – Pizza Day
- Jan 15 – Lockdown Drill
- Jan 17 – Subway Day & Pizza Day for Kindergarten
- Jan 20 – French Immersion Application Process for Grade 1 ends
- Jan 21 – Shelter in Place Drill
- Jan 24 – PA Day
- Jan 31 – Pizza Day
- Feb 2 – Home & School Family Skate 1-2pm
- Feb 3 – JK Registration Begins
- Feb 5 – Home & School Meeting @ 6:30



Happy New Year!

Welcome to a new decade!



New Year: This is the beginning of anything you want!

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 a.m. 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.



= No school

HWDSB

Snow-clearing at HWDSB Schools

A responsibility shared by Board staff, contractors and the City of Hamilton



HWDSB Staff

Clear, salt and/or sand...

- walkways from the city sidewalk to the school
- school steps and portable steps
- walkways to the portables
- ramps to schools and portables
- area outside entrances and Fire Exit Doors
- Fire Exit stairs & ramps



HWDSB Contractors

After 5cm+ of snow, will...

- Plow parking lots and sidewalks when HWDSB Facilities staff deem it necessary
- Salt and sand the parking lot before school starts
- If required, Head Caretakers may also salt or sand parts of the parking lot



City of Hamilton

Responsible for clearing...

- Snow and ice from sidewalks directly in front of schools, a top priority for the City.
- **Note:** It may take up to 24 hours after a snowfall for sidewalks to be cleared. Report a sidewalk fronting a school in need of clearing at **905-546-CITY (2489)**

What about playgrounds?

Playgrounds **are not** plowed or cleared. Head Caretakers inspect playgrounds and sand and/or salt areas made slippery by changing temperatures.

Students, take extra caution when walking or playing on school property that may be slippery. Principals concerned about weather or playground conditions may hold indoor recesses and lunch/nutrition breaks.





Benefits of outdoor play

Time spent outdoors is an integral part of the school day. There are great benefits when children experience **fresh air, exercise and time spent time outside**. Outdoor play is also a break from the structure of the classroom.

Preparing for the outdoors

It's important that children come to school **prepared for the cold**. This means boots, mittens/gloves, hats and even extra mittens and socks in case they are needed.



School Parking Lot

Please note that the school parking lot is for **staff parking only**. We 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.



Grade 5 Volleyball Club

Many of our Grade 5 students participated in the Volleyball Club during nutrition breaks and after school in the month of December. Club members were able to build upon skills they had explored during PE; by the end of the club, students were playing full court games! This kind of opportunity enables all students to participate and build the skills and confidence they need to get involved in middle school intramurals and/or teams.

Thank you to Mrs. Mackenzie for leading this great opportunity for our students!



Art Gallery

Thank you to the following classes for featuring their art work on our Gallery Wall: Mlle Rodrigue, M. Barry, Ms. Houston, and Mrs. Maas. A special thank you to our parent volunteers who set up our Gallery Wall each month.



Winter Clothing Drive

Thank you to everyone who donated to our Winter Clothing Drive! It was great to see so many students excited about this amazing initiative. Many thanks to Mme Titian, our Student Council, Ms. Henkel and our Home and School for organizing this event!



Family Literacy Week is Jan. 27 – 31

Take 20 minutes to make learning together part of your everyday. Read, sing, listen to music, play a game, or watch a movie and talk about it!

January 27th is Family Literacy Day



Take 20 minutes to make learning together part of your everyday.

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!



Attendance - Lates/Absences

Just a reminder that our school day starts at 9:00 a.m. Any students arriving past this time will be considered late.

Absenteeism and/or lateness often has an impact on a student's academic achievement. In order for all of our students to fully benefit from the learning opportunities provided at Cootes Paradise Elementary School, we ask that your child attend on time and on a regular basis.

If there is something that we should be aware of causing these recurring absences and/or lates, please feel free to contact the office and we will gladly support in any way we can.

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.

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 are pre-determined and include special holidays and lunches.

Unfortunately, birthdays do not fall under the 10 Special Event days. Please refrain from sending in cakes, cupcakes, donuts or other sweets to celebrate a birthday.

Thank you!

Register
for
Kindergarten



Kindergarten registration begins on **Monday, February 3, 2020** for the 2020-21 school year. Please come into the office and see Ms. Marrone or Mrs. Jeffrey to fill out a registration package.

Only parents or legal guardians can register their children for school. The following documents are required:

- **Proof of age (child's birth certificate or passport);**
- **Proof of address (lease agreement, current utility bill) – Please note: Drivers Licence is NO LONGER acceptable.**
- **Proof of immunization;**
- **Verification of date of arrival/immigration documents and citizenship status (if the child was not born in Canada).**
- **Completed Student Registration Form - available at the school or online at www.hwdsb.on.ca/kindergarten**

School Council



Get to Know Your Parent School Council!

Are you interested in supporting the success of your child's educational path and building a better community? Then come out to our next School Council meeting!

Did you know that School Council has a legislated role within the school and plays a significant role? We work with the principal, vice-principal and staff to ensure the best possible education for students by:

- reviewing the school's priorities, and
- supporting the development and implementation of plans to achieve the desired goals.

Please join us on Wednesday, February 26th at 6:30 PM to hear more about the critical role of School Council and how you can become involved in shaping your child's education. Here are some upcoming agenda items and planned activities:

- Bullying Awareness and Prevention Presentation by Cootes Administrative Team
- Active Travel Plan for Cootes Elementary Public School (CEPS)
- Mental health session delivered by McMaster Community Education Services

Each meeting is an opportunity to learn more about what is going on in your child's classroom, and you don't have to be a member to attend! If you have any questions, please reach out to co-chairs, Isabelle DeFaria at iekoko5@gmail.com or Ahmed Abdelrahman at [insert email].

See you there!



Cootes Paradise Home & School Association

Welcome to 2020 - We hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and are looking forward to the year ahead! Our first meeting of the new year will be on Wednesday February 5th at 6:30pm in the library. Childcare is available.

Family Skate – Sunday, February 2

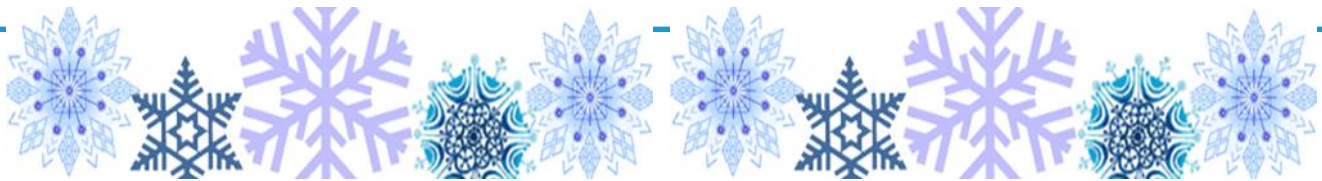
Bring the family and join us for a fun afternoon of family skating at Coronation Arena (81 Macklin St. N) on Sunday Feb. 2 from 1-2 pm. There are a limited number of spots, so please go to the following link to reserve your free ticket;

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/cootes-family-skate-tickets-88148184593>

This event is free, but donations are always welcome!

Paisley Coffeehouse Art Exhibit - February 2 – February 29

The **Cootes Paradise Elementary Paisley Art Show** will be mounted at Paisley Coffeehouse and Eatery in Westdale (1020 King Street West) for the month of February (February 2-29, 2020). The chosen class has created a great show based around their research on the theme of 'Snowflakes'. They have truly come up with some amazing work! The artworks are for exhibit purposes only (not for sale). Please support our students and local community small businesses by dropping by the coffee shop, grabbing a drink or a treat and checking out the Cootes' student artworks. There will be an opening day for the exhibit, likely February 7 or 8 (details to follow).



Try this at home:

Help your child become
a better **READER**
Questions to ask your child while reading
fiction text.

- Who is the main character?
- What is the setting in the story? Does the setting change?
- What was the problem in the story and how was it solved?
- Did the character change during the story? How?
- How are you like the main character? How are you different?
- What do you predict will happen next in the story?
- Why do you think the author chose this title for the story?
- Do you like the title of the story? Why or why not?
 - Can you think of a different title for the story?
- Which character from the story would you choose to be your friend? Why?
- Which part of the story was the most exciting? Why?
- Did you like the end of the story? Why or why not?
- Which parts in the story could really happen? Which parts could not really happen?

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