

# The Paradise Chronicle

February 2020 Edition

No act of  
kindness,  
no matter how small,  
is ever wasted.  
-Aesop

# February

## Dates to Remember:

- Every Wednesday is Lunch Lady
- Feb 3 – Kindergarten Registration Begins
- Feb 5 – Home & School Meeting @ 6:30pm
- Feb 6 – School Closed
- Feb 7 – School Closed
- Feb 13 – Parent Council Meeting @ 6:30pm – the focus will be on EQAO
- Feb 14 – Valentine's Day
- Feb 14 – Pizza Day including FDK
- Feb 17 – Family Day (no school)
- Feb 19 – Wear Yellow Day
- Feb 21 – Subway Day
- Feb 26 – Parent Council Meeting @ 6:30pm
- Feb 28 – Pizza Day

### Unclaimed Lost and Found Items to be Donated Soon

Many winter clothes, boots, hats, mittens etc. have accumulated in the Lost and Found which is located in the Community Kitchen. So much has accumulated that we are asking students and parents to take time **now until February 14<sup>th</sup>** to search for lost items. It's our hope that by Valentine's Day most lost item will have found their way home. Any items remaining will be packed up and donated.

*Parents: please check in at the office to receive a visitor sticker before making your way down the hall to the Community Kitchen where the Lost and Found is located.*

Your stuff misses YOU too.



You don't have to see the whole staircase. Just take the first step!

# 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.

## 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](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/kindergarten)**

### Drop off/Pick-Up

If your child is late or returning from an appointment, please drop them off at the office and we will direct them to their classroom. Please do not accompany your child to class. This applies with our pick-up procedure as well.





## From the Library

There have been a lot of wet library books being returned to the library recently. Some of these books have to be discarded as they are so badly damaged. Please put your library book in a bag to protect it in your backpack from wet mittens and outdoor clothing. Thank you for your support! Let's keep the books clean and dry so many others may ENJOY them.



## Cold Weather and Outdoor Play

Time spent outdoors is an integral part of the school day. Children need fresh air and exercise and time spent outside affords students an opportunity to break free from the structure of the classroom. It is important that children come to school prepared for the cold. Boots, mittens or gloves, snow pants and hats should be worn to school and it's a good idea to provide extra mittens, socks, etc. in the event they are needed. As always, Principals use their judgment in determining whether or not students remain inside during recess given the weather conditions. However, the City of Hamilton's Public Health and Community Services Department recommends individuals stay indoors when the temperature drops below minus 15 degrees Celsius without wind chill.

This is the approach we will take at Cootes Paradise School.



## 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!**



## Parent Voice Survey (January 27 – March 13)

Families, please take a moment to let HWDSB know what the board is doing well and what it can improve on this year's Parent Voice Survey.

<https://bit.ly/36myeUG>

As in the past, schools will be provided with their school data if 20 or more surveys are submitted. Thank you for supporting this important engagement.

## Healthy Snack Program

### *Carrots and Kiwis and Plums . . . Oh My!*

Thanks to a trusty team of happy helpers, the students at Cootes Paradise are getting regular deliveries of healthy snacks to their classrooms. Led by the volunteering duo of Mrs. Parlar and Ms. Steele, some students in Grades 3 and 4 help to fill the bins and distribute these yummy snacks throughout the school on Mondays and Wednesdays each week.

Thanks to generous support from Tastebuds Ontario and our own school's Home and School Association, Mrs. Parlar and Ms. Steele are able to purchase healthy fruits and vegetables for everyone to enjoy. This year, Cootes students have been able to try (perhaps for the first time ever!) clementines, kiwis, mini cucumbers, bananas, plums, peaches, mini bell peppers ... and everyone's favourite, carrots with tickly green tops!

Ask your child if they tried anything new this week!

And if you see these busy Moms at Fortinos on a Tuesday afternoon, pushing overstuffed shopping carts, say hello, and know that those mountains of fresh produce are on their way to Cootes Paradise!



## Grade 4 CCAT Results

The results of the Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test (CCAT7) have arrived. Parents of students who qualify for further gifted screening will be notified by phone and in writing. Individual results are available by contacting your child's teacher, as well as Mrs. Morgan.

## Bus Patrollers at Cootes Paradise

Many Cootes Paradise students ride the school bus to and from school every day. This year we have the additional support of trained student Bus Patrollers (BPs) who help ensure everyone follows safety rules on the bus.

Being a student Bus Patroller is hard work. When asked, "What do you find the most challenging in your work as a Bus Patroller?", the overwhelming answer was students not listening to a Bus Patroller request and being disrespectful. Vice Principal van der Put works closely with our Bus Patroller Teams to ensure all student riders are cooperative and respectful. Kindly review this expectation with your child(ren) if they ride the bus.

Our Bus Patrollers are:

Blue Bus BP Team: Tomas, Moataz, Ghania, Emily

Orange Bus BP Team: Annabelle, Tanisha, Jeremy, Ferooz

Red Bus BP Team: Mikalyn, Nina, Nicholas

Yellow Bus BP Team: Mohamad, Ari, Joyce





On Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, Cootes Paradise will participate in **Wear Yellow Day!**

Students, parents, and staff are encouraged to wear yellow clothing and use active transportation (walking, cycling, rolling, bus) to get to and from school.

Active School Travel Promotes:

- More students, parents and staff walking and wheeling to school
- Fewer cars on the road
- Less pollution
- Improved safety
- Increased physical activity

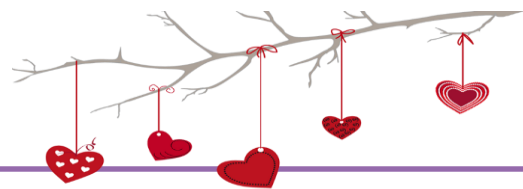
## Student Voice



### ♥The History of VALENTINES DAY!!!♥

February is the month of Valentine's Day! It's a day of love and kindness to each other. Long, long ago, there was a Saint called St.Valentine ( not Street Valentine ). There was also an Emperor: Claudius II. Claudius wouldn't let any of his men marry. St. Valentine thought that was unfair so he performed the marriage of a young couple in secret. Claudius found this out and killed him, but St.Valentine's legacy lives on.

Submitted by: Audrey Rm 311





# 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:iekoko5@gmail.com) or Ahmed Abdelrahman.

See you there!



## Cootes Paradise Home & School Association

Thank You to all of the families that joined us this past Sunday at Coronation Arena for the 'Cootes Family Skate'. We had a really nice turn out - everyone seemed to enjoy their skate and hot chocolate! Please join Home & School this Wednesday at 6:30 pm in the school library for our meeting - there is child care available.

### Staff Appreciation Lunch

This year's staff appreciation lunch is planned for February 27! This is a great opportunity to say thank you to our fabulous Cootes Paradise staff. Please consider signing up online at <https://signup.com/go/DwDtZMZ> to bring a dish for the staff to enjoy. Dishes should be nut-free and apple-free, labeling your dish would be greatly appreciated.

Please drop off your dish in the community kitchen (by the gym) by 10am on February 27. There is a fridge there that we can use to keep things cold. Containers will be ready for pick up by 3:15. It's best to label your container with your name.

Any questions, email Heather Harvey at [heharvey@hotmail.com](mailto:heharvey@hotmail.com). Thanks

### Pizza/Sub Day Lunches Update

Any pizza/sub days that will be missed due to previous/upcoming strike days will be rescheduled for after the March Break. The new dates will be announced once they are arranged. Let us know if you have any questions/concerns ([cootesparadisehsa@gmail.com](mailto:cootesparadisehsa@gmail.com)).

### Paisley Coffeehouse Art Exhibit

The students of Room 307, with the guidance of Mme. Howell, made a collection of lovely snowflake artworks. A public showing of them has been organized at Paisley Coffeehouse through the month of February. You are welcome to visit Paisley for the Opening Art Show this Friday, Feb 7th from 6-8pm or anytime during the month.

### Cootes After Dark Silent Auction

The 3rd Annual Cootes After Dark Silent Auction will be held on Friday, April 3rd - we are planning to hold the event off site this year, please keep your eyes open for further details of time and location. If you are interested in **volunteering or making a donation** - please contact Molly and Nicole - [cootessilentauktion@gmail.com](mailto:cootessilentauktion@gmail.com). Just to give you the time to plan - this will be a licensed event - book your babysitters now!



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# VALENTINE'S DAY



Valentine's  
Day made  
easy!

\$3 shipping on our new  
**personalized  
Valentine's cards**  
begins Thursday at 6am  
ET for 24 hours. Hurry,  
they're only **available  
online until Friday!**

**24-hour flash sale** on shipping begins at 6 am on January 30! Log in to [edgeimaging.ca/order](https://edgeimaging.ca/order) with your portrait code and pass code from the fall and find the personalized Valentine's cards under the "holiday" tab. Hurry, the cards are **only available until January 31st!**

#### *Questions?*

Our customer care team would love to hear from you. Give us a call at 1-888-416-3343 or send an email to [customercare@edgeimaging.ca](mailto:customercare@edgeimaging.ca).