



## The Paradise Chronicle

It is hard to believe that 2020 has almost come to a close and December is upon us. We look back and reflect on the months that have passed.

2020 has been a unique year where we have seen the resiliency, growth, and kindness of our staff, students and families.

During this special time, 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.

As we enter into this holiday season, we want to remind parents, guardians and students that our school will be closed from December 18th, 2020 until January 1st, 2021. We hope you take this opportunity to rest and connect with family and friends near and far.

Despite our challenges, we had a great start to the school year and we remain excited to continue to learn and grow together into the New Year as a Cootes Paradise community!

**Stay Safe & Happy Holidays!**

**Sincerely, Mr. Fede & Mrs. Gojsic**



### From the office:

- A gentle reminder to please call ahead if you are picking up your child(ren) early. Early pick up is for emergencies only in order to avoid unnecessary movement around the school.
- There has been an increase in the number of students entering the school at the front door in the morning. This causes congestion. Please ensure that children arrive on time between 8:45am-9:00am in the back playground.



### 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.

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## Grade 1 French Immersion

HWDSB uses an application process for entry into French Immersion for children born in 2015.

A Grade 1 system-wide application process for entry to French Immersion allows for program placement of students, monitoring of accommodations, balance of enrolment, and long-term stability of the French Immersion program.

We guarantee an offer of placement in the program (not a specific school) to all applicants.

Please take note of the important dates:

- Monday, November 30, 2020 - Application process opens for Senior Kindergarten Students only
- Sunday, January 24, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. - Deadline for Applications
- Friday, February 26, 2021 - Program location offered to parents/guardians
- Friday, March 12, 2021 - Deadline for program acceptance and registration

Please note: Families with an older sibling currently in French Immersion are still required to complete an online application for the new student.

To register your child, or for more information about French Immersion and the application process, please visit [www.hwdsb.on.ca/fi](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/fi)



## Camp Creation

Mrs. Reeson's grade 5 class welcomes a virtual guest speaker to their class on Wednesday, November 24th and Wednesday, December 1st.

The virtual guest speaker is from the program Creation Camp. Their virtual workshops will be supporting student learning by introducing students to coding, which is now part of the new Mathematics curriculum. This is being funded by HWDSB's Innovative Experiential Learning Projects department so there is no cost to students to participate.

The class will be using MS teams for this learning opportunity. This is a synchronous learning opportunity where students will participate together in real-time with experts in coding. They will also be following up with lessons provided by Creation Camp to consolidate the learning that students are doing during the virtual workshops. As part of this opportunity, students will have the chance to interact with the guest speaker: ask questions, group discussion and create their own interactive game using the program Scratch.

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## 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!



## Monthly School Spirit Days

We have begun monthly Spirit Days in order to support some fun with our students.

Each class is being invited to propose a theme for the month. Mr Persaud's class started us off with our first theme day which took place Thursday, November 26th, with PJ Day.

It was a great way to end off our short week!

Our next Spirit Day will be on Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup> and Ms. Turco's class has decided it will be an "Inside Out/Backwards" day where students can wear their clothing inside out or backwards!

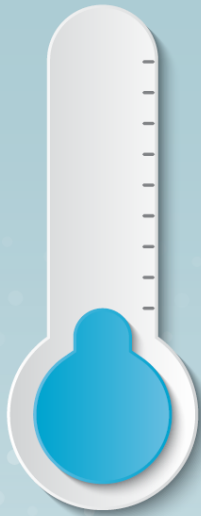
## Morning Drop off and Afternoon Pick Up

As we know, Hamilton has entered into the Red Zone. We are enforcing all of our safety protocols for the health and safety of all our staff, students and parent community. Just a reminder that physical distancing is required. This means that during morning drop off and during afternoon pick up, parents are asked to drop off or pick up their child and exit the school vicinity immediately. For the safety of everyone around you and in respect of the current bylaws, please do not congregate on the walkways or sidewalks.

## CCAT Testing

Each November, Grade 4 students across HWDSB complete the Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test (CCAT 7). The CCAT 7 is administered by LRTs and grade 4 teachers, in the classroom. The CCAT 7 was designed to provide an accurate and efficient measure of the abilities needed to acquire the desired outcomes of formal education. The test measures verbal, nonverbal, and quantitative skills in a multiple-choice format. Test results will be used to assist with program planning for individual students and as part of the board-wide gifted screening process. No advance preparation on the part of students is necessary.

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## 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](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca)
- HWDSB's Twitter account [www.twitter.com/HWDSB](http://www.twitter.com/HWDSB)
- HWSTS website [www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca](http://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.

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## 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 also remember to send in an extra mask.

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.



## 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



## Stay Tuned...

We will be having a **Lockdown Drill** on December 2nd and a **Hold & Secure Drill** on December 17<sup>th</sup>. 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 based on our new Health and Safety protocols.

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Greetings Tastebuds Supporter!

#GivingTuesday has arrived and the Tastebuds Team couldn't be more excited to get together with supporters like you to make a positive change in our community! Tastebuds depends on donations to ensure that we can continue to serve nutritious food to students all across Hamilton. It's through our collaborative efforts that we were able to serve healthy snacks and meals to over 25,000 students a day in 107 locations throughout Hamilton in the 2019-2020 school year.

Due to Covid-19, our typical fundraising strategies cannot move forward as planned this year which is why we've decided to launch a **Breakfast Buddies** campaign on this #GivingTuesday. Though we would love to have your support at our annual Breakfast on the Beach event, we know that virtual giving is what's best for everyone right now.

The cost of running nutrition programs has increased significantly as a result of COVID-19, due to factors such as:

- The need to purchase pre-packaged foods
- Increased demand for programs as food insecurity rates rise
- Limited capacity to fundraise at the school level
- Limited volunteers available for food preparation

We are confident in the goodwill of our community and we would deeply appreciate your support in helping our students continue to learn, grow and play during this challenging time. Become a Breakfast Buddy this #GivingTuesday by donating below and/or sharing this campaign with your networks!

[https://give.charityvillage.com/tastebuds?ref=ab\\_4cw7Ca5rJl4cw7Ca5rJl](https://give.charityvillage.com/tastebuds?ref=ab_4cw7Ca5rJl4cw7Ca5rJl)

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Home & School would like to invite you to visit the following link for more information regarding the Cootes Paradise Holiday Auction Fundraiser!

<https://bit.ly/3mAempK>



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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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### 5 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.

### 3 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!

### 4 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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