

## March 2021 Edition

After a long winter, we are all ready for spring and all the wonderful things that come with it. Just a reminder that our March Break has been postponed and will now be April 12th – April 16th. Students will be coming back to school on April 19th.

### True Colours Week!

We had an amazing week to begin March with our focus on Accepting and Celebrating our differences! Through various messages during the week, our students focused on respecting and supporting each other's differences. They learned that being unique is what makes them special and by working together we can create an even more positive community at Cootes Paradise!

We ended the week with our staff and students coming to school in bright colours to show that together we can always make things brighter. The end of the day was also a special treat where all are classes safely met in their own cohorts on the back playground for a spontaneous flash mob to the song "Can't Stop the Feeling" from the Trolls movie. This was an amazing way to end our week.

It was a great week filled with so much positive energy!

Thank you to Mrs. Mackenzie, Mme Wright and Mrs. Houston for leading this amazing initiative!

Mr. Fede & Mme Gojsic



## Welcome

We would like to take this opportunity to provide you with a staffing update!

We welcome Mrs. Head as our new JK/SK teacher in Rm 125, and Mrs. Bernard as our new Prep Coverage teacher who will be with us on days 3 & 4!

## Supporting Mental Health Around Covid – A resource for Parents

At Cootes we have a shared responsibility for the well-being and learning of all of our students. We will continue to provide reassurance and reinforcement of the physical health and safety measures in place; maintain a calm and structured environment; encourage mental health strategies; teach about empathy and keep the lines of communication open.

The following link can be used by parents to also support their children at home:

<https://smho-smso.ca/parents-and-families/>



## 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 all weather. During the spring the grounds are often muddy and wet. Please ensure that they have a change of shoes for the indoors. It is also a good idea to have an umbrella for light rain days. As always, Principals use their judgment in determining whether or not students remain inside during recess given certain weather conditions.



## 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!**





Kindergarten registration is now open for the 2021-2022 School year!  
Please complete the registration package online and call the office to book a virtual meeting with Miss Sabina to complete your registration. <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/kindergarten/#register>



### School Parking Lot

Just a friendly reminder that when dropping off or picking up your child 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. Please leave all accessible parking spots free unless you have a valid permit.

### Daily COVID-19 Screening

Review this screening for COVID-19 symptoms daily before your child arrives at school. If you answer Yes to any questions, the student has failed the screening and must not attend school and should contact Public Health (905) 974-9848 for testing.

Everyone in your household must stay home if anyone has COVID-19 symptoms or is waiting for test results after experiencing symptoms.

Stay home until the person with symptoms gets a negative COVID-19 test result, or is cleared by public health, or is diagnosed with another illness.

#### Health and safety tips:

Make sure your face covering or mask covers your mouth, nose, and chin.

Wear your face covering or mask when indoors (except to quickly eat or drink) and outdoors (when you cannot physically distance).

Keep a distance from others before, during, and after school/child care.

Wash or sanitize your hands often.



## French Oral Speech Competition

Mme Campanella's class had many strong candidates this year in their French Oral Speech Competition. All students worked very hard to research, write, edit, practice and present their speeches orally to their peers.

Congratulations to Tosin, Leah and Charlie who were presented with medals that were provided by the Canadian Parents for French.

## Mrs. Dumitru's Class

We are honoring plants and diversity in our play "The Human Bean". Here are some facts:

Plants are living things that keep us alive. They give us medicine and shelter. Plants give us medicine and oxygen to breathe. Plants give us many different things. They give us food and beauty. Plants help us.

Keyanna

Be nice. Do not be sad. We need a smile. If all of us were smiling that would make me happy. Take a breath or talk it out. If Covid scares you, breathe in and out and that can make it better. If we have smiles the world will be a better place. No smiles and it will be no fun. I am only asking for some smiles.

Yara

### The Human Bean

With one blooming bean  
High in the sky  
Every bean belongs  
With you and I.  
The human bean true but lost  
That grows together.  
Running because no one seems to care.  
All that is needed is understanding and a kind heart.

Ava

### Covid Kickback

We will be strong.  
We will fight for our health.  
We will never back down.  
Through these tough times, even if we fall we will get back up again.  
Soon it will be like Covid is no more.

Together and kind.

It's all in the mind.

Fierce-Lyn



**LEARN.**  
**DISRUPT.**  
**REBUILD.**  
@HWDSB

At HWDSB, we are aware of how COVID-19 has caused two pandemics in our society: one related to the virus itself, and one related to social inequities the virus intensified, like anti-Black racism.

HWDSB is committed to developing safer, more equitable and more inclusive learning environments. Schools have an important role in learning about equity, and supporting student and staff well-being. To address both pandemics, a team of staff informed by our community created a series of lessons called Learn.Disrupt.Rebuild@HWDSB: Building a Community of Care.

These lessons for Kindergarten to Grade 12 students align with HWDSB's Board Annual Plan and Equity

Action Plan. The lessons will support students and staff on topics related to human rights, equity and mental health during the pandemic. Content aligns with the Ontario Curriculum.

We have organized age-appropriate lessons into four modules:

- Module 1. Physical Safety, Mental Health and Wellness.
- Module 2. Understanding Identity and Intersectionality.
- Module 3. Exploring Human Rights, Equity and Anti-racism.
- Module 4. Empowering Action and Allyship.

Students will learn that who they are – their identity – is an important part of their learning and wellbeing. We want students to understand who they are, speak up when things are unfair, and help create a safer learning experience for everyone.

Some of these topics are complex, so we encourage you to talk with your child about this learning.

You can ask questions like: What did you learn about today? What did you think about what you learned today? Do you have any questions about this topic?

You can learn more and find sample lessons on the web page for [Learn.Disrupt.Rebuild.@HWDSB](https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/learn-disrupt-rebuild).

Thank you for helping all students and staff feel safe, supported and accepted.