



The Paradise Chronicle

It is hard to believe that 2021 has almost come to a close and December is upon us. We look back and reflect on the months that have passed.

2021 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 20th, 2021 until December 31, 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. Please allow time for when you arrive at the school for your child to be called down. Children cannot wait at the office for pick-up.
- Please try to avoid nutrition break pick up between the times of 10:55-11:35 & 1:35-2:15.



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.

Kindness is like snow...it beautifies everything it covers!

Grade 1 French Immersion

French Immersion is a proven way to gain excellent French language skills. Research shows that immersion is an effective path to achieving fluency in French.

The French Immersion program is designed to provide English-speaking students with opportunities to become skilled at communicating in French as well as English. At HWDSB, the French Immersion program is an option for students beginning in Grade 1.

The program is opening for online applications for the 2022-23 school year on November 29, 2021. An offer of placement is guaranteed to all applicants, however not at a specific school.

Please note the application timeline:

November 29, 2021 – Application process opens at 8:00 a.m. (open only to students currently in Senior Kindergarten)

January 23, 2022 – Application deadline

February 25, 2022 – Program location is offered to parents/guardians

March 11, 2022 – Program acceptance and registration deadline

A virtual information session was recently held for parents and guardians of Senior Kindergarten students interested in the French Immersion program. For those who could not attend, a recording of the presentation is available below and on YouTube at

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eQ_fKvi4ZC8

For more information about French Immersion, including answers to frequently asked questions about the application process, visit <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/fi>

A digital booklet with more information can be found at <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/2021-Digital-FI-Booklet.pdf>

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!



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On Remembrance Day, we took the time to think about all of the people who have served and continue to serve during times of war, conflict and peace. We paid tribute to these veterans through a virtual ceremony. Thank you to all the students who participated and a big thank you to Miss Harrison for putting it all together.



Cootes Cares – 2021 Food Drive

We are excited to share that we will be hosting a food drive from **Monday November 29 to Thursday December 16** in support of *Compass Community Health*.

If you are able to donate, please send canned goods and pantry staples to school with your child.

Thank you in advance for your support and thank you to Mme Kay's Grade 4/5 class for leading this amazing initiative!



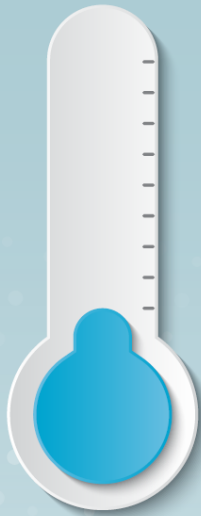
CCAT Testing

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.



Monday,
January
17, 2022

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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
- 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.

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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 had our first **Lockdown Drill** on November 29th! Staff and students were notified in advance of the drill and had time to prepare for it based on our new Health and Safety protocols.

Our next Lockdown drill will be scheduled in the new year!

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Human Rights Policy – HWDSB wants to hear from you

Engagement and Listening Sessions

We are committed to developing a policy that reflect the voices of the communities we serve, especially those that often experience discrimination due to their race, gender, disability, ethnicity, religion, place of origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, family status and other reasons. All HWDSB community members (students, parents, caregivers, guardians, staff, volunteers, community partners and community members) are invited to share their perspectives to inform the human rights policy and procedure.

There are four ways for students, staff, families and community members to get involved:

- Complete the human rights policy survey - open until **January 5, 2022**
- Share responses to the Human Rights Policy discussion questions by emailing written, audio or video submissions to humanrights@hwdsb.on.ca.
- Send responses anonymously through this anonymous form- <https://ca.research.net/r/HumanRightsPolicyQuestions2021-2022>
- Participate in a virtual listening session- register to one of the sessions planned between November 24 to December 16, for students, parents/ community members and staff: -
 - Students: [register here](#)
 - Families/community members: [register here](#)
 - Staff: [register here](#)

Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI)

At HWDSB, the Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI) well-being survey intends to hear directly from students in grades 4 to 12 about their experiences and well-being. We will implement a full version of the MDI in classrooms throughout the month of December in our Grades 4 & 5 classes.

The MDI is a self-report questionnaire completed by children and youth in grades 4 through 12. It asks them how they think and feel about their experiences both inside and outside of school. It includes questions related to the five areas of development that are strongly linked to well-being, health and academic achievement.

For more information please click the following link:

[Middle Years Development Instrument \(MDI\)](#)

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Spirit Week at Cootes!

Cootes Paradise Presents...

Winter Holiday Week!

December 13-17

Participation is completely voluntary. Choose 1,2,3,4, or all 5 days! It's up to you. We hope everyone has a safe and restful Winter Break and look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year!

Dec 13

**Spirit of the Season
Monday**

Wear colours or outfits that represent a winter holiday you love!

Dec 14

Tacky Tuesday

Wear your silliest outfit!

Dec 15

**Winter Wonderland
Wednesday**

Dress in your favourite shades of blue and white!

Dec 16

**Hot Chocolate by the fire
Thursday**

Wear anything flannel or comfy!

Dec 17

**T'was the Friday before
winter break**

Pajama or lounge wear Day!

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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.

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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