

# The Paradise Chronicle

January 2022 Edition



## Staffing Update

Dear Families,

As I communicated earlier, effective February 1, 2022 I will be moving on to Viscount Montgomery School as their new Principal. I'm excited to begin my new journey but I am sad to be leaving such an amazing group of students, staff and families.

During my time at Cootes, I have built relationships with many of you and I will cherish the memories and friendships I've made during my time. Cootes Paradise will always remain a very special place for me.

Please welcome Mrs. Hogan who will be the new Principal of Cootes Paradise beginning February 1, 2022. She is excited to join such an amazing team.

Wishing you all the best and please stay safe.

Sincerely,

D. Fede

Happy New Year and welcome to the beginning of the 2022 school year! We hope you all had an enjoyable holiday season.

As the new year begins, please know that as different as things seem, at Cootes Paradise, students are always front and center and every decision made will have your child's best interest in mind – virtually and in person. As students attend our virtual school, our goals are to ensure that your child;

- Feels safe and happy to be part of Cootes;
- Is part of a productive learning environment that provides appropriate innovative learning experiences; and
- Works toward their academic learning potential

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, safe and happy New Year!

D. Fede & S. Gojsic

## Remote Learning

Last week, the Ontario government once again moved schools in the province to remote learning as a response to high cases and rapid spread of the Omicron variant of COVID-19. Thank you to all of our staff, students and families for a relatively seamless transition to remote learning. While we understand that this can be a stressful time, working together has helped to create a nurturing learning environment for our students.

The Ministry of Education has stated that staff and students are to return to in-person learning on Monday, January 17. For the most up-to-date information around school and board information please regularly visit the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board website and follow them on Twitter.



## Device Deployment

Thank you to all families that requested devices for remote learning. These iPads were distributed on Thursday and Friday of last week and were based on requests made in the portal from Monday, January 3 to Tuesday, January 4 at 8 p.m.

As students are returning on Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, a plan to return devices will be communicated shortly.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.



## Cootes Food Drive

We are excited to announce our very successful food drive during the month of December! Thank you to all who donated in support of Compass Community Health. A big thank you Mme Kay for organizing this generous initiative!

## COVID-19 Update-Student Screener

On the recommendation of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, a more sensitive COVID-19 symptom list is being reinstated for daily active screening of all students and staff in schools and child care.

Anyone who has symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 or is a confirmed positive case must self-isolate, regardless of vaccination status:

- If you have COVID-19 symptoms and are fully vaccinated you must stay home for 5 days and until your symptoms have been improving for at least 24 hours. The 5 days start from the date symptoms began.
- If you have COVID-19 symptoms and are partially vaccinated, unvaccinated, or immunocompromised you must stay home for 10 days. The 10 days start from the date symptoms began.
- Household members are required to isolate for the duration of your isolation as well.

### [Covid-19 Student Screening](#)

**Please remember that once students are able to return to in person learning, students must bring their calendar screener to school each day with them, signed by a parent to verify that the screener was passed. A copy of the calendar can be found in the following link:**

### [Student Screening Calendar](#)



Picture Retake  
Day is Postponed!  
A new date will  
be announced  
soon!

## Elementary – Optional Transition to Full-time Remote Learning

In response to the fast-spreading omicron variant, HWDSB is offering an additional transition opportunity to remote learning for elementary students (Kindergarten to Grade 8). The Remote Learning survey will be available to families between 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 13 and 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 20. This survey can be accessed through the Parent Portal. Families can also call their child/ren's school to have their choice recorded during regular school hours.

Only families requesting a full transition to remote learning until June 2022 need to complete this survey.

This transition opportunity is different from previous transitions because:

There is only a choice to select a transition to full remote learning.

- There is no opportunity for students already enrolled in full remote learning to select a return to in-person learning.
- Students would be enrolled in a full remote learning class until the end of the school year in June 2022.
- There will be no opportunity to return to in-person learning except under extraordinary circumstances.
- The potential date for this transition will depend on the total number of students selecting this option and will be communicated at a later date.
- Full remote learning has classes spread out in schools throughout the HWDSB. Students selecting full remote learning will have their registration transferred to the school hosting the remote learning class and will become a full student of this host school for the remainder of the school year.

The potential transition date will depend on the number of potential students selecting a transition to remote learning. The HWDSB will communicate an update regarding the Elementary Remote Transition the week of January 24 to 28.

For details on Remote Learning for Elementary Students at HWDSB, visit the Elementary Remote Learning 2021-22 page [here](#) or read the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) below.