



Dundana Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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December 2017 Newsletter

Principal's Message

December is a very exciting month at school. As you may expect, there are special events and activities planned. However, this is a critical month in learning for our students as well. Teachers will begin to write Term 1 report cards in January (they will come home in February), so December is a time when students are independently demonstrating their understanding and application of term 1 learning. As a school, we have set targets during first term to support our early primary students to meet reading goals, and we have set targets in math for all grades to support in areas of need. In fact, our entire Professional Learning day on December 1 was dedicated to learning new math instructional practices, analyzing student data and planning to support student need based on the data. If you are interested in knowing some of the current thinking behind math instruction and how you can support it at home, I encourage you to watch the following video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ytVneQUA5-c> To learn more specifically about focused areas of instruction and learning for your child, please consult with your child's teacher.

Donation Thank You

Thank you to all of the families who donated to our winter clothing drive for Lake Avenue School. Principal Goodman at Lake Avenue School was thrilled to hear about the response we had from the Dundana community. The items will be put to good use supporting students and families at Lake Avenue, many of whom are new to Canada and unprepared for our chilly winters. Many thanks to Ms. Garda for volunteering to organize the drive.

Reading Specialist in Dundana

At Dundana, we're committed to supporting a goal where every child is reading by the end of Grade 1, where developmentally appropriate. A child who is reading by the end of Grade 1 is set up for positive academic outcomes and future success. In September 2017, HWDSB celebrated the deployment of 48 Reading Specialists across the district to work directly with students and educators in Kindergarten and Grade 1 classrooms. Reading Specialists are working with children within classrooms, alongside classroom educators, to deliver appropriate strategies and/or interventions. They support reading acquisition and respond to student learning needs. We're pleased to have Mrs. Fleming as the Reading Specialist in our school most afternoons this year. If you have any questions about the Reading Specialists and their role in your child's class, please contact the school.

Winter Weather Procedures

Please see the attached information about inclement weather and the process the school board goes through to determine if it is safe to provide transportation and/or classes for students. We know weather conditions can vary throughout the board and even within our own catchment area. Families always have the opportunity to make the choice they feel is best when it comes to sending their child to school in poor weather.



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While at school, students will spend time outside every day unless our temperatures dip too far into extreme temperatures (-15 without wind chill or -20 with wind chill) or if the weather is extremely stormy. Otherwise, we'll be outside at recesses and before school. Please make sure your child is appropriately dressed for winter conditions. We do not have supervision available to keep students inside unless it has been declared an indoor recess.

Keeping indoor shoes and an extra change of clothes at school will also help your child feel comfortable and warm throughout the day.

Winter Concert

Dundana staff and students are proud to present our annual Winter Concert on Wednesday, December 20, beginning at 9:10 a.m. All of our classes will be participating in the concert. Family members are welcome to come and watch the concert, although please be advised that seating is limited in our small gymnasium. Guests will be welcome to come into the gym to find seats beginning at 8:55 a.m. We will post a program on the website on December 18th so you will have an idea of when your child's class will be performing. A reminder that not all of our students participating in the concert have media consent. Please refrain from posting videos and photos online containing images of children that are not your own.

Calendar of Events

December 6	School Council meeting, 6:30 p.m., Library. Everyone welcome!
December 8,15,22	Pizza Days. Orders due Tuesday prior each week.
December 11	Lunch Lady. Order due Thursday prior.
December 14	Grade 2s to Children's Centre, p.m.
December 18	Skating at Harry Howell Arena. Gr 1-5.
December 20	Winter Concert, 9:10 a.m., gym. All are welcome, but space is limited. Admittance to the gym begins at 8:55 a.m.
December 21	Spirit Day – Pyjama Day! Celebration Assembly, 9:15 a.m., gym.
December 22	Last day of classes. Regular dismissal at 3:15 p.m.
Dec 23 – Jan 7	Winter Break. No School.
January 8	Classes resume after the winter break.