



Dundana Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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February 2020 Dundana Newsletter

Principal Notes

One of the important, school-wide goals Dundana has worked on for the last few years with our students is developing problem solving and resiliency skills at all grade levels. We know that students need modelling, guided practice and independent opportunities to try out these skills in different settings to hone their abilities. What does that look like? It means we do concrete lessons with students throughout the year about growth mindset and the benefit of making mistakes (as we have found that the fear/frustration about making a mistake often shuts down problem solving) when we learn from them. It means we set up situations where students have the opportunity to muddle through a problem *despite* frustration in a subject like math, science, music or phys ed. It means we coach students through social problem solving without necessarily fixing the problem for them. It means we encourage students to reflect when they have made poor social choices in order to learn how to make better choices – and reduce social problem solving needs – next time. Anyone who has ever taught a child to tie a shoe lace will know that teaching a concept to independence is a lot more work than just doing it for them. The same is true for problem solving and resiliency skills. It takes a lot of time, effort, patience and repetition to help students develop better problem solving and resiliency skills. I encourage you, throughout the year, to check in with the educators your child works with to find out specifically about his/her resiliency and problem solving abilities. What are his/her strengths? Where are his/her areas of growth? This information can be as helpful as knowing a child's reading level or math proficiency in terms of helping your child develop into a well rounded community member.

Labour Action

Several education union groups, including ETFO which HWDSB elementary Teachers and DECEs are members of, are currently involved in negotiations and labour action. To stay up-to-date with current restrictions as well as any school closure days resulting from the labour action, families are encouraged to follow HWDSB on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter for timely updates. As well, more comprehensive information can be found on the HWDSB website here: <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/about/labour-update/>

Winter Wear Yellow Day – February 5

As part of our Active School travel plan, we are encouraging families to consider ways to get to and from school on February 5th that are active and sustainable. Wear your yellow for awareness, and then try to walk, wheel or toboggan to and from school to get physically active and reduce our carbon footprint.

Additionally, the community active school travel volunteers will be hosting “Yellow” events that day. For details on these events, please contact asstdundana@gmail.com or check the parent social media sites.



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Kindergarten Registration Begins February 3

We are only half way through this school year but February 3rd marks the first day of Kindergarten registration for 2020/2021! Your child is eligible for the two year kindergarten program in the calendar year that he/she turns four (JK) or five (SK). You are welcome to begin your registration in person at the school office between 9:30 and 2:30 weekdays or online (see <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/dundana/registration/>) . All families will need to complete registration at the school, providing:

- Proof of age (child's birth certificate or passport)
- Proof of address (identification showing custodial guardian's address)
- Completed Kindergarten Registration form (online or paper copy)
- Proof of immunization
- Verification of date of arrival/immigration documents (if the child was not born in Canada)

Please note that we are only able to accept registrations from families who are in our English catchment area. For more information about catchment areas, please see: <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/find/> A Kindergarten information session will be held in mid-May for all of our new registrants. We will send out information about this in the spring to all of our registered families. A brief tour of the Kindergarten classrooms will occur at that time.

Pizza Days in February

Due to complications because of ongoing labour disruptions, we have decided to pre-emptively cancel the pizza days currently scheduled for February and refund all purchased items. If labour disruptions cease, we will reschedule any pizza days remaining. At the moment, we will leave March through June posted on School Cash Online and reassess each month's viability as it approaches. We apologize for the inconvenience this causes our families. Thank you to everyone who has supported this School Council fundraiser all year! We hope to be back soon!

2020-2021 School Year Calendar Consultation

HWDSB has released DRAFT copies of both the elementary and secondary school year calendars for 2020-2021 and are seeking feedback from the community. To see the proposed calendars and to provide input about them, please go to: <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/blog/2020-2021-draft-school-year-calendar-consultation/> before February 28th.

February Calendar

Feb 3	Ballet Creole performance, K to 5, gym
Feb 3	Kindergarten Registration Begins for 2020-2021 school year
Feb 4	School Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., library
Feb 4, 11, 18, 25	Lunch Lady, 2 nd nutrition break
Feb 17	Family Day Holiday – no school