



Dundana Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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May 2020 Dundana Newsletter

Principal Message

Well, that was quite an April, wasn't it?

As we start on the eighth week since we have been physically together in Dundana School, I hope all of our Dundana families are keeping well. I hope you have found ways to balance the needs of family members, employment, learning, physical and mental well being, and, of course, tech support. The educators at Dundana have been working really hard on all of those things in their own homes while also trying to meet the needs of your child and family. We've moved into a phase of learning with our students where new concepts may be being introduced or scaffolded onto concepts previously taught in person. Our teachers are trying a variety of strategies to help students learn while not physically with them. We know how much you and other family members are trying to support your child's learning as well. We appreciate all of the efforts you are making to ensure your child continues learning and understand that each family will need to approach learning in different ways, at different rates and using different supports. Please know that our educators will continue to reach out to you as long as we are continuing this phase of learning while away from school, to check in, to provide learning opportunities and to be available if you have questions or need other forms of assistance. We are all looking forward to the day we'll be able to learn together again at Dundana.

Kindergarten Registration

If you have a child that was born in 2016 or 2015 and you would like to register for Kindergarten, we are still able to accept registrations during this time. We encourage you to begin the registration process early, so that we can best plan for our class sizes for the fall. For more information about the Kindergarten program, or to learn how to register, go to: <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/kindergarten/> Please note that we are only able to accept registrations for students in our English catchment area for Kindergarten registration. All students must attend their English catchment school for kindergarten, even if siblings attend Dundana in our French Immersion program. You can begin your registration online using the link above, or you can contact Mrs. Bentley at dbentley@hwdsb.on.ca and she can guide you through the process. We are awaiting further information from the board regarding Kindergarten Orientation possibilities, and will update any families currently registered when we receive that information.

Planning for 2020/2021

We will soon begin planning for next year's classes as we try to develop successful transitions for our students. This will include a class building process carried out by the staff using the collective knowledge they have about individual student strengths and needs. Parents and guardians may also have additional thoughts about your child that could contribute to our decision making. If there is particular information about your child that you would like us to consider when placing your child (e.g. a student's particular strengths or needs, pairings of



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students that are beneficial or detrimental to your child's learning), please advise via email to kkeerybi@hwdsb.on.ca.

Please note that requests for specific teachers cannot be accepted and will not be considered. Submissions received on or before May 19th will be considered, but cannot be guaranteed. We will endeavour to create the best learning environment we can for every student.

Generally, in June we try to provide transition opportunities for all of our students (e.g. visits to new classrooms, meeting new teachers). At this point, Ministerial orders to keep schools closed only extend until the end of May. Until school buildings are confirmed to be open or closed for June, we are on hold with our typical transition plans. We are planning for both eventualities and will try to ensure students will still have the opportunity to learn about next year's plans (to the best of our ability) before the end of the school year. The June newsletter will provide more information about these plans.

Learning At Home

Dundana teachers have each set up their learning opportunities digital platform and have communicated these with families. For families that are looking for other, different learning opportunities, the HWDSB has set up a website to share resources in a wide variety of subject, interest and grade levels that can be used to supplement student learning. This list is frequently being added to. We encourage you to consider using some of these resources if your child requires further enrichment to their learning. This information can be found here:

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/student-learning-resources/>

Supporting Families

As this situation continues, we know that there have been significant effects on families. Should your child or your family require support (e.g. information on accessing emergency food, mental health resources, technology concerns) we encourage you to reach out to your child's educator or to Mrs. Keery Bishop kkeerybi@hwdsb.on.ca so that we can find ways to support you. We're here to try and help.