



Dundana Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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April 2021 Dundana Newsletter

Principal's Update

As I write this on the morning of March 31st, I don't know what school will look like in the next few weeks. Director Figueiredo posted an update late on March 30th asking families to be prepared in case we are directed to go into at-home learning again in the near future. To see that update in its entirety, please see: <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/blog/hwdsb-covid-19-updates-march-2021/#director>

Prior to our April 2-5 long weekend, Dundana educators will be sending home student personal items and for some, educational materials that could support at-home learning if we are directed to move to that mode of learning. If we remain in in-person learning, we just request that those educational materials be returned for use in the school the next in-person day. We are trying to prepare for all possibilities while providing the best learning opportunities for our students.

If we are moved to at-home learning, another process of provisioning out student devices where needed will occur. Please continue to regularly check the board website, our school website and local media for any updates about school attendance either for your child's particular class or cohort, our school, or board- or provincial-mandated school building closures.

Having said all of that, I can't thank our Dundana community enough for the support you have provided during this difficult year. Your daily vigilance in monitoring your child's health, your support of all of our difficult on-site protocols, and the constant work you are doing to help maintain your child's mental health and well being have not gone unnoticed. We are all working as best as we can here at the school to make Dundana a safe and fun place to learn, but we would not be successful without all of your support. Thank you for all you are doing!

I hope that on our upcoming long weekend, and our planned Spring break April 12-16, you and your family get some opportunities to rest and recharge.

School Council Meeting

Our next scheduled School Council meeting is Wednesday, April 7 at 6:30 p.m. via MS Teams. If you wish to attend (and haven't previously asked to be invited), please send an email to Mrs. Keery Bishop at kkeerybi@hwdsb.on.ca on or before Tuesday, April 6. An email invitation will be sent out to the requested attendees on Wednesday morning.

Kindergarten Registration

If you have a child born in 2016 or 2017 and you wish to enroll them in the 2021-2022 Kindergarten program, registrations are open and actively being taken. Only students in Dundana's English catchment area can be accepted for registration. For children in our FI catchment area, your registration will be directed to the appropriate English catchment school. For more information and to register, please go to: <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/kindergarten/> or contact the school at dundana@hwdsb.on.ca for more information.



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Outdoor Play and Learning

To best support the learning and well being of our students, we will continue to prioritize time spent outside during the school day this spring, for both non instructional times (e.g. entry, recess) and instructional time. At times, that may mean we are outside in some inclement weather. Please send your child with the clothing they will need to be comfortable in the various weather conditions and a possibly muddy field.

By-Law and Street Safety

Entry and dismissal times at Dundana can be very busy in our parking lots, bus lanes, on Dundana Avenue and on surrounding streets. Please be aware that our school staff, bus drivers and crossing guards frequently express concerns about unsafe parking, fast driving around the school and student pedestrians, and students crossing the road in front of traffic. The city's by-law department has been made aware of these concerns. Please help us keep all of our students and community safe by parking in legal spots for drop off, driving safely around the school area, and ensuring your child walks safely on the sidewalk to get to school.

Health Growth and Development Units of Study

In May and June, educators will be teaching grade 1 to 5 students with the grade-appropriate curriculum of Human Development and Sexual Health. To help parents and guardians better understand the scope of learning for each grade, several supports will be provided. HWDSB will be hosting an information session via MS Teams for any interested families on April 21. Letters will be sent home in May with more grade/class specific information. For more information about the curriculum, the information night and the partial exemption process, please go to: <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/blog/elementary-learning-human-development-sexual-health/>

April Calendar

April 1	Spirit Day – Wacky, Mismatched Day
April 2, 5	Easter Weekend Holiday, no school
April 12-16	Spring break (watch media and board websites for updates if rescheduled)
April 20	School Photo Day for all Dundana students
April 21	Growth and Development Health Unit Information Session via MS Teams