



Dundana Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

23 Dundana Avenue
Dundas, Ontario L9H 4E5
Phone: 905.628.2622
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EMAIL: dundana@hwdsb.on.ca
PRINCIPAL: K. Keery Bishop
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www.hwdsb.on.ca/dundana

March 2021 Dundana Newsletter

Principal Message

We've passed the halfway mark in the school year recently. This is cause for celebration, particularly since it has been such a difficult year. Despite all of the upheaval, restrictions and uncertainty, students are still learning and engaging with their classes. We know that well being, socialization and academic success are more difficult to support this year. For example, students can't always interact with friends the way they would like to at school and even some of our best instructional practices to support academics have been impacted by protocols. However, we all continue to support students to the best of our abilities.

As Public Health and HWDSB protocols continue to evolve, your child may face periods of absence from school due to requirements around isolation and symptom management. This is done with considerable caution in the hopes of keeping our school buildings as safe and healthy as possible. Please ensure that you are continuing to use the daily screener every morning before considering sending your child to school for the day. The daily screener tool can be found here: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

With the recent change in protocol, any student displaying **any** symptom from the screener chart should remain home. If any symptom is reported by a student when at school, they (and any attending siblings) will be sent home immediately and can return to school when one of the three conditions is met:

1. Results of a negative covid test are produced and improved symptoms, OR
2. 10 days of isolation and improved symptoms, including no sign of fever, OR
3. Notification from a health practitioner stating that the symptom was due to an alternate diagnosis

To better understand this adjusted practice, please see these resources from Hamilton Public Health: <https://www.hamilton.ca/sites/default/files/media/browser/2020-09-17/covid-decision-guide-symptomatic-child-home-english-feb2021.pdf>
<https://www.hamilton.ca/sites/default/files/media/browser/2020-09-17/covid-decision-guide-symptomatic-child-at-school-childcare-feb2021.pdf>

It is important for each family to have a plan in case you get that call from the school asking you to pick up your child(ren) to isolate. They will be isolated until your arrival but we do ask you to make every effort to make arrangements to pick them up as quickly as possible. We also request that you communicate with the school via phone at 905.528.2622 or email at dundana@hwdsb.on.ca when one of the conditions have been met to allow your child(ren) to return to school.

For more information about HWDSB recent messaging about covid, protocol changes and testing opportunities, please go to: <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/blog/hwdsb-covid-19-updates-february-2021/>



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Here at the school, we look forward to a time when learning, teaching, celebrations, play and socialization of students isn't as disrupted by the need for protocols and caution due to health and safety. In the meantime, please know that we are doing our best to juggle all of these while still valuing and supporting your child's learning.

The Piano Program

The piano program at Dundana continues to thrive! At the present time, it is offered to students in grades 2 through 5 in an after school, virtual format to replace the semi-private in-school lessons. If you would like to consider signing your son or daughter up for lessons for the remainder of this year or for next year, or simply would like more information, please contact Miriam Janssen at miriamjanssen@gmail.com. Please note, this is not a Board-supervised program.

School Council

Our School Council will meet virtually again on Wednesday, March 3 beginning at 6:30 p.m. via MS Teams. Any parent or caregiver of a Dundana student is welcome to attend any School Council meeting. If you haven't previously attended a meeting and would like to be invited, please email kkeerybi@hwdsb.on.ca by Wednesday morning to be added to the invitation list.

We're Going Outside!

We are attempting to take students outside for recesses and for instructional periods as frequently as possible this year. It allows our students to get fresh air breaks and increase physical activity and movement, all in support of student health and well being. It is important that our students come prepared for various weather conditions that may occur. We try to use our field as much as we can to allow students more room to run and additional distance from other cohorts, but spring is usually challenging as it can be very wet and muddy. Please ensure your child has appropriate clothing for the weather, including outdoor footwear and indoor shoes to change into. Keeping a change of clothing at school (in a labelled plastic bag in the classroom) will also keep your child more comfortable if they have a run-in with a puddle or mud. Thank you for your support with this focus on learning and playing outside.

School Photo Day is Coming

Typically, school photos are offered in the fall. This year, however, protocols did not allow this until later in the year. Dundana's school photo day will be **Tuesday, April 20**. Photos will be done for all students in grades JK to 5. Additionally, SK "graduation" photos will also be done on this day. The school and photographers will be following extensive public health-approved protocols. Families will have the opportunity to purchase photos directly from the provider once proofs are available.



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Spring Break Dates

Our spring break was originally scheduled for the week of March 15 to 19, 2021. That has been changed by the Ministry of Education to the week of April 12 to 16, 2021.

Upcoming P.A. Day

Friday, March 5 will be a P.A. day for all students, K to 12, in HWDSB. Educators throughout our board will be using the day to learn together about equity, student achievement, and instructional strategies to support student learning. There are no classes in person or remotely for students on this day.

Report Cards

Families should have received an unsigned, email version of your child's Communication of Learning (Kindergarten) or Term 1 Report Card (Grades 1-5) on February 19th. A signed paper copy of that same report will be sent home with your child on Thursday, March 4. If you have any questions about the information in the report, please contact your child's teacher.