



Dundana Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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June 2021 Dundana Newsletter

Principal Message

We are heading into the final month of our school year; the end of *another* school year like no other. Despite everything 2020 and 2021 have thrown at us, I am so proud of the learning and growing our students have done this year. While we don't anticipate that our 2021-2022 school year will be quite like a pre-2020 "normal", we are all hoping for more stability, consistency and time learning in-person together so we can help our students grow some more. Watch for messaging from HWDSB, Hamilton Public Health, and the Dundana website for more information in late August and early September for information about what protocols and processes will be in place for us to begin our new school year. Our first day of school is scheduled for Tuesday, September 8.

Over the summer break, I do hope all of our Dundana families have a chance to relax, reconnect with family and friends, and disconnect from their devices. We encourage all of our students to explore their passions and interests, to keep their bodies healthy with lots of play and exercise, and read all the books they can find. For some students, just this chance to step away from school for a time will be enough to rejuvenate and strengthen their well being and mental health. For others, more specific professional supports may be needed. HWDSB's social work services has a number of opportunities for students and families this summer to help. See below for more details on that.

Thank you to all of our families who have encouraged, cajoled and carried students through this year. Dundana staff know how hard you have worked to support your child(ren) and to help us support their learning. We couldn't have done it without you.

Bike Riding Online Clinic

Our Dundana School Council has worked with Mel Poel from Stoked MTB in Dundas to provide this online tutorial about the skills your child may need to get started with mountain biking. Students and families are encouraged to find healthy, active means of transportation to and from school, where possible. Mel and her Dundana helpers here go through the steps of readying your bike and helmet, and learning bike riding skills to manage our local trails. There are some great tips for new and experienced riders. Check it out!

<https://hwdsb.tv/media/ride-to-school-in-dundas/>

Mental Health and Wellbeing Supports for Students and Families

This summer, the HWDSB Social Work department is offering a number of services and supports to HWDSB students and families. For more information about these summer supports, as well as regional supports available year-round, please go to:

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/secondary/supports/mental-health-and-well-being/>

If you would like more information or to register for any of the services, please contact 905.527.5092x2308 or email wehelp@hwdsb.on.ca



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School Council Information

Dundana's School Council has met all year online to support our school. The final meeting of the year is scheduled for **Wednesday, June 2 at 6:30 p.m.** If you haven't attended a meeting yet this year, but would like to join this last meeting, please email kkeerybi@hwdsb.on.ca by Tuesday, June 1.

It has been a difficult year for council, as we haven't been able to plan school-wide events or fundraise. However, despite these challenges, the council has diligently worked to continue to support our students this year. With funds raised last year, School Council shared the cost of a new bike rack to support healthy student transportation. They also arranged for the innovative parent and family engagement Bike video (highlighted above) to support Dundana families in getting active in our neighbourhood. Thank you to our Council executive: Simon Carroll (Chair), Gillian Petersen (Treasurer) and all of our members and frequent attenders. Your efforts have been so appreciated!

We are hopeful next year to have a more typical year at council and we are always looking for new members. Watch for notification on the website and in a letter to come home in September with information about our 2021-2022 election and meeting. We typically meet about once a month on a weekday evening. Parents and guardians are welcome to join as a member or to join as an attendee.

Year End Events

As this is posted, it is still not known whether we will be returning to in-person learning in June or remaining in remote. Either way, Dundana educators will be continuing to work with our students to help them consolidate this year's learning, work on some new learning (there's always time for new learning!) and help students enjoy some time with their peers with some fun and engaging activities.

Students will be receiving a term 2 report card electronically, as has been recent practice. These are set to be sent out to families on June 24. More information about how to access these electronic reports will follow later in June. We are hoping that we will be able to include information about tentative class placement on that report card, if available by that time. Please note that staffing and school organizations change frequently as new information is provided and this *may* cause changes to be made to classes and educators before our September start up.

Also to follow later in June will be directions for any families who currently have school- or school board-owned technology about making arrangements to return those devices to the school by June 29th or on the first day of in-person attendance, if school resumes in-person classes in June.

While we don't have any graduates at Dundana, it has been a tradition to celebrate our grade 5 students before they head off to middle school for grade 6. Grade 5 families should have received an email through School Messenger with important information about our planned events. If you did not receive this email, please connect with your homeroom teacher.