



Dundana Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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May 2021 Dundana Newsletter

Principal Message

The first week in May always marks Education Week. Traditionally, we highlight the hard work our students have done so far in the year with an Open House at this time so that family members can join us in celebrating all of our students' collective efforts. Unfortunately, for a second year in a row this isn't possible. This is, I think, particularly disappointing this year because it comes at a time when our students need that lift of having their hard work acknowledged and celebrated.

The staff at Dundana know how much effort students and families have put into student learning this year. Multiple shifts between in-person and remote, repeated re-organizations, heavy protocols limiting social and learning interactions, and family-supported efforts in at-home learning have impacted student academic performance and the well being of entire families.

The educators and staff of Dundana are continuing to work each day at finding the right balance of instruction and learning opportunities for our students. We are trying to find ways to incorporate some fun, some social interactions, and some light hearted engagement opportunities into our remote school days to try to keep students connected with peers and staff. We are trying to support students in continuing to express themselves in meaningful and responsible ways while online. On top of all that, though, we want to find ways to celebrate our students and to make sure they know how much we appreciate who they are as individuals and acknowledge all of their hard work this year.

Families, thank you for always encouraging your child, learning with them, helping them problem solve and finding your own ways to celebrate them. We are so proud of the 300 unique young people who fill our hallways and our online classes.

Class Building for 2021-2022

This is the point in the year that we begin planning for the next school year. Currently, we are facing some uncertainty about the process as we await ministry and board information about how/if remote learning options and covid protocols will impact our school organizations. In the meantime, we will continue to plan with the information we do know.

The social aspect of school is an important consideration. We try, whenever possible, to ease the transition into a new school year for students by placing them with a peer or peers with whom they enjoy working and playing. Family members are always an important source for this information. *If you would like to request that the school considers placing your child in a class next year with a specific peer or one of a few peers, please email that information to kkeerybi@hwdsb.on.ca before the end of May.* Please note, we cannot guarantee that they will be together, but we will do our best to consider the information when building the classes.

Requests around specific educators or classes cannot be accepted for consideration.

Please watch the board and school websites this spring and summer for more information as it is provided about remote learning for 2021-2022, updates to covid protocols in schools, and how they may affect school organizations.



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Dundana Spirit Wear

Our spirit wear order is due to arrive at the school the week of May 3, with a planned distribution to families the week of May 10. School staff will contact families about times and dates items can be picked up shortly. Items can also be held for pick up at a later date, if needed.

Dundana's Got Talent!

A talent show has been a longstanding tradition at Dundana. In spring 2020, we held our first virtual talent show. It was exciting to see the unique and various talents students could present using this digital format. We are excited to host this online show again this year! For details about how to film, post and submit your entries, please see:

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/dundana/2021/05/03/dundanas-got-talent/>

We'll premiere the show on Friday, May 21st. All entries are due on/by Friday, May 14th. Show us what you can do, Dundana!

Jump Rope for Heart

Jump Rope for Heart is back again this year. Jumping rope is a great activity to engage your body in physical activity and now it can also help someone else's heart too. In the month of May, Dundana students will be encouraged to practice their jump rope skills. The week of May 24th, classes will be participating in our own Jump Rope event during PE classes.

No skipping rope at home? No problem! The week of May 10th, we'll have some individual ropes available for families to pick up, contact-free, from the fence in front of our school parking lot.

For families who wish to register, make a donation, or to start setting goals for healthy habits, earning badges and fundraising, please go to:

https://secure-support.heartandstroke.ca/site/SPageServer/?pagename=ifh_Home and search Dundana

If you want more information, please watch this kick off video, or contact Mrs. Frank for details:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Ab54p1UVKQ>

Human Development and Sexual Health Units of Study

In grades 1 to 5, our health classes will engage in learning age- and grade- appropriate information about human development and sexual health in May and June. Individual teachers will provide families with specific details about when this is to be taught, what materials will be used to teach it, and how you can ask questions or request an exemption for your child. To see the full Health and Physical Education curriculum for grades 1 to 8, you can also look here:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/2019-health-physical-education-grades-1to8.pdf>

This site can also provide information about what is being taught, and why, at each grade level:

<https://www.ontario.ca/document/health-and-physical-education-grades-1-8/human-development-and-sexual-health-education-grade>

If you have any questions, please contact your child's classroom teacher or Mrs. Keery Bishop.