



Dundana Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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October 2021 Dundana Newsletter

Principal Message

It has been amazing to have students populating our classrooms, playground, and hallways again this last month. I know how much work it is at home to make sure your child is able to come and participate here safely, while also juggling emergency plans in case your child is not able to come to school due to illness or isolation. Thank you for all that you are doing at home to help us follow protocols; your support is so appreciated by the staff and community of Dundana.

Changes to COVID-19 Student Screener

As of October 1, Ontario's Public Health has altered portions of the daily Student School Screener, as well as clarified topics such as testing, vaccine status, personal health information disclosure and international travel guidelines. For a full synopsis of the details of these changes, please see: <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/blog/updates-ontario-covid-19-school-child-care-screening/>

Please continue to screen your child(ren) daily, sign the calendar that returns to school each day verifying the screening, and find alternative arrangements if your child becomes sick on a school day.

Use of Student Personal Devices

At times, we realize that parents/guardians may wish to have a student bring a personal device such as a cell phone to school to monitor safety travelling to and from school. Please note the following restrictions around use of personal devices by students at school:

- Devices are the sole responsibility of the student. School staff are not responsible for keeping the device safely stored for students. Any breakage, loss, or theft that occurs is the responsibility of the student.
- Personal devices may not be used for any reason during non instructional times (e.g. indoor or outdoor nutrition breaks).
- Personal devices may only be used during instructional time at the discretion of the educator and then only for the purposes of augmenting student learning. Student use of that device will then be supervised by that educator. The student would be required to comply with the directions of that educator regarding specific applications or uses of that device for that particular task.
- Students who need to contact a parent or guardian during the school day are instructed to alert their educator and that contact will be made through the office instead of through a personal device.

For more information regarding the policy directing these edicts, please see:

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Responsible-Use-REV-Nov19.pdf>

In general, unless a child needs their device specifically for travel to and from school, families are encouraged to consider keeping personal devices at home. Dundana educators will continue to provide instruction to students throughout the school year supporting student



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understanding of the appropriate use of digital tools, the importance of one's digital footprint, and how to navigate online interactions safely and appropriately.

Safe Schools Action Plan

HWDSB is currently accepting applications for a board-wide Safe Schools Action Plan committee, to be comprised of parents/guardians/caregivers, students and community members. Advisory groups will provide advice and feedback in each of the following areas: Student Voice, School Improvement Planning, Bullying Response, Supervision, Character Education, Special Education, Bullying Policy and Procedure, Data and Privacy. For more information, please go to: <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/safe-schools-action-plan/>

Canadian Parents for French Ontario

This organization offers information and resources to support families of a student learning French (in either an Immersion or Core program). This fall, there are limited spaces for programs to support students online outside of school hours. For more information, please go to: <https://on.cpf.ca/en/1-virtual-programs/>

Piano Program at Dundana

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

Terry Fox Run

Dundana School will once again be participating in a Terry Fox School Run, the week of October 4th. In order to do so in a way that follows health and safety protocols, students will be engaged in learning about Terry Fox and his legacy in class time, where possible, and will conduct their run by class during PE periods. Please see the letter and donation information posted on the Dundana website on Monday, October 4th for further details.