



# Dundana Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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## December 2021 Dundana Newsletter

### **Principal Message**

The way the winter break falls this year, December is a very short month of school. It has been a busy but challenging first few months of the school year. I hope that all of our Dundana families have a chance over the school break to find ways to relax and enjoy some time without the rush of filling backpacks and lunch bags and checking homework. As always, the staff here at the school appreciate all the efforts you take to send us your children with all the masks, extra clothes, healthy lunches, agendas checked and have-a-great-day messages. While there continue to be challenges in our school year, it is a wonderful experience every day to see students who are happy and excited to be here learning with their peers and educators. Have a safe and healthy break from school busy-ness December 20<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> and we'll look forward to seeing you all again on Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Dundana Gives Back – December Food Drive**

Dundana School, with support from classes 45A and RF2A, will be holding a food drive for our community during the week of December 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>. Students can bring in donation items to their classrooms any day that week. A donation box will also be set up outside of the school between 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. daily if family members need to drop off heavier or bulky items. All donations will be given to the Dundas Salvation Army for distribution to families in need in our community. While all non perishable donation items are welcome, the organization has requested donations of school-appropriate snacks as something that would be most appreciated.

### **School Photo Day**

Dundana School hosts our long-awaited school photo day on Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. School photographers are required to adhere to all board and public health protocols to participate so that we can make the experience as safe as possible for all of our students. We have been told families can expect to see the photo proofs come home the week of December 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **Travel Reminders**

We hope everyone enjoys our winter break from school (December 20 to 31). For families travelling out of the country, please note that the federal regulations still state that those individuals who are **under 12 and not fully vaccinated**, must not go to school/child care for 14 days following their return to Canada, even if other quarantine restrictions do not apply. Please advise the school of your date of return to the country so we can mark your child as isolating for the following two weeks. The homeroom teacher can provide some independent work that the student can do, if school has returned while your child is isolating. For more information, please see the daily student screener here: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

### **Student Census and MDI Surveys**

All HWDSB families/students are invited to participate in the board's census. Kindergarten to grade 4 families will receive a secure email with a link to participate on behalf of your child.



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Grade 5 to 12 students will receive information to their own board email to participate. Time will be provided in class the week of December 6 for our grade 5 students to participate at school. For more information about the census and the process being followed, please go to: <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/about/equity/we-all-count-hwdsb-student-census-2021/#tabs-113>

MDI – or Middle Years Development Instrument – will be used to survey grade 4 to 12 students on their experience and well being. Time will be provided in class the week of December 6 for our grade 4 and 5 students to participate at school. For more information about the MDI and the process being followed, please go to: <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/elementary/supports/mental-health-and-well-being/mdi/#tabs-114>

## Dundana Fitness Challenge

Mrs. Frank is holding the second annual “May your fitness be merry and bright!” challenge this month. Students are encouraged to send/bring in their photographs of how they stay fit at home. All photos will be displayed on a board in the school so other students can learn new ideas about ways to keep fit. Each photo will enter you into a draw, with a winner announced on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Send pictures to [jfrank@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:jfrank@hwdsb.on.ca)

## December Spirit Days

Students are invited to join us in some school wide fun this month.

**Friday, December 3-** Pj/comfy clothes day – Students are invited to wear their comfiest clothes or pyjamas to school.

**Friday, December 10-** "The Great Dundana Story Train" -work with your class to create part of a school-wide story that will be shared with all classes at the end of the day.

**Friday, December 17-** wear Holiday colours – Students are invited to wear clothes that represent or remind them of their favourite celebration or holiday. We'll also invite classes to participate in a winter wonderland miniature village stroll on this day as well.

## Safety on our Street

All families are reminded that cars parking around the school at drop off and pick up times must avoid all bus stopping areas. This includes the main parking lot, as one bus stops at the front door. Please note that our bus stop area on Dundana Avenue extends from the main parking lot entrance (in front of the Kindergarten pen area) all the way past the second parking lot by several metres. Our second parking lot on the side of the school is not accessible while buses are parked so please refrain from trying to enter/leave that parking lot while buses are waiting. City By Law officers are monitoring the area to support safe travels for all of our students and families.