



Dundana Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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November 2021 Dundana Newsletter

Principal Message

This month, progress reports will be sent home with all of our Kindergarten to Grade 5 students (November 19th). Educators will indicate whether students are progressing well, with difficulty, or very well (Grades 1 to 5), and offer some written comments about student successes and next steps (Kindergarten to Grade 5). We know that the last few years have been challenging for student learning in the areas of academics, learning skills, and socialization. Educators have spent the last two months working with students to set routines to help students develop those important learning skills like organization, responsibility, independent work and self regulation. They have also spent a considerable amount of time developing a sense of community within their classes to encourage pro-social behaviour and relationship building among students. Academically, educators have observed and assessed students to find appropriate starting points in learning and teaching. It's been a busy few months, but we are just getting started. The progress report will give you a glimpse at how your child is faring *right now* against Ministry mandated standards of curriculum. Please take it as one piece of information about your child, but not the only one to consider. There is lots of learning to be done prior to February and June report cards and we know some students may have had a more difficult time than others adapting to learning at school, or had difficulty engaging in remote learning, which may be reflected in their current level of achievement. If you have questions about your child's progress, please connect with your child's teacher for that subject. HWDSB does not have a formal day for interviews this year following progress reports, as has been past practice. Instead, educators will continue to communicate with parents and caregivers throughout the year as needed or requested. As always, thank you for all of the work you do at home with your child to help them be successful here at school. We couldn't do it without you!

School Council Update

On October 6th, the 2021/2022 Dundana School Council was elected and held their first meeting. For information about the council and upcoming meetings, please see this section on our school website: <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/dundana/school-council/>

The council wasted no time getting started on developing plans to support the school.

Currently, they are running a flower bulb order fundraiser, with funds raised going to augment outdoor learning and play opportunities for our students. The deadline to place your orders is November 8th. For information about the fundraiser, please go to:

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/dundana/2021/10/19/school-council-fall-fundraiser-at-dundana/>

Dundana Spirit Wear

Back by popular demand, Dundana PE department is holding a school spirit wear sale. The deadline to place an order is November 15th. For more information about this, please go to:

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/dundana/2021/10/19/spirit-wear-at-dundana/>



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Dundana Photo Day is Coming

Recently, HWDSB re-opened the opportunity for School Photo providers to come into our schools to take annual school photos (while following a number of safety procedures, including providing proof of double-vaccinated status for all of the photographers). Dundana's school photo day has been booked for **Thursday, December 9th**. Mark your calendars and bring your smiles!

Protocol Reminders

At this time, HWDSB schools are required to daily track the verification of student screening by checking agendas/bags for that paper calendar, featuring a parent/guardian initial daily. Thank you for continuing to support us with completing this verification after screening your child. If you keep your child home due to possible covid-like symptoms or public health required isolation, please contact the school office at 905 628 2622 or dundana@hwdsb.on.ca so we can provide support around appropriate next steps and tracking for return-to-school attestation. HWDSB and Hamilton Public Health recently sent out a system-wide reminder to all families that everyone is asked to wear a mask while on school property including parents/ guardians /caregivers, even if remaining outside for drop off or pick up.

Winter Weather is Coming

Information about procedures about weather conditions board-wide can be found here: <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/blog/winter-is-coming-a-reminder-about-cancellations-snow-and-cold-weather/> . This includes information about school building closure processes and snow clearing procedures. At Dundana, we try to continue time outside whenever possible and encourage all students to come prepared for the weather. At times, our playground can get very icy, which may necessitate an indoor entry in the morning, but we can still find ways to get outside at other parts of the day. When the temperature falls below -15 or the wind chill is below -20, we will be required to shelter indoors.

Winter weather means lots of extra clothing pieces for students and we are still not able to host a lost and found box. Please try to label student items or find ways to keep them together (e.g. mitten clips) to help your child keep track of all of their personal items while at school.

Remembrance Day – November 11

Students will be provided with a poppy on Thursday, November 11 as we engage in learning and reflection for Remembrance Day. Students are welcome to bring in a small monetary donation on that day that will be passed on to the Royal Canadian Legion Poppy Fund. Although we are not able to physically assemble for our Remembrance day activities, classes will participate in our virtual assembly during period 3 (11:15-12:05).

PA Day – November 26

Friday, November 26 is a Professional Activity day for HWDSB educators and staff. There will be no classes for students.