



# Dundana Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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## **March 2022 Dundana Newsletter**

### **Principal Message**

This school year – like the previous two school years – hasn't followed a typical school year plan. It has required all of us to problem solve and adapt frequently. As our provincial and municipal leadership bodies have adjusted protocols, restrictions and messaging, HWDSB has also modified operations within schools. We've recently had additional modifications made to our board-based protocols and these have impacted some of our school operations. We've been able to return small group tables to our library. Our classrooms can also begin to plan on some small group collaboration spaces (e.g. guided reading tables, desk groupings) where space permits and it supports programming. There will be the return of some soft surface materials (e.g. dramatic play centres in kindergarten, eventually carpet areas in some primary rooms) as we can operationalize it. Some extracurricular opportunities are beginning or are planned to provide our students with other outlets for their creativity or physicality.

We are also anticipating that there will be more changes to those board protocols as further decisions at the provincial and municipal levels continue this spring. HWDSB has committed to informing families about board-wide changes using the web site here:

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/about/covid19/>

Our educators and school staff review the protocols and adjust classroom and school practices to align with them where we can to support student experience and learning.

As always, the staff at Dundana appreciate your support as we navigate following all of the procedures while also trying to create the best possible experience for our students. Continue to watch the board's Covid 19 web site for ongoing details about loosening restrictions. Changes to whole school procedures at Dundana will be posted on the Dundana website or within monthly newsletters.

### **The Spring Mud Has Begun!**

Unless the weather is dangerous (e.g. icy conditions that can't be avoided, thunderstorm, temperature below -15/windchill below -20), we try to get outside throughout the school day. In the spring, the mud and puddles can be a challenge on the playground and field areas. Please ensure your child has the clothing they will need to be dry, warm and comfortable inside and outside. In addition to appropriate outerwear, you may want to consider having your child pack an emergency change of clothes – either to keep in their backpack or in the classroom in a labelled bag – in case they get caught in a mud puddle.

### **Safe Travels Around Dundana**

Please remember to drive slowly and safely around the school, particularly during those busy periods of entry and dismissal. It is important to watch the street signage and keep personal vehicles out of the bus lanes. It is also important to ensure students are walking safely around the roads and parking lots by staying on sidewalks, and avoid playing in parking lots or walking between buses and cars where possible. Please help us keep everyone safe during these busy travel times around the school.



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## Outdoor Learning at Dundana Proposal

At Dundana, we are working on enriching the spaces and learning opportunities for our students on the school grounds. We recently received a grant from the Dundas Rotary Club to add learning and social materials to our kindergarten play areas. We have also now begun fundraising for an outdoor classroom space on the grounds for all of our classes to access. Our goal for that initiative is \$8500. As fundraising protocols loosen, we may be able to offer some targeted fundraisers, but in the meantime, families are welcome to donate online through the Hamilton Foundation for Student Success (HFSS) and add in the Additional Comments section that funds should be directed to Dundana Elementary School. To donate directly, please go to: <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/foundation/donate/> Thank you to the Dundana School Council for partnering with the school to help advocate and fundraise for these exciting plans. Thank you to all of the donors who are helping to make our outdoor learning plan possible.

## Dundana School Council

The Council's next meeting is planned for Wednesday, April 6 at 6:30 p.m. All parents/guardians of Dundana students are welcome to attend and participate. For more information about the Council or upcoming meetings, please contact [kkeerybi@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:kkeerybi@hwdsb.on.ca) or the Council Co-Chairs Sara Brown and Heather McCully via [dundana@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:dundana@hwdsb.on.ca)

## School Registration for 2022-2023

We're already working on our 2022-2023 school year plans! If you have a child born in 2018 (JK) or 2017 (SK), you can now register them for Kindergarten for next year. For more information, please go to: <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/kindergarten/> Please note that we are only able to accept students for kindergarten who live in our English-catchment area.

If your child is born in 2016 and you are interested in French Immersion beginning next year, please go to: <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/elementary/programs/french-as-a-second-language/>

The late registration process is now beginning and placement and wait list offers will be provided, as per the schedule on the board website.

If your child is currently in Grade 5, we will assume they will be going to their catchment grade 6 school next year and no registration will be required of you. For most of our students, their catchment school for grade 6 is Sir William Osler.

More information on school transitions and orientations will be made available later in the spring.

## Photo Retake Day

Our LONG awaited photo retake day is scheduled for Monday March 21<sup>st</sup>. Please let your child's teacher/educator know if you want your child to have retakes, or contact the school office 905 628-2622. This is the first day after March break, so mark your calendar now as a reminder!

## School Mental Health Ontario

SMHO has a number of valuable resources to support students with mental health and well being. At the school, we have used a number of the educator resources to support our students over the last few years. SMHO also has resources that can support families in helping to



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monitor and support their child's mental health and well being. Those resources can be found here: <https://smho-smso.ca/parents-and-families/>

## March Calendar Items

March 11 – Beach / Fun in the Sun Spirit day – wear your summer wear to help us dream of a day at the beach!

March 14-18 - March Break – enjoy the week!

March 21 – School Photo Retake Day