



Shannen Koostachin  
**KODIAKS**

# Shannen Koostachin News – February 2020



## Shannen Koostachin Elementary School

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PRINCIPAL: Julie Anderson (@SHANNEN\_HWDSB)

VICE-PRINCIPAL: Tricia Nelson (@VPnelson\_hwdsb)

### *FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK ...*

It is hard to believe that February is already here! It has been an exciting last few months at Shannen Koostachin with the opening of our gym, Family Literacy Day as well as many activities that the Making a Difference Team has worked hard to plan. A big thanks to Mr. Asquith and the student leaders for organizing the Kidney Clothing Drive in January. It was a great way for our community to give back to a great cause. Also, a big thanks to Ms. Celeste for opening up the gym at nutrition breaks for basketball. The students have enjoyed gathering with their friends, staying active and working hard on developing their basketball skills.

February is here and there are many exciting things happening at Shannen Koostachin. While we are all aware of the labour actions happening around the province, at Shannen Koostachin all of the staff are working hard to continue to support all students. I continue to be amazed everyday by the commitment and passion of the staff here at the school. As you all have heard, due to labour actions at this time, Term 1 report cards will not be coming home as planned. All staff remain committed to providing information on your child's progress and will continue to support the learning of each and every student at the school. Please monitor the HWDSB website for the latest updates on Job Action or follow me on Twitter @shannen\_hwdsb for timely updates.

In February we will all join the City of Hamilton for the Winter Wear Yellow Day! February 5th is a day for us to celebrate 'Active School Travel' as we all work hard to travel actively to school by walking or wheeling on a regular basis. Did you know that close to 80% of our school population lives within walking distance from our new wonderful school? Walking to school not only cuts down on traffic congestion in the area, it also provides an active way for us to get moving each day. As we continue to work closely with the City of Hamilton on our 'Active Travel Planning' we are looking for a community representative that may be interested in becoming our 'Active School Travel Champion'. If you are interested in this role, please let the office know and our School Council Chair will be in contact.

In February, you will see a continuation of pizza, milk and pitas. These food days would not be possible without the support of the members of school council and parent volunteers each week. In order to support moving forward with pita days in the next few months, we are moving to ONLY accepting School Cash Online payment or cheques (NO CASH). Please see the school website for the dates as well as instructions on how to sign up for School Cash Online payments. SCO is a safe, secure way for schools to accept payments for items throughout the year, we will continue to move in this direction for coming food orders and moving away from accepting cash payments. Thank you all for your support with this moving forward.

Lastly, as you are all aware, we are still under some ongoing construction to our beautiful new building. I am happy to report that we now have a beautiful new trophy case in the front hallway to display student accomplishments, a working school sign out front as well as our elevator is now operational. At this time, we are still awaiting the completion of our stage and audio/visual equipment in the gym as well as many other finishing touches. As always, the construction update remains a standing item every month during school council meetings. If you are unable to make the monthly meetings, a reminder that the minutes are posted on our school website!

Thank you all for a wonderful month. I continue to be amazed and inspired by the students and families at Shannen Koostachin,

Mrs. J. Anderson  
Principal

## ***FEBRUARY EVENTS***

Feb. 3 — Registration begins for Fall 2020 Junior Kindergarten  
Feb. 5— Winter Wear Yellow Day—Active School Travel to School  
Feb. 11— Practice Lockdown with our Community Liaison Officer 10:00AM  
Feb. 14 — Nutrition Free Day  
Feb. 17 — Family Day—no school  
Feb. 20— Ti- Cats Visit Shannen Koostachin  
Feb. 24 — School Council 6:30 p.m.  
Feb. 28 — Celebration Assembly (9:45– 10:45 a.m.) Tentative Date

### ***This Month's Band Practices:***

Feb. 4, 6, 11, 13, 19, 21, 26, 28  
(11:10 a.m.—11:50 a.m.  
during 1st Nutrition Break)



### ***Pizza Days***

***February 3, 10, 18 & 24***

### ***Pita Days***

***February 13 and 27***



To keep current on upcoming school events, check out our School Website and Calendar [www.hwdsb.on.ca/shannenkoostachin/events](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/shannenkoostachin/events) regularly!

Please continue to check the Shannen Koostachin website and follow [Mrs. Anderson on Twitter @SHANNEN\\_HWDSB](#) or [Mrs. Nelson @VPnelson\\_hwdsb](#) for upcoming events and special occasions throughout the year!

**Smoking is**  
**Prohibited**



Please be reminded that **smoking/vaping is Not Permitted Anywhere on School Board Property at Anytime.**

**School Council (an open invitation)*****We are Always looking for Extra Help!*****How to Get Involved:**

If you are interested in attending our monthly School Council meetings or are able to lend a hand please

email: [shannenkoostachinSC@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:shannenkoostachinSC@hwdsb.on.ca)

We look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting:

***Monday, February 24th at 6:30 p.m.  
in the Learning Commons/Library.***

**FROM THE SPORTS DESK**

We love our new gym at Shannen Koostachin and we are so excited to be able to run, jump and play in it. Our students have enjoyed their time in the gym during class as well as at nutrition breaks during our Hoops3 intramural.



Can you spare even 5 minutes?



Join the  
**MOVEMENT**  
ActiveSchoolTravelHamilton.ca



Almost every school in Hamilton experiences traffic congestion around the school during student arrival and dismissal. This creates a **very** unsafe environment for students and creates frustration for parents trying to get to work on time. If you must drive your child to school, you can help this situation by parking even 5 minutes away and walking your child to school. Just **5 minutes** can have a huge impact on student safety and help you get your steps in too!

Winter Walk to School Day is February 5th! Wear yellow and join the movement!





## Our Parking Lot



In order to keep all students and families safe, we ask that you please review the parking and dropping off guidelines below:

- ⇒ Please enter through the IN lane of the parking lot- follow the arrows
- ⇒ Please exit through the OUT lane of the parking lot- follow the arrows
- ⇒ If you are parking, please use the designated parking lot. There is also parking along the streets around the school.
- ⇒ If you are dropping off, please drop off at the back gate at the back of the parking lot and continue through the parking lot and out- follow the arrows.
- ⇒ DO NOT ENTER the main lane in front of the school. This is considered a fire lane and for BUSES ONLY at pick up and drop off times.
- ⇒ Please be patient, drop off and pick up takes 10-15 minutes
- ⇒ During our construction the only gate open to the playground will be off of the parking lot. Once construction has ended, we will have an entry gate at the other side of the playground along Keystone Crescent.

A reminder that our school grounds are open from 9:15 until 9:30 when our instructional bell rings. Teachers, Early Childhood Educators and Educational Assistants are ready to assist and support students during this time. As always, we encourage students who live close by to walk to school, this will cut down on the congestion in our parking lot.

Thank you for your continued support and attention to this matter. Student safety is always our number one priority!

Thank you to everyone  
who donated clothing  
for our first ever  
Kidney Foundation  
Clothing Drive!

Over 150 bags of  
clothing were hauled away  
from the school with the help  
of our Grade 8 students.

Thank you to our school community  
for your  
generous support!

BILL 31 AMENDMENTS - HIGHWAY TRAFFIC ACT

### NEW ROAD RULES IN EFFECT!

A REMINDER TO ALL DRIVERS AND CYCLISTS!

As of January 2016, all motorists must stop and yield the whole roadway at:

- Pedestrian crossovers;
- School Crossings where there is a guard displaying a school crossing stop sign.

Motorists can **NO** longer turn left, right or proceed through a crosswalk on the clear half of the roadway.

You now **MUST** wait until the entire crosswalk is empty of both pedestrians and the School Crossing Guard.

**S**top, when you approach a School Crossing Location

**T**ake notice of whether there is a guard on duty

**O**bey the Highway Traffic Act and wait for guard to completely exit the crosswalk

**P**roceed with caution

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!  
FEBRUARY 14



### Allergy Aware School



We have many students with life-threatening allergies to peanuts or nuts. **Please do not send your child with any nut products for lunch or snacks.** Working together we can help ensure the safety of all our children!

In front of the school is a gated green space with artificial turf where our Full Day Kindergarten students play every day. We have noticed that some members of the community are using this space to let their dogs run and play.

Unfortunately, not everyone cleans up after their pet.

Please do not use this area after school or on weekends. It must be kept clean and hygienic for the youngest members of our school.

*Thank you for your cooperation!*



*“We will be known forever by the tracks that we leave.”*

~Shannen Koostachin  
Staff



Dear Families:

Please take a moment to let HWDSB what the Board is doing well and what it can improve on by using this year's Parent Voice Survey at

<https://bit.ly/36myeUG>

As in the past, schools will be provided with their school data if 20 or more surveys are submitted. Thank you for supporting this important engagement.

**Running late? Did you know you can report your child's late arrival on SchoolMessenger? This app. can also be used to report a leave and return (for a Doctor's appointment) or an early dismissal.**



[Watch for our](#)

[Chocolate](#)

[Fundraiser—](#)

[COMING SOON!](#)



## SAFE ARRIVAL ABSENCE REPORTING SYSTEM

At HWDSB, one of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all students safely arrive at school every day.

**SafeArrival**, a student absence reporting system, makes it very easy for families to report student absences. It also allows school staff to respond quickly and thoroughly to all unexplained absences.

**Our goal is to continue to have all absences explained and all student accounted for each day, knowing that they are all safe.**

With SafeArrival, families report a child's absence in one of three ways:

**Use the SafeArrival website, [go.schoolmessenger.ca](https://go.schoolmessenger.ca).** The first time you use the website, select Sign Up to create your account. Select Attendance then Report an Absence.

1. Using your mobile device, download and install the SchoolMessenger app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store (or from links at [go.schoolmessenger.ca](https://go.schoolmessenger.ca)). The first time you use the app, select Sign Up to create your account. Select Attendance then Report an Absence.



Call the toll-free number **1-844-506-4350** to report an absence using the automated phone system. These options are available 24 hours/day, seven days a week. You can report a future absence any time.

In addition, we will use the SchoolMessenger Communicate automated notification system to contact parents whose elementary school child is absent when the absence was not reported in advance. The automated notification system will attempt to contact parents multiple times until parents confirm and explain the absence. If this system cannot reach the designated contacts, elementary school office staff will follow up.

If you try to explain an absence using SafeArrival, but are then told that it is past the cut-off time, please contact the school directly.

If you report your child's absence in advance using either the SafeArrival toll-free number, the website or the mobile app, you will NOT receive these notifications.