



Shannen Koostachin Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

110 Bellagio Avenue
Hannon, Ontario L0R 1P0
Phone: 289.768.2755
Fax: 905.692.9880

EMAIL: shannenkoostachin@hwdsb.on.ca
Principal: Julie Anderson
Vice-Principal: Tricia Nelson
www.hwdsb.on.ca/shannenkoostachin

November 18, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope this update finds you all well. Please see below important information and updates.

READINESS FOR DISTANCE LEARNING

At the request of the Ministry of Education, HWDSB is asking elementary families whose students are currently learning in-person to assess their preparedness to have students learn from home. The Readiness for Distance Learning Survey was first launched on Friday, November 6 and the deadline has been **extended to Friday, November 20, 2020 at 11:59 PM**. Please visit **FORMS** in the parent portal and look for the Readiness for Distance Learning Survey. Please complete one per child in your household.

FORMS ON THE PARENT PORTAL

A reminder to stay up to date in your completion of required forms on the parent portal. The most current form available to families is the 'Student Verification Form'. This is an important form to complete as it will help us keep our records up to date including any changes that you have had in address, phone numbers and emergency contacts. Thank you for staying up to date with the forms in the parent portal.

PARENT/GUARDIAN ACCESS TO THE SCHOOL

This year, schools have been asked by the Ministry of Education to significantly limit or even prohibit visitors to the school, including parents. It is strongly recommended that parents do not drop off items during the school day unless the items are essential. If you are picking up your child from the school early for an appointment, please use the door buzzer and the office staff will support you with this process. A reminder that all parents/guardians must wear a mask when on the school grounds.

DROP OFF/PICKUP SAFETY

We have had a number of parent concerns regarding student safety around our school. In particular, there have been reports that students and parents are running between parked cars on Bellagio Avenue and Keystone Crescent and crossing the road in front of moving vehicles. Please be aware that there is a crossing guard at the corner of Bellagio and Keystone. It is the safest decision to use this crossing guard at entry and dismissal times as it is extremely busy around the school. It is also the safest decision to use the sidewalks around the school to access the school grounds. Thank you for your continued attention to safe entry and dismissal.



Shannen Koostachin
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SECURE SCHOOLS SAFETY PROCEDURES

Based on HWDSB policies and procedures, at Shannen Koostachin we have outlined procedures for conducting emergency drills to keep our students and staff safe in the event of an emergency. Part of our yearly planning and practice includes fire drills as well as safe schools drills including lockdown, hold and secure, shelter in place and bomb threat drills. While we have completed 3 fire drills to date, in the coming months we will also begin to practice our safe school drills. It is important to note that our emergency drills this school year will continue to align with current public health advice and measures. You can learn more about HWDSB's approach to secure schools at <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/secondary/supports/secure-schools/>

DAILY SELF SCREENING PROCESS

Please ensure that you are reviewing the self screening checklist daily with your child(ren) each morning before school. If your child fails the screener, please keep your child home from school and report the absence to the school office. If your child develops COVID related symptoms during school, we **must** follow Public Health protocols to support the safety of all students and staff. The first step to this process is for parents to pick up **immediately**. We recognize that this may be challenging for some parents, but we are required to adhere to Public Health protocols.

RETURN TO SCHOOL ATTESTATION FORM

If a student fails the screening for any of the above reasons and is absent from school, the student requires a completed Attestation for Return to School Following Illness or Self Isolation form. If a student is sent home from school, we will provide a hard copy of this form to families to complete upon return of the student. If a student fails the screening while at home, please contact the school when the student is ready to return to school and we will help you with this attestation process.

PD DAY NOVEMBER 27- NO SCHOOL

Friday, November 27, 2020 is designated as a Professional Activity Day for all HWDSB schools. All staff will participate in a half day of mandatory violence prevention training. Elementary schools will use the remaining half day for communication with parents/guardians/caregivers regarding student progress. **There is no school for students on this day.**

DECEMBER CHARACTER TRAIT

This year we will continue our school's tradition of celebrating character traits along with the *Seven Grandfather Teachings* of Love, Respect, Bravery, Truth, Honesty, Humility, and Wisdom. The character trait for the month of December will be KINDNESS. We will continue to celebrate with our staff and

curiosity.

creativity.

possibility.

HWDSB



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students with monthly virtual assemblies. On November 20th, our school will be celebrating our November character trait of COURAGE. A big thanks to Mrs. Ritchie and Mrs. Wilson for your support with our virtual assemblies.

INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE

I know that there is a lot of information coming to families, both at the board and school level. Please subscribe to the Shannen Koostachin website to stay up to date on the most recent news and events. As always, if you have any questions please feel free to call us at the school or email us at shannenkoostachin@hwdsb.on.ca.

Thank you all for your continued support as we work together to support our school community at this very different time in public education.

Sincerely,

Mrs. J. Anderson
Principal