



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

March 17, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Spring is in the air! Staff and students at Shannen Koostachin continue to work hard everyday to learn and stay safe! I hope this update finds you all well!

Please see the information below:

ASYMPTOMATIC TESTING AT SALTFLEET - MARCH 19, 2021

[Voluntary Asymptomatic Testing](#) is available for your child in your school community. Targeted testing is voluntary for asymptomatic students and staff and will help ensure that our schools remain a safe environment for all to learn and work in.

When: Friday, March 19, 2021 from 10:45 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Where: Saltfleet District High School, 108 Highland Road West, Stoney Creek

How: Drop in when you can – NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Participants are able to walk-in to the location during the allocated testing time.

Why is asymptomatic testing being recommended?

Asymptomatic testing is an important layer of protection that helps to track and prevent the spread of COVID-19. Increased testing may also help to reduce stress and anxiety related to the virus by identifying cases early and avoiding outbreaks.

Who is eligible for asymptomatic testing?

Students attending Shannen Koostachin School in-person learning, Saltfleet and other elementary schools that feed to Saltfleet. COVID-19 testing is voluntary and only for asymptomatic individuals (those who are not experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms.) Consent is required for students under 18 years old. The consent form is available on site. Students unaccompanied by a parent or guardian must bring signed consent. Download the consent form here: <http://hwdsb.info/LifeLabConsent>

FINAL TRANSITION DATE INFORMATION

HWDSB will provide a third and final opportunity for families to transition between the Elementary Remote Learning Program and in-person learning this Spring. Families who wish to switch learning models between remote and in-person must complete the Elementary Transition Between Remote and In-Person (Optional Request Form). The form will be available in the [Parent Portal](#) and opens on **Monday, March 22, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.** It will close on **Sunday,**



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March 28, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. Only complete this form if you would like to request a change in delivery model. If we do not hear from you, your child/ren's placement stays the same. **This Elementary Transition is based on available spaces at in-person schools due to safety requirements for physical distancing and small class sizes.** The first full day of school in a new location for students will be Tuesday, May 4, 2021.

RETURN TO SCHOOL ATTESTATION FORM

A reminder of the "Attestation for return to school following illness or self isolation" form must be completed if a student is sent home from school, or fails the screener due to COVID symptoms. We will provide a hard copy of this form to families to complete upon return or you can complete it through the Parent Portal. A huge thank you to all of our families for being so diligent with this process and responsive when contacted for children that are feeling unwell.

MASKING

Students continue to be expected to wear one non-medical mask to school. Masks must now be worn both inside and outside, which includes, before school, during nutrition breaks, and after school when on school property. Students may continue to request mask breaks with the permission of a staff member who is able to ensure two metre distancing. Under the strict supervision of a teacher, when classes are outside, students may have the opportunity to remove their masks, as long as the teacher is able to ensure two metre distancing at all times. All parents on school property must also wear a mask.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

Public Health continues to guide all HWDSB safety protocols. To support school safety, and the health of all, parents are discouraged from congregating in the morning and after school when dropping off and picking up students. Our playground is supervised from 9:15-9:30 in the morning and 3:50-4:05 after school.

VISITORS DURING THE INSTRUCTIONAL DAY

Please ensure that your child has everything they need for the school day before they come to school (including appropriate outdoor wear, foot wear, lunch, water bottle, etc.). If you need to connect with the school, please call and we will be happy to help. If a student is being signed out for early dismissal, please call the school or provide the information in School Messenger. Parents/guardian are not permitted to enter the school unless absolutely necessary.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our next Virtual School Council meeting is Monday March 29 at 6:30 pm. Please contact the

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creativity.

possibility.

HWDSB



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school if you would like to be added to the attendance list.

APRIL HOLIDAYS

There is NO SCHOOL on Friday, April 2 and Monday, April 5. For those of you that celebrate Easter, Happy Easter!

Spring Break has been rescheduled by the Ministry. The school will be closed the week of April 12-16, students do not come to school.

SCHOOL PICTURES

School pictures for students currently in school learning are rescheduled for April 7/8. Please see our Shannen Koostachin website for the flyer with all of the details.

Grade 8 Graduation Pictures for in school students will be taken on April 19th- see the flyer posted on our website for details.

All remote learners (School Photos or Graduation Photos) are happening after school on April 7th from 4:00pm-6:00pm. You MUST book an appointment with EDGE. Please find all the details on the flyer posted on our website.

FORMS ON THE PARENT PORTAL

Another 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 'Secondary Course Selection'. This is an important form to complete for students Graduating Grade 8 this school year and heading to Grade 9 at Saltfleet.

MARCH CHARACTER TRAIT

The character trait/grandfather teaching for the month of MARCH will be **HUMILITY**. We will continue to celebrate with our staff and students with monthly virtual assemblies.

DRESSING FOR SPRING

As we head into the Spring season, please ensure that students are dressed for the weather. The sun may be shining some days, but it can still be cool so a light jacket is appropriate. Indoor shoes are very important at this time of year as the field can be wet and muddy.



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INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE

I know that there is a lot of information coming to families, both at the board and school level. Another reminder to 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