



Welcome To
Kindergarten at
SHANNEN KOOSTACHIN

Elementary School

Home of the Kodiaks

Virtual Kindergarten Orientation 2021-2022



EMOTIONAL CHECK IN: HOW ARE YOU FEELING ABOUT COMING TO KINDERGARTEN IN SEPTEMBER?



1. Excited



2. Nervous

If you are feeling brave you can share with us the number that represents your feelings towards starting kindergarten in September by turning on your camera and showing us with your fingers 1 or 2.

Welcome!

Mute your
microphone



Video Camera
OFF



Raise your hand
to talk



Be kind






Virtual Kindergarten Orientation

Each May, HWDSB elementary schools welcome families and children to kindergarten. This is a great opportunity to connect with the kindergarten team and to learn more about the kindergarten program.

In a normal year, kindergarten orientation is an opportunity for you to come visit your child's classroom. In this case we have really tried to be prepared and offer some digital supports with our virtual orientation. More information regarding your child's educator team will be shared with all families in June.



Parents:

For more information about the Kindergarten Program's curriculum, registration, or other programs offered at Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board, visit www.hwdsb.on.ca/kindergarten

learn more:

- Watch HWDSB students on YouTube
- Follow us on Twitter @HWDSB
- Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter, The Virtual Blackboard
- Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/hwdsb



Visit us at:

www.hwdsb.on.ca

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board
P.O. Box 2558
Hamilton, Ontario L8N 3L1
905-527-5092

share it, recycle it.

... or go to www.hwdsb.on.ca/kindergarten



Kindergarten



LEARN and GROW with HWDSB!

www.hwdsb.on.ca

ALL STUDENTS ACHIEVING THEIR FULL POTENTIAL



Kindergarten at HWDSB

Please click the video below to check out a video tour of what happens during a typical kindergarten day at a school in HWDSB!





Welcome to Kindergarten Orientation

Please click the image below for a narrated video based on the presentation we provide to elementary schools for their kindergarten orientation events.





Transition to School for Children with Special Education Needs

Please click the image below for a narrated video to help families of children with special education needs, as they prepare for kindergarten.





Social Story Book

Please click the image below to access a social story about kindergarten that families can print and explore with their child at home. This is also available in many other languages including: [Arabic](#); [Chinese](#); [Kurdish](#); [Punjabi](#); [Serbian](#); [Somali](#); [Spanish](#); [Urdu](#); [Vietnamese](#)!

Countdown to
Kindergarten
at **HWDSB**

HWDSB
Starting school is a big step
in your family's life.

- To make this step easier, it is important that you talk with your child about the start of school.
- Exploring this book before school starts will help your child know what to expect at school.
- Reviewing it often will help them look forward to their first day at school.
- We look forward to welcoming your child at Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board!

curiosity • creativity • possibility



ABOUT KINDERGARTEN AT SHANNEN KOOSTACHIN



At Shannen Koostachin School there are 5 kindergarten classrooms that all have **TWO** educators (Registered Early Childhood Educator and Ontario Certified Teacher). Both educators bring unique skills to the classroom that together play a vital role in educating your children and running a successful play based inquiry program.

WHAT DOES A DAY IN KINDERGARTEN LOOK LIKE?

Every classroom will look a little bit different and has their own schedule, but a day in kindergarten will have a variety of engaging learning activities that the teacher and DECE create for students, based on their interests and learning goals.

A typical day includes:

- A morning carpet routine
- Daily read-aloud stories
- Table top activities where students make a choice from a selection of activities of their interest
- Blocks of play
- Building challenges
- Sensory activities (water bin, play dough etc.)
- Singing songs
- Several bathroom breaks
- Short, whole class lessons at the carpet
- 1:1 time with educators and small group instruction
- Blocks of outdoor play & exercise
- Visits to the gym & library on a weekly basis



MEET THE OFFICE STAFF



Mrs. Anderson

PRINCIPAL



Ms. van der Put

VICE PRINCIPAL



Mrs. Rhyno

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR



Mrs. Martire

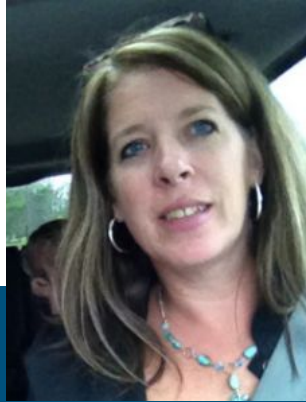
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR



MEET THE KINDERGARTEN TEAMS



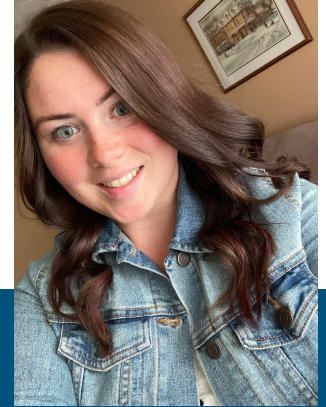
MS. KUCZEREPA



MRS. GEAR



MR. CREATCHMAN



MISS. THOMPSON

FDK 1 Room 132



FDK 2 Room 133

MEET THE KINDERGARTEN TEAMS



MRS. RESTIVO

FDK 3 Room 134



MRS. HILL



MS. CORBETT



MRS. GROSKURTH

FDK 4 Room 135



MEET THE KINDERGARTEN TEAMS



MRS. FEUDO



MRS. KHAN



FDK 5 Room 136



All About Your Educators!

Hello! My name is Ms. Kuczerepa and I am the kindergarten teacher in room 132.

Hello and welcome to Kindergarten. I am so excited for you to join us in this amazing learning journey. Mrs. Gear and I have been teaching together for 7 years and we love exploring and learning along with our students. I also love Minnie Mouse and Disney!

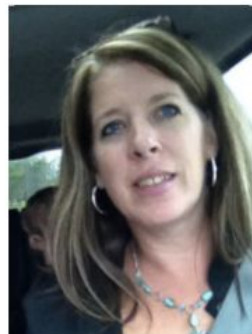


A few of my favourite things:

Food: Pizza
Book: The Kissing Hand
Colour: Pink
Drink: Pepsi
Season: Summer
Hobby: Playing with my Daughters

Hello! My name is Mrs. Gear and I am the Designated Early Childhood Educator in room 132.

Welcome to Kindergarten at Shannen Koostachin School! Every year in September I am so excited to meet our new students. Ms. Kuczerepa and I have been teaching together as a team for 7 years and we make it a goal to have fun and learn with our students. We are excited to learn about you! Can't wait to hear about your favourite things.



In Room 132, we provide a safe, caring, loving environment where we encourage our students to grow and take risks.

Looking forward to seeing you in September 2021!

A few of my favourite things:

Food: My Mom's Homemade Lasagna
Book: Anything written by Robert Munsch
Colour: Pink
Drink: London Fog (made by my son)
Season: Summer
Hobby: Horseback Riding

We are looking forward to a great year together and learning all about you and your favourite things!

All About Your Educators!

Hello! My name is Mr. Creatchman and I am the kindergarten teacher in room 133.



I am so excited to be working with Miss Thompson this year in Room 133! I love learning from our students just as much as I do teaching them. Together we are going to have an amazing year as we take on new and exciting adventures through inquiry and play-based learning.

We are going to have so much fun!

A few of my favourite things:

Food: Steak, pizza and pasta
Book: The Book With No Pictures
Colour: Red
Drink: Coffee, Coca Cola
Season: Summer
Hobby: Hiking, Reading, Puzzles

We are looking forward to a great year together and learning all about you and your favourite things!

Hello! My name is Miss.Thompson and I am the Designated Early Childhood Educator in room 133.



I am looking forward to working collaboratively with Mr. Creatchman this year.

September 2021 will be my 8th year working in FDK.

I am very excited to share my passion about inquiry and play based learning with you. I can't wait to create an environment that is safe and allows you to learn and grow. I also love learning and playing and learning outside. I plan to bring our learning experiences outside as much as possible.

A few of my favourite things:

Food: Pasta or Grandma's roast beef
Book: Anything by Robert Munsch
Colour: Navy Blue and Purple
Drink: London Fog Tea Latte or Coca-cola
Season: Summer
Hobby: Exercising

All About Your Educators!

Hello! My name is Mrs. Restivo and I am the kindergarten teacher in room 134.



Welcome to kindergarten at Shannen Koostachin School! We are so excited to meet you! We know that your first year of school is going to be filled with new friends, learning, and so much fun.

I love books and reading. I love nature and playing outside. I love teaching and helping students to learn new things. I really hope that you will love Kindergarten as much as I do!

A few of my favourite things:

Food: Apples
Book: The Book With No Pictures
Colour: Green
Drink: Coffee!
Season: Summer
Hobby: Hiking, Reading

Hello! My name is Mrs. Hill and I am the Designated Early Childhood Educator in room 134.



I am very excited to be working with Mrs. Restivo this year in Room 134. This is my 9th year teaching Kindergarten and I cannot wait to meet all of our new kindergarten students.

I am very passionate about creating a learning environment that is safe, inviting and engaging for the students. I also believe in a strong play based learning program. This is going to be a very exciting school year and I cannot wait to go on many fun adventures with you.

A few of my favourite things:

Food: Pizza
Book: Love You Forever
Colour: Purple
Drink: Tea and Hot Chocolate
Season: Winter
Hobby: Hiking and Gardening

We are looking forward to a great year together and learning all about you and your favourite things!

All About Your Educators!

Hello! My name is Ms. Corbett and I am the kindergarten teacher in room 135.



I strive to create a safe learning environment where every child feels valued and respected, where the students can thrive without fear of making mistakes to achieve their highest potential. Every day is a new day for a child and teachers to learn and explore.

I look forward to working with your family and Mrs. Groskurth to achieve this goal! Like Mrs. Groskurth, Kindergarten is also a passion of mine!

A few of my favourite things:

Food: Lasagna
Book: Andrew's Loose Tooth by Robert Munsch
Colour: Purple
Drink: Ice Tea
Season: Summer
Hobby: Golf and Reading

We are looking forward to a great year together and learning all about you and your favourite things!

Hello! My name is Mrs. Groskurth and I am the Designated Early Childhood Educator in room 135.



We are very excited to welcome you to Kindergarten at Shannen Koostachin School. Together, with Ms. Corbett, we will create a happy, challenging, comfortable, and safe learning environment. We are so excited to work with you and your child and build strong relationships.

Kindergarten is an absolute passion of mine and I look forward to a year full of fun, learning, and adventures!

A few of my favourite things:

Food: Pizza and pasta
Book: Love You Forever by Robert Munsch
Colour: Purple
Drink: Coffee
Season: Summer
Hobby: Camping with my family

All About Your Educators!

Hello! My name is Mrs. Feudo (like family feud but with an O) and I am the kindergarten teacher in room 136.



I am thrilled to be teaching Kindergarten at Shannen Koostachin Elementary School and am very excited to be teaching alongside Mrs. Khan! I am passionate about creating a classroom environment where students feel safe, cared for and are encouraged to take risks.

This is my 6th year teaching Kindergarten and I look forward to getting to know you! I love teaching and helping you learn new things! I hope you will love kindergarten just as much as I do!

A few of my favourite things:

Food: Pizza

Book: The Bad Seed

Colour: Pink

Drink: Coffee!

Season: Summer

Hobby: Baking chocolate chip cookies

Hello! My name is Mrs. Khan and I am the Designated Early Childhood Educator in room 136.



I am excited to be teaching kindergarten with Mrs. Feudo again.

I have been in the FDK program for the past 11 years.

I strongly believe in creating a loving, caring, safe and nurturing environment for children. That plays an important role in stimulating and encouraging children's physical, intellectual and social emotional growth.

I like to provide the students with open ended endless opportunities/resources that can help them to extend, explore and become independent.

A few of my favourite things:

Food: BBQ and salads

Book: Kissing hand by Audrey Penn

Colour: Purple, black, royal blue

Drink: Coffee and tea

Season: Spring and fall

Hobby: interior designing and travelling

We are looking forward to a great year together and learning all about you and your favourite things!

VIRTUAL SCHOOL TOUR

Our Kindergarten Program helps students get the best start possible.
We're looking forward to meeting you and your child.

See you at school!

The Front Door



The Office



The Library



VIRTUAL SCHOOL TOUR

At Shannen Koostachin we have our very own Kindergarten enclosure that has direct access to the school. The two gates for entrance and exits are closed at all times to ensure the safety of our students. Our playground is great for riding bikes and playing games with friends.

The Gym



The Playground



WAYS TO BE KINDERGARTEN READY...



Many parents ask what their child needs to know before starting kindergarten. It is really a combination of many skills, behaviours and attitudes that determine each child's readiness for kindergarten. Each child's readiness will look very different. The following is a list that includes some skills that will make the transition to kindergarten successful for your child.



10 WAYS TO GET READY FOR K....

- 1. Respects people and materials**
(Ready to follow school and classroom rules, tries to solve problems appropriately, willing to share and cooperate with peers and educators)
- 2. Independently takes care of personal needs**
(asks to use the washroom, uses the washroom fully independently, cleans up after themselves, dresses themselves, uses tissues/Kleenex independently, can put on shoes and pack/unpack their own backpack including zippers)
- 3. Follows Simple directions**
(Listens and responds when name is called, remembers what he/she is asked to do independently)
- 4. Takes Turns**
(Shares toys and materials, is able to wait their turn)

WAYS TO BE KINDERGARTEN READY CONTINUED...



10 WAYS TO GET READY FOR K CONTINUED....

5. Starting to Demonstrate Self Control

(Able to express emotions appropriately, and try new things, willing to participate in group experiences)

6. Respects Personal Space of themselves/others

(Keeps hands and legs to themselves while playing and interacting in a group)

7. Some Exposure to learning tools

(eg. scissors, glue sticks, paint as well as can hold a pencil, markers, crayons)

8. Recognizes Name, some letters and numbers

(This makes things a little easier for children when they are finding their own cubbies and belongings. As well recent research shows children who enter kindergarten knowing 8-10 letters and some numbers shows high success rates.)

9. Uses books properly

(handles books appropriately and understands how to turn pages properly)

10. IS EXCITED TO START SCHOOL AND IS EAGER TO LEARN!!



OVER THE SUMMER YOU CAN...

Apps/Websites Recommended For Kindergarten Learning

(All of these Apps are free in the HMWDSB catalogue, others may be accessed through a website.)



Epic! Reading (App & website)

Gives students independence in choosing their own books, some with "read aloud" features, songs, and videos. Educators can send students stories relevant to class learning. Educators and families can keep track of stories read in their individual accounts.

Class code: lip2166 then find your name



Teach Your Monster to Read (App & Website)

An award-winning series of games to develop literacy skills; covers letters/letter sounds, blending, segmenting, and reading sentences. Students create their own monster and play mini games, teaching him to read. You can use the class account, or on your own as well.

Enter student's first name & Star code: 2213338



Little Writer (App only)

Allows students to trace letters, numbers, shapes and words on their tablet to practice proper formation, and gain muscle memory. No account needed.



Book Creator (App only)

Allows students to create their own storybook with pictures and words, which can be saved and printed.



Breathe (App & Youtube alternate)

A Sesame Street mindfulness app, which uses social stories to teach breathing and relaxation techniques. You can also go to Youtube and search "Sesame Street monster meditation" if you're on a computer for similar activities.



ABCYA (Computer only) www.abcya.com

This is a fantastic website with endless games that practice math, literacy, problem solving, creativity, and much more. The games are also sorted by grade, so you can choose appropriate material for your child. This is my personal favourite website!



PBS Kids (website works on both tablet or computer) www.pbskids.org

Educational games and videos from PBS television shows.

Name: _____		Date: ____/____/____							
Practice Your Numbers Writing 1-30									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30



© RV AppStudios

Trace the Letters

Name _____

Tracing practice sheet for letters Aa through Zz. Each letter is shown in a dotted format on a three-line grid for tracing.



HWDSB

Learn more about...

Kindergarten Speech, Language & Early Literacy

By age four, most children can do the following:

Listening

- Follows directions with two or three parts (e.g. "Please get your hat and coat and meet me at the door.")
- Answers simple what, where, who and why questions (e.g. "Why is the boy sad?")
- Knows basic body parts and colours

Speaking

- Are understood most of the time by people who do not know them
- Speak in four to five word sentences
- Use ending on words like dogs, jumped, biking
- Ask lots of questions, like "what, where, why" (e.g. "Where is the dog going?")
- Use speech sounds for their age, as shown below:



Sound and letter awareness

- Can name some letters of the alphabet
- Know the letters and sounds in their name
- Enjoy listening to and making rhymes

Storytelling and reading

- Look at books and pretend to read
- Listen to and show interest in stories
- Answer some questions about a book you have read together
- Tell you short stories about what they have done
- Know that the printed words in books have meaning but my not be able to read them yet
- Recognize own name in print
- Recognize some environmental print (e.g., Stop Sign, Tim Hortons sign)

Writing

- Draw, colour and scribbles
- Tries to write letters
- Tries to write own name

IS YOUR CHILD LANGUAGE READY FOR SCHOOL?

When your child is getting ready to start Junior Kindergarten this fall, help them get the best possible start in school. By age four, your child should:

- Follow simple directions with two or three steps (e.g.: Get your boots and hat and meet me at the front door)
- Pronounce words about the same way as others his/her age
- Be understood by people he/she doesn't know most of the time
- Speak in sentences that sound about the same as an adult's
- Use endings on words like *dogs*, *jumped*, or *biking*
- Play a pretend game and be able to describe it to you afterwards with enough detail for you to understand
- Be able to answer questions about a book you just read together

If your child is unable to do the things listed above, a speech-language pathologist should meet with your child.

In the Hamilton area, Early Words is a publicly funded organization that provides speech and language services to pre-school children. Please call Early Words at (905) 381-2828.

You must call this number to register your child **before August 31**, in order for your child to be eligible for services through his/her Junior Kindergarten year. There is no cost to parents.

EarlyWords

HAMILTON PRESCHOOL SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Referral

If you would like to refer your child to Early Words, call 905-381-2828 ext 224 or fax to 905-385-2778 or to access the online referral, [click here](#).

Children with speech and language only needs are seen at Early Words.

You **MUST** call this number to register your child **BEFORE** August 31st in order for your child to be eligible for services through their Junior Kindergarten year. This is a free service provided for parents.

THE FOUR FRAMES OF THE KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM



Children learn through play, inquiry, and exploration in the classroom and outdoors. We believe that young children are curious, competent, and capable of complex thinking. We are committed to providing high quality programming that will nourish each child's academic, social and emotional development and prepare them for success in school and in life.

In Kindergarten, your child will build their skills, knowledge and experiences in four key areas of learning: Belonging & Contributing, Self-Regulation & Well-Being, Demonstrating Literacy and Mathematics Behaviours and Problem Solving & Innovating.

Belonging and Contributing

Children are connected to others and play an important role in contributing to various groups, the wider community and the world around them. For example, they begin to have an awareness of themselves as dramatist, actors, dancers, artists and musicians through engagement in various activities in the arts.

Demonstrating Literacy and Mathematics Behaviours

Children think critically about the world around them and communicate their literacy and mathematical thinking and learning in different hands on experiences. Children will learn beginner reading skills and early numeracy skills.



THE FOUR FRAMES OF THE KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM CONTINUED...

Problem Solving and Innovating

Children make meaning of the world around them by observing, questioning, planning, exploring, testing theories and solving problems. Problem-solving activities provide opportunities to explore, create, communicate, and ask questions while developing small and gross motor skills. For example, building with blocks develops problem-solving and spatial-reasoning skills which are connected to science, mathematics and other subjects.

Self-Regulation and Well-Being

Children develop a sense of self-awareness and an understanding of the importance of physical and mental health and wellness. Self-regulation or social emotional learning involves communicating, reading, and writing. For example when children are playing in dramatic play and role playing children build negotiation skills and empathy.



WHILE LEARNING THROUGH PLAY YOU WILL BECOME...



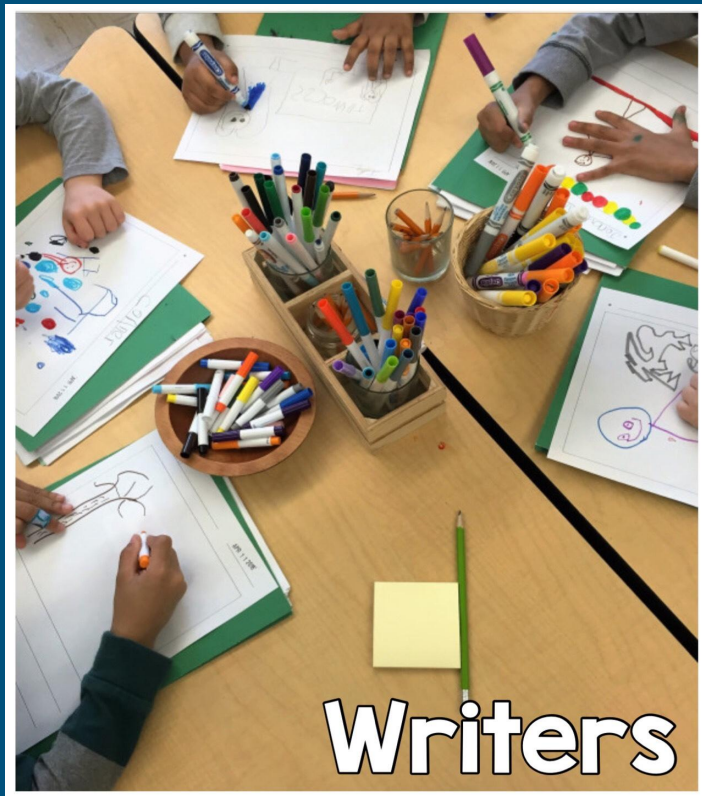
Artists



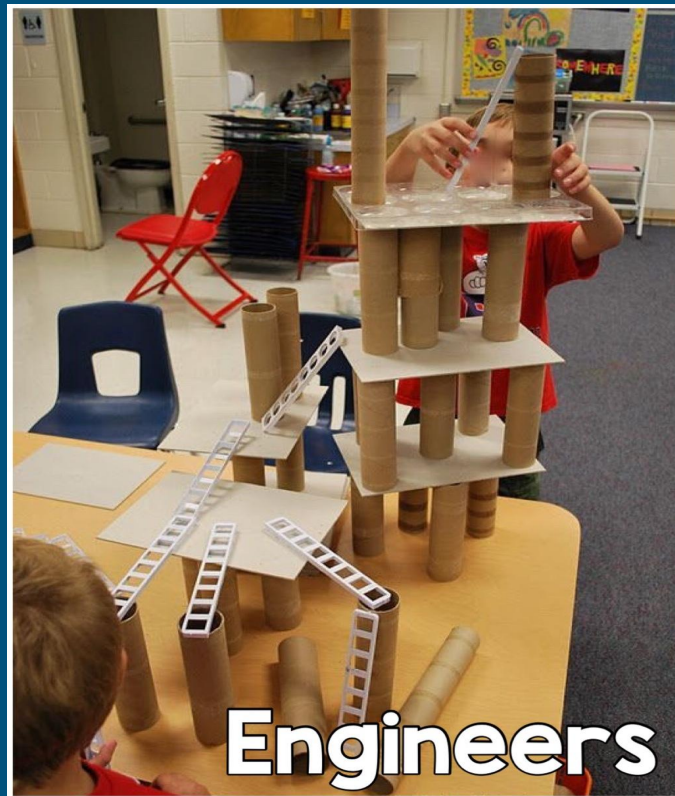
Problem solvers



WHILE LEARNING THROUGH PLAY YOU WILL BECOME...



Writers



Engineers

WHILE LEARNING THROUGH PLAY YOU WILL BECOME...



THINGS YOU WILL NEED FOR KINDERGARTEN...

A backpack



Velcro or Slip on Shoes



A Spill Proof Water Bottle



THINGS YOU WILL NEED FOR KINDERGARTEN...

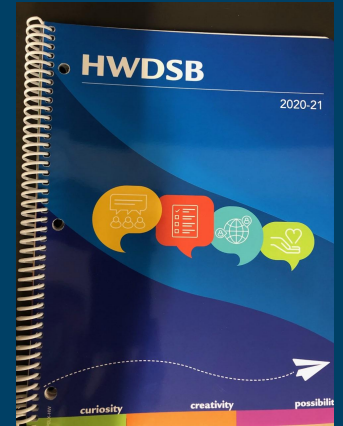
A Lunch Bag



A Spare Set of Clothing



Daily Communication Agenda (\$6.00 Donation is appreciated)



IN KINDERGARTEN IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT ALL STUDENTS ITEMS ARE CLEARLY LABELED...

mabel's labels

We have partnered with Mabels Labels, a Canadian Company located in Hamilton On. Mabel's labels is a company that creates personalized and practical labels for you to use on all your children's personal belongings. At Shannen Koostachin we have an ongoing fundraising campaign happening with Mabels Labels. Mabel's Labels fundraising program is an easy and practical way to raise funds for your school while ensuring kids' belongings stay out of the lost and found.

Support Shannen Koostachin when you order your child's Mabel's Labels by using the following link:

https://mabelslabels.ca/en_CA/fundraising/support/



TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED BY HAMILTON WENTWORTH STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES (SCHOOL BUS)



At Shannen Koostachin School we have students who arrive to school on the school bus as well as take the school bus home. *If your child is eligible for busing you will receive a letter in the mail in August indicating stop location and pick-up/drop-off times, along with your child's yellow bus tag from HWSTS. If you are missing the the bus tag for your kindergarten child, please see/contact the office.* When busses arrive in the morning we have staff members greet all students at the bus and kindergarten students are escorted to the playground by a staff member, at dismissal the same procedure is followed. Students are walked to the bus and signed in with a staff member to ensure all students are on the correct bus. *Please ensure you have filled out and attached your child's YELLOW Bus tag to their backpack and stop information is clearly printed.* This helps both school staff and the bus driver. Parents of Kindergarten students are required to accompany and remain with their child until picked up by the vehicle. No Kindergarten student will be left unattended at a pickup point. Parents/guardians are also required to be on time and present at the drop off point to receive their Kindergarten students.



DO YOU NEED BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL DAYCARE?

Shannen Koostachin offers a partnership with the Umbrella Family Childcare centers which offers a before and after school program for a fee.

Supervisor: Breann Domjancic

Phone 1: (905) 546-6968

Phone 2: (905) 973-7571

Email: breann@umbrellafamily.com



Umbrella Family and Child Centres of Hamilton

Good care educates. Good education cares.

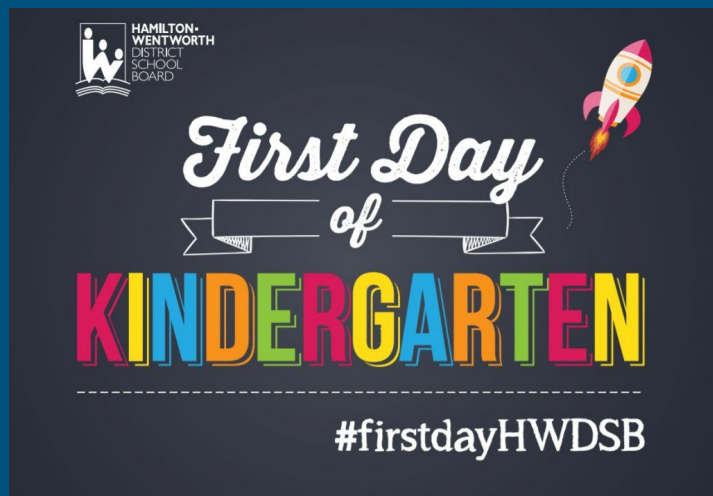
**“We will be
known forever
by the tracks
we leave.”**



Shannen Koestachin
KODIAKS



WE CAN'T WAIT TO MEET YOU...



You can find this presentation on our Shannen Koostachin Website:

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/shannenkoostachin/>

Don't forget to click "subscribe" so that you can receive all of our school updates.