



# Shannen Koostachin Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

110 Bellagio Avenue  
Hannon, Ontario L0R 1P0  
Phone: 289.768.2755  
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EMAIL: [shannenkoostachin@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:shannenkoostachin@hwdsb.on.ca)  
Principal: Julie Anderson  
Vice-Principal: Tricia Nelson  
[www.hwdsb.on.ca/shannenkoostachin](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/shannenkoostachin)

October 8, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians;

Welcome to October. Please see below for updates and reminders as we head into the month of October.

## **DAILY SELF SCREENING PROCESS**

Please ensure that you are reviewing the self screening checklist daily with your child [COVID-19 school screening \(ontario.ca\)](https://www.ontario.ca/covid-19-school-screening). This screening tool must be completed daily and you must initial the HWDSB calendar provided in your child's agenda to confirm that you have completed this screening before entering an HWDSB school. If children come down with COVID related symptoms during school, we must follow Public Health protocols. The first step to this process is that parents pick up immediately.

## **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." 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. This form is now available on the parent portal.

## **MANDATORY MASKING ON SCHOOL PROPERTY**

HWDSB has implemented a mandatory masking on property protocol. I want to remind families to follow all public health measures, including wearing a mask while on school property for entry and dismissal times. We have been diligently reminding families each day and handing out masks. We must all continue to follow the masking while on property protocols to keep our staff and students safe.

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

If there is inclement weather in the morning, staff will invite students to come directly into the building. Students will report to their classrooms. Given how important outdoor time is for students, especially right now to provide mask breaks, please continue to have students dress appropriately for the weather as we will prioritize outdoor learning. If we are unable to get out for our normal nutritional breaks due to inclement weather or field condition, staff will continue to use time during the day for outdoor mask breaks by taking students for walks and physical activity.



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## PICTURE DAY

Due to COVID restrictions, picture day will be postponed for the time being. We are working with HWDSB and Edge Imaging to schedule this as soon as it is possible while still maintaining our enhanced public health measures. Stay tuned!

## HALLOWEEN

We know that Halloween is a time that many students look forward to, and we want to be able to provide our students with some fun activities this year as well. Here are the guidelines that have been provided to schools for Halloween Celebrations on **Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup> in classrooms**:

- Students can chose to dress in orange and black or a costume for the day
- No weapons with costumes are permitted at school
- No costume masks that might impede vision are permitted
- All students must continue to wear their masks at school
- If wearing a costume, students must come to school already dressed
- Costumes must be comfortable and promote independence, staff will not be able to support changing throughout the day
- No costume parades are permitted
- No in-person assemblies are permitted
- No sharing/distributing food or drink is permitted- see letters from your classroom teacher for specifics for your child's classroom
- Maintain safe practices including physical distancing and hand hygiene.

## OCTOBER 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 November will be COURAGE. We will continue to celebrate with our staff and students with monthly virtual assemblies.

## REPORTS SENT HOME

Shannen Koostachin students have been working hard during their first weeks of school, and we are proud of the learning that they have done. Students will be bringing home their progress reports on November 19th. Please read your child's report and sign and return the envelope and last section of the progress report to your child's homeroom teacher. Due to COVID restrictions, we will not be providing opportunities for face to face parent teacher conferences, rather would ask that you connect with your



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**KODIAKS**

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child's teacher for a phone call or virtual meeting. More information will be coming regarding this opportunity on November 26<sup>th</sup>. As always, please connect with teachers via email or phone call if you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress.

### **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](mailto:shannenkoostachin@hwdsb.on.ca).

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

Sincerely,

Mrs. J. Anderson