



Shannen Koostachin News– FALL EDITION- October 2023



Shannen Koostachin Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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Principal: T. Nelson

Vice-Principal: L. van der Put

Assisting Principal: C. Hazell

www.hwdsb.on.ca/shannenkoostachin (Don't Forget to hit
Subscribe to our Webpage!)

Welcome Back Kodiaks!

Dear Parents and Guardians;

Welcome to our 2023-2024 School Year!

We hope you all had an enjoyable summer and we are looking forward to having our wonderful community of learners and staff come together this school year. We know that the past few years have been challenging, and we are thrilled to see students, staff and families again. Each new year is a new opportunity for students to reach their full potential, make new connections and learn and grow with their school community.

We would like to remind guardians that communication is key between student, parent, and teachers. Always reach out to your child's teacher first, as a starting point, for any questions/concerns you may have.

As part of our school, in recognition of Shannen Koostachin's work, our goal is for all students to feel safe, comfortable, welcomed, recognized, and heard. We know the importance of students' learning and appreciate your support in ensuring that your child comes to school on time and is engaged throughout the school day.

We have many events planned for the year and hope to see many families out to celebrate all of the wonderful things going on around the school—beginning with our School's Open House, taking place on Thursday, October 12th from 5:00-7:00 p.m. —a time where you can tour the school, meet your child's teacher, visit our Spirit Wear table & Book Fair, and purchase a snack or two. Please see the flyer sent home on more information on the Open House.

The best education occurs for students when home and schoolwork together to support the development of each child. We all look forward to working with our parents and community to make Shannen Koostachin the best place to learn and grow in the 2023-2024 school year. Have a wonderful year!

Kind Regards,

Mrs. T. Nelson
Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER

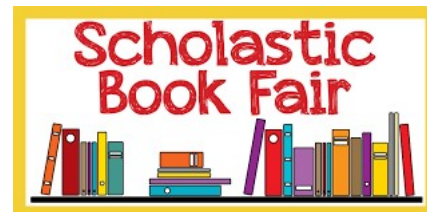
OCTOBER IS ISLAMIC HERITAGE MONTH!

Oct. 2- Custodian Appreciation Day
Oct. 5- World Teacher Day
Oct. 9- Thanksgiving Holiday
Oct. 10- Picture Day
Oct. 10- World Mental Health Day
Oct. 11- Cross-Country Meet (9:00 a.m – 3:00 p.m.) at Christie Lake Conservation
Oct. 12- Open House (5:00- 7:00 p.m.)
Oct. 17- DECE & Childcare Worker Appreciation Day
Oct. 20- PA Day (NO SCHOOL)
Oct. 27- Monthly Celebration Assembly (9:30 – 10:30 a.m.)

What's Happening

♪ **Primary Choir led by Mrs. Filoon and Ms. Wilkinson has started again!**

Rehearsals will be in the library during the outside portion of 1st NB on Day 4.



The Scholastic Book Fair returns again this year!

Taking place in our Library/Learning Commons from Sept. 25th—Oct. 6th. It will also be available for purchases at Open House!



Download the App!



Safety is our number one priority! At Shannen Koostachin we have many safety procedures in place to ensure your child(ren)'s safety.

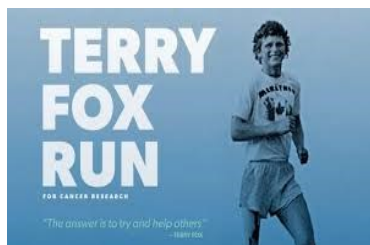
Attendance is taken twice a day, once in the morning and again after second break. It is a crucial that this is completed in a timely, accurate fashion.

To ensure accuracy and safety, absences **must** be reported to the School Messenger App before school.

These reported absences ensure that all students are accounted for and safe.

https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/SchoolMessenger_App-Mobile-Parent_05162019.pdf

*** should you have any issues with the app, please call the school at: 289.768.2755 to report an absence.**



Shannen Koostachin Elementary School participated in a virtual assembly to learn about and honour Terry Fox, a Canadian hero. The next day, the school walked/ran for Terry Fox and to raise money for cancer research. It was a beautiful, sunny day and a great way to promote school spirit. Afterwards, grades 3-8 students participated in cross-country tryouts with the rest of the school cheering them on. What an amazing day at Shannen Koostachin school! Please help us to continue the legacy of one of our greatest Canadian heroes. Donate at: <https://schools.terryfox.ca/ShannenKoostachinESHannon>
Thank you for joining us in the fight against cancer! Remember: We will be forever known by the tracks we leave.

ATHLETICS UPDATE

- ◆ We will have 130 students from grades 3 – 8 attend the board cross country meet at Christie Conservation area on Oct. 11.
- ◆ Tryouts for all of our volleyball teams (jr & sr. Boys & girls) have already begun and the volleyball seasons begin on Oct. 11. Schedules are posted on the board website. at [Volleyball | Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board \(hwdsb.on.ca\)](http://Volleyball | Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (hwdsb.on.ca))
- ◆ Our 3-pitch teams had successful tournaments and represented our school well.
- ◆ Soccer Intramurals for grades 1–4 begin October 2. They will run twice a week during first nutrition break.

WE'VE GOT SPIRIT!



IT IS SCHOOL SPIRIT WEAR TIME AGAIN!!
Online ordering will run from **Monday, September 25th until Friday, October 13th.**

Please visit our website for our Online Order Form.

Sample sizes will be available to check out at our Open House, as well as forms for online ordering.

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/shannenkoostachin/files/2023/09/Shannen-Koostachin-Community-Spirit-Wear-Order-Form.pdf>

NUTRITION BREAKS



At Shannen Koostachin we are on a balanced day schedule. **Our first Nutrition Break begins at 11:10- 11:50 AM.** At this time students will alternate going outside for 20 minutes and reporting to their lunch room to have their morning snack. **Our second Nutrition Break begins at 1:30- 2:10 PM.**

Any Grade 7 and 8 students wishing to leave the school property for lunch will need to have authorization completed first, by parent, on the parent portal prior to leaving the school.

***Unless it is outside time, all students are to remain inside their classroom for the eating portion of break, to ensure student safety.**

***Grade 7-8 students leaving property to go out for lunch are permitted to do so on SECOND BREAK ONLY.**

PARENT VOLUNTEERS & SCHOOL COUNCIL



School Council Start-Up Training Session (Oct. 11th) . Date of first meeting TBD. Further information to follow.

[VOLUNTEERING | Shannen Koostachin Elementary School \(hwdsb.on.ca\)](http://VOLUNTEERING | Shannen Koostachin Elementary School (hwdsb.on.ca))

We are always looking for volunteers to help with school trips, classroom events, fundraising, etc. Community support is so very important and crucial in order to host events and raise funds to keep our school successful and thriving!

Volunteers will require a Vulnerable Sector Screening from the Hamilton-Wentworth Police Department. The Vulnerable Sector check is valid for 3 years, with a yearly Declaration to be completed by volunteer. If you are unsure whether a previous Sector check is still valid or not, please contact your child's teacher, or the school office.

CELLPHONES/ ELECTRONIC DEVICES



One area of particular concern that we have been experiencing is the growing use of cell phones/electronic devices and smartwatches during instructional time in the classroom setting.

Our goal is and has always been to maximize the learning time for our students and ensure a positive learning environment. Devices have many positive uses. However, in the classroom setting they are an enormous distraction to learning. There is research studies that cite the negative effects of cell phone use on students, particularly the overuse of social media. We have found that cell phones not only distract students from learning, but also facilitate negative behavior such as:

- ☐ **Cyberbullying**
- ☐ **Harassment**
- ☐ **Taking photos or videos of students and staff without their permission**
- ☐ **Accessing unapproved websites**
- ☐ **Arranging meetings with friends in the restrooms during class time**

The sincere hope is that you have a conversation with your child(ren) about the acceptable time and use of their cell phones and other devices during the school day. Prior to entering school, students should have their cell phones on silent and stored in the safe space provided in the classroom. Students who disregard this policy may be subject to disciplinary consequences including confiscation of devices or a phone call to parents.

Please note that if you need to contact your child during the school day, our Office Administrator and Assistants are available to take your call and pass on the message to your child(ren). Thank you for your continued support as we work to reduce classroom distractions and provide our students with the best learning environment possible.

TRANSPORTATION



If your child qualifies for transportation, please follow the steps listed to access your child(ren)'s information via the online portal. Go to www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca and click on the "Parent Portal" on the Home page, OR "Bus Stop Finder" on the landing page.

***Please note the school does not contact parents regarding late busses. Parents are encouraged to check online at HWSTS to check for bus delays.**

RIGHT TO DISCONNECT

Healthy work-life boundaries, including the ability for all employees to disconnect from work after hours, is an important part of maintaining one's health and well-being.

HWDSB has implemented a Right to Disconnect Procedure to support educators, administrators and other HWDSB staff.

While all urgent communication will continue to be shared after hours, please note that families communicating with educators and administrators may receive a delay in response to all nonemergency inquiries received after hours.

SCHOOL BEGINS AT 9:30 a.m. and ENDS AT 3:50 p.m.

Students can be dropped off on the back school ground as early as 9:15 a.m. This is when a duty teacher/supervisor will be present.

If your child is late for school, please bring your child to the main office and they will be supported in getting to their classroom.

If you know your child will be late or absent for the day please ensure that you put this into School Messenger that can be found on the board website or the App can be downloaded to your phone.



ENTRY/Classes Begin	9:30 a.m.
Period 1	9:30-10:30 a.m.
Period 2	10:30-11:10 a.m.
First Nutrition Break	11:10-11:50 a.m.
Period 3	11:50- 12:40 p.m.
Period 4	12:40-1:30 p.m.
Second Nutrition Break	1:30-2:10 p.m.
Period 5	2:10-3:10 p.m.
Period 6	3:10-3:50 p.m.
DISMISSAL	3:50 p.m.

EARLY PICK UP

It is important that your child remains at school until the final bell at 3:50 p.m. Please keep in mind, as a courtesy to teachers, the learning of students, and the office, which can be a very busy place, that early dismissals do cause interruptions to class. If you need to pick up your child from school early, due to an appointment, we remind you to please allow some extra time for your child to arrive at the office. Students will be called down once you are here and it can take a few minutes for your child(ren) to gather their things and get to the office area. Please let your child(ren)s classroom teacher know, ahead of time, if you will be picking up early and the time so they can ensure that your child is ready.

PARKING LOT



A reminder that our school parking lot is for staff only and the driveway will be closed off for traffic during school drop off and pick up to ensure all of our safety and access for our buses. Street parking is available at the front and to the side of our building, please note that this can get very busy at drop off and pick up and we encourage all those students who are able to walk/bike to do so. This will ease the congestion of the traffic in our area and keep everyone safe.

MORNING DROP OFF REMINDER:

Just a friendly reminder to parents to please remain outside of the fence during morning drop off at the school as the school day needs to begin promptly when the morning bell goes.

CONTINUED REMINDERS:**SAFE WELCOME SCHOOLS**

As you may know, HWDSB initiated a Safe Welcome Program in 2013. The program supports a welcoming learning environment by ensuring that parents and other authorized visitors can access elementary schools while keeping students and staff safe.

Based on the HWDSB safe welcome program, exterior school doors must remain locked during the instructional day, and visitors access the school during school hours via the main entrance. You will notice that our main entrance is equipped with a video/intercom access system and signage. The access system allows staff to see and talk with any visitors requesting entry into the school. The system also allows school office staff to electronically release the lock on the door.

Please note that we will continue to ask visitors to report to the office for sign-in. Principals maintain ultimate authority for visitors admitted into their school. If you have any questions about the program or the system, please contact the office.

As always, safety of our students and staff is our number one priority!

**ADDRESSING A CONCERN**

Students and families with classroom concerns are encouraged to contact their student's classroom teacher. School-wide concerns can be addressed by the principal.. [Addressing a Concern \(PDF\)](#).



A reminder that smoking and vaping is not permitted anywhere on school board property at anytime.



Check out:

www.hwdsb.on.ca / Events Calendar to keep current on upcoming events at HWDSB schools & offices. Please ensure that you subscribe to our school website. Informed parents make great partners.

No Nuts Please**PEANUT AND NUT SAFE SCHOOL**

This year we have 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.

UMBRELLA FAMILY BEFORE AND AFTER

To contact the before and after childcare through the Umbrella Family program, please contact: 905-312-9836

