



Shannen Koostachin  
**KODIAKS**

## *Shannen Koostachin News– November, 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 Vice-Principal: A. Ricci



#### *Dear Parents and Guardians:*

**Please join us in welcoming our new Superintendent, Gerry Smith!**

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to Ms. Anna Ricci, who is beginning with us on Monday, November 6th to support as our new 0.5 VP. Welcome Ms. Ricci! This being said, we also bid a good-bye to Colin Hazel, who has been supporting our 0.5 VP role since the beginning of the school year. Mr. Hazel has been a wonderful addition to our team and we are so appreciative of his generous time and contributions he provided to our school. We will miss him and wish him all the best.

What another busy month we have had at Shannen Koostachin. We have had our Halloween Parade, lots of sporting events—“Go Kodiaks!” and many other activities in our building.

A huge thank you for coming out and supporting our October 12th Open House! It was so great to see all of our families. We look forward to seeing you all again during Shannen Koostachin’s future school events! Also, a big thank you to our delicious food truck vendors: ***Crazy Cravings, Pappas Greek, and The Hammer Press***. With thanks to our wonderful school community, our school was able to raise just over \$300.00 through sales of popcorn, water bottles, and food trucks.

Another sincere thanks and appreciation to all who participated in our October 24th—Kelsey’s Kick Back Fundraiser! We hope to be able to do this event again in the future. Also beginning... our deliciously popular World’s Finest Chocolate Fundraiser! Funds raised will go towards our school’s new technology and resources.

We are also starting up our Popcorn and Pizza days. Popcorn has already begun and pizza days will be commencing November 22nd. Please ensure your pizza orders are completed by November 13th. Popcorn will be on Tuesdays and pizza on Wednesdays. Orders are to be placed through School Cash Online. School trips are also beginning. Please ensure the Office has a valid Vulnerable Sector Screening and yearly Offence Declaration, should you wish to be added to our list of parent/guardian volunteers.

Photo re-take day will be taking place on November 10th and student’s first Progress Reports will be coming home this month as well.

Again, we ask you to please be mindful of our school’s bell times, as far as late attendance and early dismissals go. Also, a reminder of student use of cellular devices while at school, and if your student isn’t feeling well to please ask teacher to go to the Office and to call parent/guardian.

As we begin to head into colder weather, please ensure children are bringing the right essentials to keep warm during outdoor time (i.e. hats, mitts) and, where able to, please mark student’s name on these items in order to help keep our students warm and to minimize our lost and found pile as much as possible. We are looking forward to a successful and exciting November!

Mrs. T. Nelson

Principal

# DATES TO REMEMBER

## NOVEMBER IS HINDU HERITAGE MONTH!



- Nov. 3– Sr. Boys Volleyball  
Tournament at Sir Allan MacNab
- Nov. 6-10– Treaties Recognition Week
- Nov. 9– Remembrance Day Ceremony
- Nov. 10– Picture Re-Take Day
- Nov. 10- Sr. Girls Volleyball  
Tournament at Sir Allan MacNab
- Nov. 13– Progress Reports Come Home
- Nov. 13– World Kindness Day
- Nov. 16– EA Appreciation Day
- Nov. 17- PA Day (NO SCHOOL)
- Nov. 20-24– Bullying Prevention and Awareness Week
- Nov. 20-24– Transgender Awareness Week
- Nov. 24- Monthly Celebration Assembly (9:30 – 10:30 a.m.)

What is Hindu Heritage Month? Namaste, and welcome to Hindu Heritage Month! Celebrated every November, we recognize the important contributions that Hindu Canadians have made to Ontario's social, economic, political and cultural fabric. Hindu Heritage Month is an opportunity to remember, celebrate and educate future generations about Hindu Canadians and the important role they have played and continue to play in communities across Ontario..

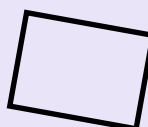
### NOVEMBER POPCORN DAYS

Nov. 1  
Nov. 8  
Nov. 15



### Primary Choir

Led by Mrs. Filoon and Ms. Wilkinson is in full swing!



Rehearsals in the library during 2<sup>nd</sup> nutrition break on Day 4.

## What's Happening

### NOVEMBER PIZZA DAYS

Nov. 22  
Nov. 29



FOR THOSE WHO ORDERED

### Jr. Band Has Begun!

Practices will be every Thursday morning from 8:15-9:15 a.m.

### PRIMARY (THIS & THAT)...

Primary students will be visiting Mohawk College Performing Arts on November 21<sup>st</sup> to see the feature *It's Okay To Be Different, Stories by Todd Parr*. This show features large colourful and friendly puppets and presents adaptations of three stories by New York Times bestselling author and illustrator Todd Parr.

### Bell Times

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

[www.hwdsb.on.ca/shannenkoostachin](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/shannenkoostachin)

(Don't Forget to hit **Subscribe** to our Webpage!)



### World Kindness Day is November 13th.

Shannon Koostachin will be showing our kindness by participating in lessons focussed on kindness as well as performing "random acts of kindness" for teachers and students around the school.

## **ATHLETICS** **UPDATE**



- Cross country was a huge success with some really great podium finishes.
- The swim team had their meet and also were very successful.
- Grade 1 & 2 and Grade 3 & 4 intramurals are going strong and will continue into November.
- Intramurals for grades 5 to 8 will begin near the end of November.
- We have 4 volleyball teams in the middle of their seasons. They all look very strong and are hoping to make the playoffs when they begin in the middle of November.
- The volleyball teams will compete in 2 tournaments in November.

## **SCHOOL COUNCIL**

*Congratulations to our elected members of 2023-2024:*

**Co- Chairs-** Saima Mirza and Kylie Gallagher

**Vice Co- Chairs-** Ryan Davies and Sarah Momani

**Treasurer-** Tarnvir Kaur

**Secretary-** Carly Gagnon



### **FUTURE MEETING DATES:**

**Monday, December 4th– 6:00 p.m.**

**Monday, February 5th– 6:00 p.m.**

**Monday, April 8th– 6:00 p.m.**

**(in our Learning Commons/Library)**

*If parents have any questions or ideas regarding the schools/students educational and developmental needs please email [shannenkoostachinSC@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:shannenkoostachinSC@hwdsb.on.ca)*

## **CHOCOLATE FUNDRAISER**

**We are kicking off our World's Finest Chocolate Fundraiser!**

Please support our chocolate fundraiser by completing the commitment form sent home with your child and return it to the school as soon as possible.





## CELLPHONES/ ELECTRONIC DEVICES

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.

## SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION REMINDER

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](http://www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca) and click on the "Parent Portal" on the Home page, OR "Bus Stop Finder" on the landing page.

**\* As a reminder to students– please be at your bus stops ready for pick up 10 mins early (as busses can be running 10 mins early or late depending on circumstances)**

**\*Please note the school does not contact parents regarding late busses.**



Parents are encouraged to check online at [HWSTS](http://HWSTS) to check for bus delays.

## 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.

## ADDRESSING A CONCERN

Students and families with classroom concerns are encouraged to contact their student's classroom teacher as the first method of communication regarding the concern. It is with hope that this will rectify the situation before further escalation.



## **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.

Also, 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.

## **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.

## **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.



**PLEASE ENSURE TO KEEP ALL  
DOGS ON LEASHES WHEN ON  
SCHOOL PROPERTY!**

The safety for all depends  
on that!



A reminder that smoking and  
vaping is not permitted any  
where on school board  
property at anytime!



### **Check out:**

[www.hwdsb.on.ca](http://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.