



Shannen Koostachin
KODIAKS

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SHANNEN KOOSTACHIN NEWS!

February, 2024 Edition

Shannen Koostachin Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

EMAIL: shannenkoostachin@hwdsb.on.ca

Principal: T. Nelson

Vice-Principal: L. van der Put

Assisting Vice-Principal: A. Ricci

Dear Shannen Koostachin Families,



What a busy first month back at school. We have had lots of exciting things happening around the new school board's multi-year plan - Be You. Be Excellent. This was followed by a visit to our school by our Director of Education Sheryl Robinson Petrazzinia who came with a smile and left with an even bigger one with all the amazing things that she saw your children doing.

As we approach the 2nd half of our school year, I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents of the following:

- *School starts at 9:30 am and finishes at 3:50 pm. It is important to have students arrive on time and stay for the full instructional day for optimal learning.*
- *If your child will be absent due to illness, vacation, etc. please notify the school at 289-768-2755 or through the Safe Arrival app and not the homeroom teacher. Teachers can be absent and/or not have your child with them first thing in the morning when attendance is taken. If you contact the school in stead, we will ensure that the attendance is accurate to avoid unnecessary phone calls to families.*
- *Please remember to pack your child's lunch, clothing, drinks, homework, etc before sending them to school in order to avoid unnecessary calls home. If your child is unwell, make sure that you complete the Public Health screening tool online to ensure that your child can attend school. <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/blog/update-to-covid-19-daily-screening-tool/>*

We will be looking forward to welcoming our newest school members this fall. For any families who have an age 4 child preparing to attend kindergarten in September 2024, the online registration opens on February 5, 2024.

We have lots of fun things happening this month of February that have been organized by our student 'Make a difference' Club. Please check the calendar for upcoming events.

Kind Regards

T. Nelson
Principal



(Don't Forget to hit **Subscribe** to our Webpage and **turn ON** Notifications for School Cash Online!)
www.hwdsb.on.ca/shannenkoostachin

... Also, please be sure the school has your most current e-mail address in order to receive important messages sent out via School Messenger



Feb. 5- New to Kindergarten Registration begins at HWDSB

Feb. 5- Third School Council Meeting (6 pm- Library)

Feb 5- Gr. 8 Course Selection Information Night
(5-6 pm at Saltfleet High School)

Feb. 7- Basketball Games at Highview School (4:30-6:30 pm)
Sr. Girls play first, then Sr. Boys

Feb. 7-9- Candy Gram Sales

Feb. 9- Grade 8 Graduation Photo Day! (*music room*)

Feb. 14- *Valentines Day Events* (Wear **Red**, **White** or **Pink**)

- Classroom Door Decorating Competition
- Valentines Candy Gram Distribution

Feb. 16- Report Cards Coming Home

Feb. 19- FAMILY DAY HOLIDAY! (NO SCHOOL)

Feb. 29- *Fun Hair Day!*

Feb. 29- Monthly Celebration Assembly- (9:30-10:30 am) for Students Only

Bell Times

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.

FOOD DAYS



COOKIE DAYS



EVERY FRIDAY for those who ordered:

Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23

PIZZA DAYS



EVERY WEDNESDAY for those who ordered:

Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28

PITA DAY



Friday, February 16th for those who ordered.



GRAD PHOTO DAY!

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH!
(Re-takes will be March 8th)

STUDENT ILLNESS REMINDER...



Cold and flu season is upon us. Please use the Ministry of Health's up-to-date Self Assessment Screener tool if you are unwell or have been unwell. Following the screening steps and answering the questions will determine whether or not your child should be attending school, and when they are able to return.

<https://www.ontario.ca/self-assessment>

SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION

Pls. Call For Bus Delays : ➡ 905-523-2318

Due to the growing number of high volume calls we are receiving at the School Office close to dismissal each day, it is strongly encouraged to send your child's teacher a notification when you send your child to school in the morning if there is going to be a change in end of day pick up routine. You can e-mail your teacher(s), or send a note in student's agenda's/important bags. Office calls are not always easy to relay to students—depending on the time of day, as well as contributes to many interruptions to teachers and classroom learning time. Thank You.



CANDY GRAM SALES! (\$0.50 each)

Candy gram Lollipop fundraiser is taking place from February 7-9th for students to purchase a Lollipop gram. Distribution will take place on February 14th.

Grades 4-8: Sales will be at 2nd nutrition break in front of the gym.

Kinder-Gr.3: Order forms to come home.



14TH
DAY OF FEBRUARY

Alexander Graham Bell filed a patent application for the telephone on February 14, 1876. The X became the symbol for a kiss in the middle ages.

The color of a rose given on Valentine's Day each has different meanings. **XOXO**

VALENTINE'S DAY FUN FACTS for kids

Valentine's Day is the second most popular greeting card sending holiday

Conversation Hearts started as medical lozenges

Red roses are known as the "flower of love".

Legend is that Cupid would shoot his arrow into people's hearts which would make them fall in love!

Teachers Receive The Most Valentine's Day Cards

9 Million people buy Valentines Gifts for their pets

Groundhog Day was originally held on February 14th

Over 36 Million Heart Shaped Chocolate Boxes are bought each year

Jewelry is the Valentines gift that people spend the most on, over 5 Billion

MADEWITHHAPPY.COM

PRACTICES

CHOIR & BAND PRACTICE

CHOIR (Rehearsals in Library)

Primary Choir– Rotary Day 4 (2nd NB-1:30-1:50)

Jr./Intermediate Choir– Rotary Day 4 (2nd NB-1:50-2:10)

JR. BAND PRACTICE (Music Room)

(Every Thursday from 8:15-9:15 a.m.)

Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22



Senior Boys Basketball Practices:

Thursdays– 8:00-9:15 am

Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29



Senior Girls Basketball Practices:

Friday, February 2: 8:00-9:15 am

Tuesday, February 6: 4:00-5:15 pm

Friday, February 9: 8:00-9:15 am

Junior & Senior Boys Basketball Practices:

Tuesdays– 8:00-9:15 am

Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27

SCHOOL COUNCIL (An Open Invitation)

We are always looking for Extra Help! How to Get Involved: If you are interested in attending our monthly School Council meetings, are able to lend a hand, or have any questions or ideas please email: shannenkoostachinSC@hwdsb.on.ca

UPCOMING MEETING DATES:

Monday, February 5th– 6:00 p.m.

Monday, April 8th– 6:00 p.m.

(In our Learning Commons/Library)





Roots of Empathy

Racines de l'empathie

Helping to create a world where people
help more and hurt less.
Fostering empathy in children.

This year Mrs. Feudo and Mrs. Khan's classroom has been invited to participate in a program called *Roots of Empathy*. This program teaches children about feelings, their own feelings and the feelings of others. Once every three weeks, baby Zachary and his parent(s) visit the classroom. A trained Roots of Empathy Instructor will gather the children in the classroom around a green blanket, and together they observe the baby grow and reach milestones. The children predict and cheer when their Roots of Empathy baby reaches the "developmental milestones" of the first year.

The Roots of Empathy Instructor also coaches the children in observing and reading the cues the baby gives as to how the baby is feeling, and this discussion is used as a lever for the children to talk about their own emotions and to understand how their classmates feel. For more than twenty years, across Canada and internationally, nearly 1,000,000 children are learning to respect and care for one another with the lessons started through their Roots of Empathy baby.

To learn more about the Roots of Empathy program, to participate, or to donate etc., please visit the link: <https://rootsofempathy.org/about/>

KODIAK RECESS GUARDIANS



Shannen Koostachin Recess Guardians: Empowering Youth Through Active Play.

With the support of teacher facilitators, the Shannen Koostachin community has been introduced to the Recess Guardians program in the fall. Junior-Intermediate students have volunteered to be Recess Guardian Leaders and have been trained to lead Primary students in various games during the outdoor portion of nutrition breaks. During the training the students explored topics such as inclusion, sportsmanship, patience and communication. The program has been very popular with our primary students.

We need more equipment.

Specifically, we are looking for a volunteer to make 20 bean bags to add to our equipment bin. If you have the sewing skills to make square pockets and fill them with dried beans, please email Ms. van der Put at lvanderp@hwdsb.on.ca. Include your phone number and Ms. van der Put will reach out to you to share details about this sewing project.

More information about Recess Guardians can be found at [Recess Guardians | Canada](#)