



Shannen Koostachin News–Fall 2024

Shannen Koostachin Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD



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Principal: Maria Marino

Vice-Principals: Christopher Hollingsworth & Anna Ricci

www.hwdsb.on.ca/shannenkoostachin

Welcome Back Kodiaks!

Welcome Fall! It is Great to see many familiar faces and also lots of new ones! 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. One of our first events took place on October 10th– Open House! What a joy and honor it was to meet so many of our wonderful families. We sincerely appreciate all of the support we received from our families, School Council, and Staff– All collaborating to make our first big event such a great success!



Bell Times

ENTRY/Classes Begin

Period 1

Period 2

First Nutrition Break

Period 3

Period 4

Second Nutrition Break

Period 5

Period 6

DISMISSAL

9:30 am

9:30-10:30 am

10:30-11:10 am

11:10-11:50 am

11:50- 12:40 pm

12:40-1:30 pm

1:30-2:10 pm

2:10-3:10 pm

3:10-3:50 pm

3:50 pm

PLAYGROUND SUPERVISION

Supervision Will Be Outside at 9:15 am.

School Begins Promptly at 9:30 am!

The Final Bell goes at 3:50 pm. Please ensure pick up or busing arrangements are made well in advance, and children are not waiting at the office to be picked up after school.

-Thank you.

The best education occurs for students when home and school work together to support the development of each child. We all look forward to working with our parents and our community to make Shannen Koostachin the best place to learn and grow in the 2024-2025 school year. We are looking forward to an Amazing 2024/2025 school year together!

TERRY FOX DONATION TABULATIONS ARE IN...

Congratulations Shannen Koostachin School!



We raised **\$1605** in annual Terry Fox run at the school. All money raised will go towards cancer research with the Terry Fox Foundation. It was a beautiful day to run for a good cause and then to compete in the cross country tryouts for grades 3-8.

Way to go Kodiaks!!

HWDSB
BE YOU. BE EXCELLENT.

Upcoming

EVENTS

SHANNEN KOOSTACHIN SPIRIT WEAR- 2024/2025
Spirit Wear will be available for online ordering from **October 14– November 1st @ SCHOOLTEE.COM.**
Access Code: SHAN.HAN



Kelsey's Kickback Night!

Oct 29th (4-10 pm)



- * **HAPPY HALLOWEEN!**- Oct 31
- * **PA DAY (no school)** - Nov. 1

MOVIE NIGHT!

(Shannen K.)

Nov. 14th

(movie begins at 5:45 pm)



- * **BULLYING AWARENESS PREVENTION WEEK**– Nov. 18-22
- * **SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING**– 6:00– 8:00pm (library)- Nov 18
- * **PROGRESS REPORTS GO HOME**– Nov 19
- * **PHOTO RETAKE DAY**– Nov 20
- * **Round 1 of Gr. 7/8 Immunizations**– Nov 21
- * **PA DAY (no school)** - Nov. 22

HOLIDAY BREAK– Dec 23-Jan 3 (Please Stay Tuned for More December Info & Events!!)



FOOD DAYS

(For Those Who Ordered)

PIZZA DAYS:

Oct 23, Oct 30, Nov 6, Nov 13, Nov 20, Nov 27, Dec 4, Dec 11, Dec 18

PANZEROLI DAY: Oct. 29

POPCORN DAYS:

Nov 7, Nov 14, Nov 21, Nov 28



RELIGIOUS / CREED OBSERVANCES, DAYS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND HERITAGE MONTHS / AWARENESS

October

- Islamic Heritage Month
- Latin American Heritage Month
- Somalian Heritage Month
- Women's History Month
- International Day for Eradication of Poverty - October 17
- Diwali (Hinduism/Jainism/Sikhism) - October 31

November

- Hindu Heritage Month
- Veterans' Week– Nov. 5-11
- Indigenous Veterans' Day– Nov 8
- Remembrance Day– Nov 11
- National Child Day– Nov 20
- Transgender Day of Remembrance– Nov 20
- Canada History Week– Nov 20-26

December

- International Day of Persons with Disabilities– Dec 3
- National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women– Dec 6
- Human Rights Day– Dec 10

SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM

We, along with School Council have been



working on starting up a nutrition bin program with [Tastebuds](#). If you would like to support connecting Shannen Koostachin Elementary with local community partners (such as Real-estate Companies, Banking Institutions, places of worship etc) please see our principal, Mrs. Marino. With the increased demands of inflation on food prices and the cost of housing we are noticing an increased need for nutritious food for our students while at school. We welcome your partnership.



**Together
Everyone
Achieves
More!!**

HWDSB EVENTS

Please ensure to subscribe to our school website. Informed parents make great partners!

Check out [www.hwdsb.on.ca / Events Calendar](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/EventsCalendar) to keep current on upcoming events at HWDSB schools & offices.

ATHLETIC

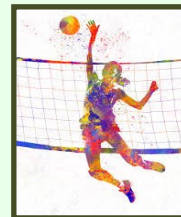
Fall 2024

Upcoming

EVENTS



Volleyball Games:



Oct 28

Jr. Girls play at Gatestone- 4:30 pm

Oct 29

Jr. Boys play at Gatestone- 4:15 pm

Sr. Boys play at Shannen K.- 4:15 pm

Oct 30

Sr. Girls play at Bellmoore- 5:00 pm

Nov 4

Jr. Girls play at Templemead- 4:45 pm

Nov 5

Sr. Boys play at Gatestone- 4:15 pm

Jr. Boys play at Franklin Road- 5:00 pm

Nov 6

Sr. Girls play at Shannen K. - 4:15 pm

Nov 7

Sr. Boys play at Ray Lewis- 4:30 pm

Nov 12

Jr. Boys play at Bellmoore- 4:30 pm

Nov 13

Jr. Girls play at Shannen K.- 4:15 pm

VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENTS

(MacNab School)

Senior Girls- November 8th

Senior Boys- November 15th



JUNIOR SWIM TEAM:

SWIM MEET-

Oct. 29th @ 1:00 pm- Jimmy Thompson Pool



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 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

LATE ARRIVALS – SCHOOL BEGINS AT 9:30 am

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. Otherwise your child will be marked as Unexplained, documenting that calls home were unsuccessful.

SCHOOL DROP OFF AND PICK UP

KINDERGARTEN

In order to support the safe drop off of kindergarten students we are asking that all parents and caregivers drop their child (ren) off in the appropriate Kindergarten fenced in areas at the beginning of the day between 9:15– 9:30 am. There will be a teacher on duty in the gated area ready to accept your student. Once they are in the fenced in area they will remain there until the bell rings at which time the teacher will lead them into the school. We ask that parents do not enter the fenced in area or school at this time. This is also where your child (ren) will be handed off to you at the end of the day. Thank you for supporting us in keeping all students safe.

GRADES 1-8

Duty Supervisors are out on the back playground between 9:15– 9:30 am. With keeping student safety as our #1 priority we would like to ask that parents work together with us to please remain off of the back field at this time. Thank you for supporting us in keeping all students safe.

EARLY PICK UPS - SCHOOL ENDS AT 3:50 pm

It is extremely important that students stay in school for the daily duration, as interruptions to class not only affect the learning of your student, but also interrupts the whole class, as well as the Office and Admin. The Final bell goes at 3:50 pm. and it is expected that students remain at school until that time– with students and parents both knowing the after school routine (pick up or bus etc.). However, if you do need to pick up your child from school early, 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 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/scooter etc. to do so. This will ease the congestion of the traffic in our area and keep everyone safe.



TRANSPORTATION



HWSTS maintains a Parent Portal and they encourage families to register on this website in order to receive email updates for bus delays or issues. Please use this link to register.

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/blog/new-student-transportation-portal/>

NUTRITION BREAKS

At Shannen Koostachin we are on a balanced day schedule. Our First Nutrition Break is from 11:10-11:50 am, and Second Nutrition Break is from 1:30-2:10 pm. At this time students will alternate going outside for 20 minutes and reporting to their lunch room to have their morning snack/afternoon lunch.

Should you need to drop off lunch at the school we have a table in the front foyer with labels and pens so you can label your child's lunch with their full name and teacher name. Please ensure your child knows you are dropping lunch so they can come down at break to collect it.

Please try to supply your child with the appropriate outdoor clothing/shoes/coats/boots by the time they arrive to school.

Any Grade 7 and 8 students wanting 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.

Grade 7-8 students leaving property to go out for lunch are permitted to do so on SECOND BREAK ONLY. (PLEASE NOTE- THIS LUNCH OPTION HAS NOT BEGUN YET)



PRAYER ROOM

For parents that take their children out of school to pray or for parents who wish to have their child pray at school, we at Shannen Koostachin school have a quiet room set aside to accommodate any students wishing to pray. The prayer time is available during their nutrition break at 1:30pm in room 114. All those wishing to pray are welcome. A teacher will be present to supervise but will not lead a prayer. Students can pray on their own or with a friend. If you have any questions, please contact the school.

ALLERGY ALERT!



Fall 2024

We want all children and staff, including those with a life-threatening allergy, to feel safe, supported, and accepted at school. Please be aware that there are several students at Shannen Koostachin school who have a severe life-threatening food allergy to any food containing: **ALL nuts, including peanuts, tree nuts, cashews, pistachios; legumes, including lentils, chickpeas, and pea protein; dairy, egg, soy, sesame seeds, shellfish (shrimp), coconut & celery.**

These are life-threatening allergies that are likely to result in anaphylaxis, a sudden and severe allergic reaction that can be fatal.

We can all help foster a safe and inclusive environment by preventing such a dangerous and frightening situation at our school. The students and their families are taking responsibility to avoid exposure to **ALL nuts including peanuts, tree nuts, cashews, pistachios; legumes including lentils, chickpeas and pea protein; dairy, egg, soy, sesame seeds, shellfish (shrimp), coconut & celery.** All staff have been instructed on the correct procedures regarding anaphylactic shock if an exposure occurs.

To help reduce risk, please help your child(ren) understand the seriousness of this allergy and encourage empathy for the child. Some children need reminders on why we do not share food with others. Please make every effort to avoid sending lunches or snacks containing **ALL nuts including peanuts, tree nuts, cashews, pistachios; legumes including lentils, chickpeas and pea protein; dairy, egg, soy, sesame seeds, shellfish (shrimp), coconut & celery.** In addition, please do not send food for special events such as cupcakes to celebrate your child's birthday, a small non-perishable item is preferred if you wish the students to celebrate along with your child.

-Thank you for your support and understanding

SCHOOL COUNCIL



School Council is an important part of Shannen Koostachin Elementary. It provides a forum through which members can contribute to improving student achievement and school performance. Our council is made up of elected parents, a Teacher Representative, and Principal Maria Marino.

Council meets approximately one time per month for a few hours to discuss issues related to the school operations. It will be an amazing opportunity to become part of a new school year and to be part of shaping this school year and years to come at Shannen Koostachin. Come on out to a meeting anytime!

If you are interested in attending our monthly School Council meetings, please email:
shannenkoostachinSC@hwsb.on.ca

Next Meeting Dates:

Nov. 11th, Jan. 13th, Feb. 10th, Apr. 7th, May 12th

**BE SURE TO CHECK OUT OUR
SCHOOL COUNCIL TAB ON THE
SCHOOL WEBSITE FOR UP-TO-
DATE DISCUSSIONS.**



SAFE WELCOME SCHOOLS

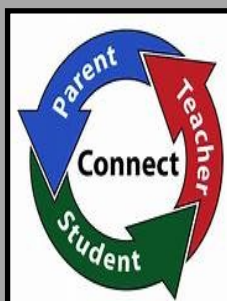


As you may know, HWDSB initiated a Safe Welcome Program in 2013. The program supports a welcoming learning environment by ensuring that parents and other authorized visitors can access elementary schools while keeping students and staff safe.

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.

Helpful Resources for Students

- * **We Help** – Mental health and well-being resources for students.
- * **HWDSB Helps** - Get help or share anonymous tips via text, email, or web chat.

Helpful Resources for Families

- * [Tips for Adults Supporting Challenging Conversations](#)
- * [Emotion Coaching Cheat Sheet for Parents and Caregivers](#)
- * [Mental Health Resources for Parents and Caregivers](#)

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.

UMBRELLA FAMILY BEFORE AND AFTERCARE

905-312-9836
Umbrella Family and Child
Centres of Hamilton