



Tapleystown Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

390 Mud St. E
Stoney Creek, Ontario L8J 3C6
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PRINCIPAL: Mr. B. Berketa
www.hwdsb.on.ca/tapleystown

June 2019 Newsletter

Principal’s Message – Mr. Berketa

The end is in sight! With less than 4 weeks to go in this school year Tapleystown is a very busy place. Teachers and students are completing their final units of study as well as the corresponding assessment and evaluation tasks. Our teachers have arranged many educational excursions and special event days for the month of June. It’s great to have fun while learning!

Thank you to all of our families and members of the community who attended our Open House and Art Sale. It was great to see such a large turn-out. I heard many positive comments and felt such great energy as I walked through the various exhibits and the book fair. My thanks to the Tapleystown staff and School Council volunteers who worked hard to create this wonderful evening.

A sincere thank you to all of our parent and community volunteers this year. The gift of time is one of the most valuable gifts you can give, and for that, we are grateful! We look forward to recognizing you at your Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on June 17.

There will be one final newsletter sent home at the end of June to provide information for September staffing, start-up and end of year announcements.

Organization and staffing are currently underway for the 2019-2020 school year. Our enrollment is projected to be at 219 students for September and we will have 10 classes in total. All classes will be housed in our main building. Our class organization is as follows:

- 2- Kindergarten 2-Grade 1/2 Grade 3/4 Grade 4/5
- Grade 5 Grade 6/7 Grade 7/8
- Grade 7/8 Hockey Canada Skills Academy

Teacher names will be shared in the newsletter at the end of June when system staffing is finalized. **Please note that we do not take teacher requests.** Class building is a complex, multi-disciplinary team process where a variety of factors are considered including, but not limited to academic strengths and areas for growth, special education profiles, social/emotional considerations and knowledge of the student. The reality is that staff can and do change throughout the year. You will receive your child’s class assignment and teacher in the term 2 report card at the end of June. Combined grade classes are very common in Ontario’s schools and Tapleystown is no exception. Over the course of your child’s education at Tapleystown it is most likely they will be in a combined grade class at various points in their education and this should be expected and should not be seen as a negative. Teaching and learning is



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significantly different than that of the previous generation and teachers are well prepared to ensure that your child is exposed to the same curriculum as they would be in a single grade classroom.

We are experiencing a large number of families who are picking up students prior to the end of the school day at 3:30. It is expected that students attend for the full day, every day. Every effort should be made to schedule other commitments outside of regular school hours. Please advise the office well in advance of dismissal time if there are extenuating circumstances requiring you to pick up your child before the end of the day. We will not release a child to someone who is not listed as an emergency contact with pick-up privileges in our student information system or whom you have not provided direct consent to the school to do so. If you need to change or update this information, please contact the school office.

Stay Up to Date!

Check our school website and calendar of events at www.hwdsb.on.ca/tapleystown

Register to get e-mail updates whenever our school website is updated.
www.hwdsb.on.ca/tapleystown/subscribe

Follow us on Twitter @TapleystownHWDSB

Kindergarten Registration

We have started registering Kindergarten students for September 2019. Please encourage anyone you know that is planning to register their child, who lives in the Tapleystown catchment area to come in as soon as possible to fill out the paperwork so we have an idea what enrollment will look like for September. Documents required for registration are proof of age, proof of address, guardianship/custodianship documents (if applicable), immunization records, health card number.

Eligibility for kindergarten registration is for children who will be age 4 or 5 by December 31, 2019.

We are also accepting registrations for students who will be attending the new school Shannen Koostachin (Summit Park).

Shannen Koostachin School Transition

At the end of June, we will bid farewell to approximately 180 students from Summit Park who will be attending the newly built Shannen Koostachin School in September. There are several transition events scheduled:



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- Thurs. June 6 - Shannen Koostachin Kindergarten Orientation (held at Janet Lee School) – for current Tapleystown JKs who will be attending SK at the new school in September.
- Friday June 21 – Noon to 2:00 - Shannen Koostachin Orientation (held at Janet Lee School) – for current SK to Grade 7's who will be attending the new school in September. Trip forms have gone home with these students. Please return them to your child's teacher ASAP. A pizza lunch will be provided for students attending. Thanks to our School Council for subsidizing this event. There is no cost to students.
- Friday June 21 – 9:30-1:00 – Movie Trip for Students Remaining at Tapleystown in the fall. Current SK-Gr. 7 students who will be remaining at Tapleystown in September are invited to attend. Trip forms will be distributed by the end of this week to applicable students.

2019-2020 School Year

The Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board has attendance boundaries for each of its schools. All students are directed to attend their home school allowing the Board to make the most effective use of its schools and staff. In some cases, families want their child to attend a school that is not their "home school". Students attending an Out-of-Catchment school are not eligible for transportation services. Tapleystown is closed to Out-of-Catchment and **does not** accept applications for Out-of-Catchment and **does not** generate a wait list.

If you are planning to move in the coming months and your new home falls outside Tapleystown School boundaries, you will need to register your child(ren) at the school within the boundaries of your new home. If you would like to know the school that falls within your moving area go to the school locator site <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/find/> The School Locator site is designed to aid in the identification of school assignments.

If your family will be moving and not attending Tapleystown for this coming fall, we would appreciate you letting Mrs. Anderton know by either a note or phone call, so that we can be more accurate in our projections. If your children will be moving to the new school at Summit Park (Shannen Koostachin) in September there is no need to notify the school as we already have this information. If you know of families that will be registering for the fall we would also appreciate you providing that information also.

What is "School Council"?

School councils provide advice to the principal and school board. Every school must have a school council, and members include parents, the principal, a teacher, a student (optional), a non-teaching staff member and a community representative. The majority of members must be parents, and the chair must be a parent. Principals do not vote on school council decisions.



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School councils are governed by [Ontario Regulation 612](#), which sets out the purpose, membership and election requirements for school councils. Under section 2(1), the purpose of the school council is “through the active participation of parents, to improve pupil achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents.”

School councils are responsible for:

- Sharing information with parents and the community, and seeking their input on matters the council is discussing.
- Providing advice to the principal and school board on issues such as school year calendars, strategies to improve school performance, codes of conduct and dress, curriculum priorities, safe arrival programs, community use of schools and community programs provided at the school, selection criteria for principals and board policies that will affect the school.
- Many school councils are also actively involved in organizing social events for the school community and fundraising events.

It is a great way to keep up with what is happening in the school. You can also contact the school council if you have questions about how to get involved at the school or if you are looking for information from a parent perspective.

If you are interested in being a voting member of our 2019-2020 School Council please keep an eye out for the nomination form that will be sent home in early September. Please note that participation as a voting member requires a consistent time commitment for the entire school year. Meetings generally will be held one evening a month. **Council meetings are open to everyone in the community, so you do not have to be a member to attend.**

Lost and Found

We have a Lost and Found bin located near the main entrance of the school underneath the showcase. Please encourage your child to check the bin regularly for lost items. On the last 2 days of each month, the items will be put out on display in the front foyer so the students will be able to check for lost items easily. Then the items that are not claimed will be donated to a local charity. Thank you.

Tick Season

The spring weather has marked the beginning of tick season in this area once again. While there is certainly an “ick” factor, the risk to students and staff is minimal as the prevalent species that we encounter here is the brown legged dog tick that does not transmit Lyme Disease. It is important to note that this is not just a Tapleystown School problem. Ticks are abundant in all of the surrounding areas and it’s impossible to eradicate them. Spraying is not an option as that also creates environmental and health hazards. Interactions with ticks just seem to appear more often at school because of the number of students who are on the yard on a daily basis.



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If it is discovered a tick has embedded itself the student will be referred to the office. Parents will be called and asked if they want to come in and remove the tick and take for testing.

Long pants as well as socks and closed toed shoes are encouraged if your child often prefers to play on the grass at recess.

From Hamilton Public Health: Lyme disease is an infection caused by bacteria. In Ontario, Lyme disease is carried by some black-legged ticks, also known as deer ticks. In Hamilton, the most common type of tick found is the American Dog tick. American Dog ticks cannot transmit Lyme disease. Ticks are bugs that sit on tall grass and bushes until they attach themselves to a person or animal passing by.

Dress Code

As the warmer weather is now here students, staff and volunteers are expected to wear appropriate clothing that covers the body as well as undergarments. The wearing of clothing that portrays any suggestion of violence, weapons, discrimination, vulgar or profane language, harassment or drug use (including alcohol and smoking) is not acceptable. Short skirts, dresses and shorts (less than arms length), muscle shirts, and halter-tops, spaghetti straps (less than three fingers), see through clothing, and clothing that reveals, cleavage, abdomen and back when standing or sitting are considered inappropriate. Students **in all grades** are expected to follow these expectations. Students will be expected to make suitable changes if they are in violation of any of these items, if available and/or may be sent home.

Heat Events

The City of Hamilton Public Health Department monitors weather forecasts closely and notifies the media and community partners of a heat event. A heat event occurs when the forecast calls for one or more days with a 40 or higher humidex reading. Once HWDSB has been notified of a heat event, information will be posted on our website and the following precautionary steps will be taken for students:

- Limit physical outdoor activities
- Ensure access to water
- Close drapes and blinds
- Move students through cooler areas of the school
- Monitor students for symptoms of heat stress