



Viola Desmond Elementary School

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 @ViolaD_HWDSB

 violadesmond_hwdsb

School Website: www.hwdsb.on.ca/violadesmond



This holiday season may have looked differently this year as we stayed apart so that we could stay safe. We hope that you were still able to connect and celebrate with loved ones, even if in a virtual format.

Now that we are in January and we have already experience very cold weather, a reminder that

school begins at 8:45 am and on those very cold days students should arrive as close to entry time as possible. Students should arrive to school in time to enter through the playground doors with their teacher and class. Students should not be entering through the front doors. Listen to the local radio and television stations or visit the board website for school closures.

Radio Stations:

900 CHML, 1150 CKOC,
820 CHAM or
102.9 K-Lite FM

TV Stations:

CHCH TV or
CH Morning Live

A reminder that due to Public Health restrictions visitors/parents should not be entering the building. Please call the school to make arrangements with staff should you need to speak with them.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our first school council meeting for 2022 is on Wednesday, February 9, 2022 @ 4:30 pm. Please visit the school website for more information.

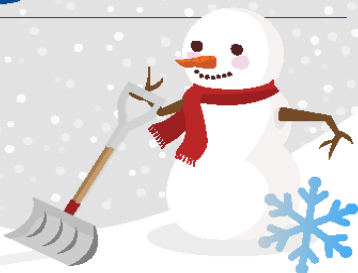
CONGRATULATIONS!

We want to congratulate Ms. Hogan, our Vice-Principal, on her promotion to Principal! Ms. Hogan will begin her new role at Cootes Paradise School on February 1st. We wish Ms. Hogan all the best and are sad to see her go, but we are also happy for her and her leadership journey. In her place, we welcome Ms. Devenish to our school. Ms. Devenish comes to us from the PDSB and we know she will be a great addition here.

HWDSB

Snow-clearing at HWDSB Schools

A responsibility shared by Board staff, contractors and the City of Hamilton



HWDSB Staff

Clear, salt and/or sand...

- walkways from the city sidewalk to the school
- school steps and portable steps
- walkways to the portables
- ramps to schools and portables
- area outside entrances and Fire Exit Doors
- Fire Exit stairs & ramps



HWDSB Contractors

After 5cm+ of snow, will...

- Plow parking lots and sidewalks when HWDSB Facilities staff deem it necessary
- Salt and sand the parking lot before school starts
- If required, Head Caretakers may also salt or sand parts of the parking lot



City of Hamilton

Responsible for clearing...

- Snow and ice from sidewalks directly in front of schools, a top priority for the City.
- **Note:** It may take up to 24 hours after a snowfall for sidewalks to be cleared. Report a sidewalk fronting a school in need of clearing at 905-546-CITY (2489)

What about playgrounds?

Playgrounds *are not* plowed or cleared. Head Caretakers inspect playgrounds and sand and/or salt areas made slippery by changing temperatures.

Students, take extra caution when walking or playing on school property that may be slippery. Principals concerned about weather or playground conditions may hold indoor recesses and lunch/nutrition breaks.



Benefits of outdoor play

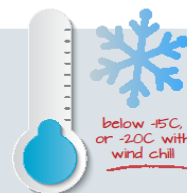
Time spent outdoors is an integral part of the school day. There are great benefits when children experience **fresh air, exercise and time spent time outside**. Outdoor play is also a break from the structure of the classroom.

Preparing for the outdoors

It's important that children come to school **prepared for the cold**. This means boots, mittens/gloves, hats and even extra mittens and socks in case they are needed.

When is it too cold for outdoor play?

Principals decide whether to send students outside for recess. HWDSB asks Principals to follow the City of Hamilton guideline that we stay inside when it's at or **below -15C, or -20C with wind chill**.





Symptomatic CHILD at Home

DECISION GUIDE



Self-screening at home

First thing in the morning, the parent/child completes the School and Childcare Screening and follows prompts: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

If your child becomes ill at home with **ANY** of the following symptoms: fever and/or chills; cough or barking cough (croup); shortness of breath; decrease or loss of taste or smell;
OR
TWO OR MORE of the following symptoms: sore throat, extreme fatigue, muscle aches/joint pain, headache, runny nose/nasal congestion and/or GI symptoms (i.e. nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea).

YES

NO

It is likely your child has COVID-19 and must isolate at home.

Your child must isolate for **5 days** from their symptom onset if:

- They are fully vaccinated, *OR*
- They are under 12 years of age

Your child must isolate for **10 days** from their symptom onset if:

- They are 12 years of age or older and partially vaccinated or unvaccinated, *OR*
- They are immunocompromised, regardless of age and vaccination status

Your child may return to school/childcare once their isolation has been completed and symptoms have been improving for at least 24 hours (or 48 hours for GI symptoms, i.e. nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea).

It is less likely that your child has COVID-19. If your child becomes ill but does not meet the COVID-19 symptom criteria listed in the box above, your child must stay at home. If needed, contact a doctor to get advice or an assessment. Your child may return to school/childcare when their symptoms have been improving for at least 24 hours (or 48 hours for GI symptoms, i.e. nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea).

All household members must isolate at home regardless of vaccination status. They must follow current isolation and testing guidance for individuals who have been exposed to COVID-19, which can be found in the link below:
<https://www.hamilton.ca/coronavirus/covid-19-have-symptoms-or-been-exposed>

Household members do not need to isolate. Siblings may continue to attend school/childcare.



Symptomatic Child at School or Child Care

DECISION GUIDE

