



Viola Desmond Elementary School

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 @ViolaD_HWDSB

 violadesmond_hwdsb

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



During this unique time in education there have been so many uncertainties and changes that we have had to adapt to. Our living rooms became our learning environments during the remote learning period. Our school yard which was once a social area for students to run around and spend time with friends has been divided up into cohorts to keep everyone safe. The supply chain has

delayed the completion of projects around the school. Restrictions have kept us apart and prevented us from physically opening our doors to share our exciting new building with our community. There are many areas that as a new school we are trying to work through and still need to develop. With compassion and kindness for each other we will continue to work hard to ensure our school is a safe, inclusive, and respectful learning environment for everyone.



Hello Viola Desmond community! My name is Kelly Devenish and you may have heard that I am the new VP here at VDES. I have already received such a warm welcome from the students and staff at VDES.

I have spent my first few days



visiting students in their classes and seeing the exploration, learning and fun that is embedded into all that they do.

I look forward to getting to know you, as parents and guardians play such a vital role in supporting students at VDES.

UPCOMING DATES:

School Council: Feb 9th
@ 4:30 pm

Valentine's Day: Feb 14th

Lockdown Drill: Feb 18th

Family Day: Feb 21st
(no school)

PD Day: March 4th

March Break: Mar
14th-18th

Hold and Secure Drill:
Mar 11th

School Council: Mar 30th
@ 4:30 pm

Shelter in Place Drill:
April 4th

Kindergarten Registration



Why is Kindergarten Important?

- Early learning experiences are crucial to the future well-being of children
- Early interactions affect the way connections are made in the brain

- A solid foundation for reading and math must be built
- Children build skills through developmentally appropriate play-based experiences

Kindergarten registration will begin this Monday, February 7th

2022. Registration will be on-line. All forms will be available on the board websites under Kindergarten Registration at:

www.hwdsb.on.ca/kindergarten/

For further questions please call the school at: (905)296-2549

Once registered, families will be mailed a copy of **Countdown to Kindergarten** parent handbook. This handbook will provide information on child development, school readiness, and answers to frequently asked questions.

Graduation and Photo Re-take Day Olympic Colours



Thursday, February 17th, is Photo re-take day for all students that require re-takes.

It is also Graduation Photo day for students in Grade 8. Students are asked to come with

white collared shirts. Our photographer will provide ties if students choose to use them.



Friday, February 18th, will be Olympic Spirit Day. Students can wear the colours or team jerseys of the country of their choice.



Pink Shirt Day



National Pink Shirt Day is on Wednesday, February 23rd. Wearing pink symbolizes our commitment to choose kindness and end bullying.

Parking Around the School



We continue to have a number of parents parking in the bus loading zones and in the round-about in front of the

school. These areas are out of bounds to everyone other than buses and emergency vehicles. This is creating unsafe situations for staff, students and community members. We have had a number of complaints from our neighbours.

Unfortunately, when staff have approached these vehicles, drivers have been uncooperative. As a result Bi-Law Enforcement will now be patrolling the area at both the beginning and end of our school day. For the safety of every-

one, please do not park or stop in these areas. We realize that parking around the school is limited and hope that once the west side of the school grounds is complete, this will alleviate the congestion on Glen Echo and Secord Drive.

Report Cards

Term 1 report card will be sent home on Friday, February 18th. This report not only informs on academic achievement, but also important learning skills to help your child demonstrate their strengths.



Family Literacy Day on January 27th

Students and staff celebrated Family Literacy Day on Thursday, January 27th. Students could either dress up as their favourite character in a book or in their pj's to snuggle up and read. Classes participated in the sharing of staff read

alouds and also had a mystery guest read their favourite story.

