



Viola Desmond Elementary School

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 @ViolaD_HWDSB violadesmond_hwdsb

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

JANUARY



Now that it is January and we have already experienced some 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. Please **do not arrive prior to 8:30 am** as there is no adult supervision. Students should arrive at 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

Mabel's Labels

Our fundraiser continues!

Mabel's Labels Fundraising program is a simple and practical way to raise funds for your school, daycare, team, camp or organization. All the while making moms happy by keeping kids gear out of the lost and found.

Here at Viola Desmond our lost and found bins are overflowing! Take advantage of this opportunity to label your child's belongings and support your school at the same time!

[Fundraising Support | Mabel's Labels | Raise Funds With Kids Labels \(mabelslabels.ca\)](#)

Search: Viola Desmond (Hamilton)

Parent Council

Meeting Dates:

March 1st, 2023

May 31st, 2023

Request for Kleenex!

It may seem a strange request, but we are asking that students come equipped with a personal supply of tissues as Kleenex has been very difficult to order due to a supply shortage.

Upcoming Dates

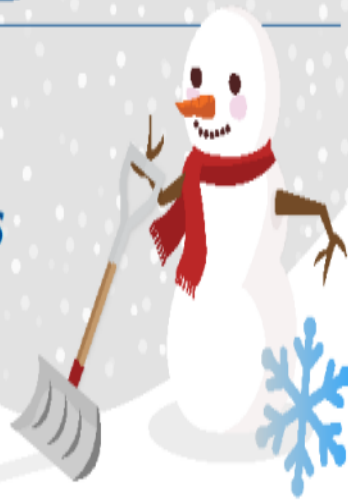
January 26th - is Snuggle Up and Read Day. We encourage all students from K-8 to wear their favourite PJ's to school. A portion of the day will be spent paired up with another class where we will enjoy books and a snack together and work on a craft.

PD Day – January 27th

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.

