



## Viola Desmond Elementary School

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 @ViolaD\_HWDSB      violadesmond\_hwdsb

School Website: [www.hwdsb.on.ca/violadesmond/](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/violadesmond/)



\*We apologize for the delay in posting our March newsletter.

Due to a technical difficulty, we did not have access to our website.

### Welcome to Kindergarten!

Please see the following letter to the Viola Desmond families from Director of Education Sheryl Robinson Petrazzini.

Kindergarten registration at HWDSB is now open! Families with children ready to start school in September 2023 can visit [hwdsb.on.ca/kindergarten/](http://hwdsb.on.ca/kindergarten/) to learn more.

Dear Families,

[Kindergarten](#) is an important milestone for children and their families. We want this exciting transition to school to be an experience filled with joy for your child and your family.

Research shows that attending two years of kindergarten gives children a solid foundation for future learning as it gives them the opportunity to socialize with other children, while also improving their skills in early reading, writing, and math.

HWDSB classrooms are inclusive learning environments where caring adults help students explore the world, solve problems, and build lasting friendships.

Kindergarten students gain a solid foundation for reading and math in a play-based program.

#### Upcoming Dates

**March 9<sup>th</sup>**  
The Big Crunch  
Event

**Mar. 10<sup>th</sup>**  
Multicultural Day  
(March 21<sup>st</sup>  
– Back-up date)

**March 13<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>**  
March Break

**March 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
Public Health SK  
Visual Screening

**March 30<sup>th</sup>**  
Lockdown Drill

In HWDSB, classroom educators lead early-learning experiences rooted in creativity, inquiry, and exploration. We nurture classrooms that foster a culture of acceptance and well-being so that students can be their authentic selves.

We respect your role as your child’s first and best teacher. As educators, we are here to serve students, families, and communities. We are proud of the service that Kindergarten staff provide. We strongly believe that students come with varying strengths and interests, and a successful partnership with families helps ensure we can best support their diverse needs.

We look forward to collaborating with you to support your child’s education! Visit [hwdsb.on.ca/kindergarten/](http://hwdsb.on.ca/kindergarten/) to learn how to register.

Sincerely,  
 Sheryl Robinson Petrazzini  
 Director of Education

**March 31st**  
 Character Assembly  
 "Caring"

**Parent Council**  
**Meeting Dates:**

May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023  
 @4:30pm  
 In the Library

***HWDSB Code of Conduct***

**The community of Viola Desmond elementary School would like to share and remind everyone of the expectations established by our board to help us resolve conflict amicably and build a positive school culture. Please take a moment to review the code and share with your family.**

**The purposes of this Code of Conduct are as follows:**

1. To ensure that all members of the school community, are treated with respect and dignity, regardless of, for example, race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, sex, disability, creed, family status, or socio-economic status.
2. To promote responsible citizenship by encouraging appropriate participation in the civic life of the school community.
3. To maintain an environment where conflict and difference can be addressed in a manner characterized by respect and civility.
4. To encourage the use of non-violent means to resolve conflict.
5. To promote the safety of people in the schools.

***Students demonstrate respect and responsibility when they:***

- Come to school prepared, on time, and ready to learn
- Show respect for themselves, others and those in authority
- Refrain from bringing anything to school that may compromise the safety of self or others
- Demonstrate responsibility for actions or behavior on or off school property or outside of the school day that would have an impact on the school climate
- Follow the established rules and take responsibility for their own actions

***Parents support a safe and respectful learning environment when they:***

- Show an active interest in their child’s schoolwork and progress
- Communicate regularly with school Administrators
- Help their child be neat, appropriately dressed and prepared for school
- Ensure that their child attends school regularly and on time
- Promptly report to the school their child’s absence or late arrival
- Become familiar with the Code of Conduct and school rules

- Model the character attributes of Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board
- Demonstrate appropriate participation in the civic life of the community.

- Encourage and assist their child in following the rules of behavior
- Assist school staff in dealing with disciplinary issues involving their child.

### ***Respect, Civility and Responsible Citizenship***

**All members of the school community, including Trustees, Board employees, students, parents, Home and School, School Council, visitors, volunteers, contractors, community members on school premises, while on school buses, at school-related events or activities, or in any other circumstances that could have an impact on the climate of the school must:**

- Respect and comply with all applicable federal, provincial, and municipal laws
- Demonstrate honesty and integrity
- Respect differences in people, their ideas, and their opinions
- Always treat one another with dignity and respect, especially when there is disagreement
- Respect and treat others fairly, regardless of, for example, race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age or ability
- Respect the rights of others
- Show proper care and regard for school property and the property of others
- Take appropriate measures to help those in need
- Seek assistance from a member of the school staff, if necessary, to resolve conflict peacefully
- Respect all members of the school community, especially persons in positions of authority
- Respect the needs of others to work in an environment that is conducive to learning and teaching; and/or not swear at a teacher or at another person in a position of authority

### ***Parent Council News***

Our Council met on March 1st and had the pleasure of hearing from a guest speaker from the Hamilton Foundation for Student Success, Amy Leaming-Cote. The foundation is HWDSB's charity of choice and supports HWDSB students overcoming barriers so they can thrive and reach their full potential. Our next meeting is scheduled for May 31, 2023, at 4:30 in the library. The minutes from the March 2, 2023, meeting will be available

### ***The Big Crunch Challenge***

Thursday, March 9th, 2023

900 apples have been purchased for The Big Crunch Event on March 9th!



In classrooms, students and teachers will be invited to bite into apples to make a loud crunch noise!

For more information and activity ideas, check out the Great Big Crunch website:

<https://foodshare.net/program/>

**FoodShare**

Food is a right  
foodshare.net

crunch/

**Product Information:** All apples will be supplied from Drummond Farms, located in Waterdown, Ontario.

in the Council binder in the office the Monday following March break. This binder is available for all parents who wish to stay up to date on our meetings. Please join us May 31<sup>st</sup>!

**About the Event:** The Great Big Crunch is a national movement of anti-silence in which students, teachers, parents and others passionate about healthy food join the food movement and crunch into apples (or another crunchy fruit or vegetable) to make noise for healthy school food! Every year since 2008, Canadians from coast to coast have participated in the Great Big Crunch, an original initiative of FoodShare Toronto. The event happens annually during March, Nutrition Month.