



## Viola Desmond Elementary School

50 Secord Drive Hamilton, ON, L8K 3W7 (P)905.296.2549 (F)905.661.8715

 @ViolaD\_HWDSB      violadesmond\_hwdsb

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



### **Earth Month**

Our Viola Desmond Eco Team is holding Boomerang Lunches on Mondays and Wednesdays in April to celebrate Earth Month. Try your best to bring reusable containers and water bottles so there is no trash left at school.

### **April Showers**

April weather can be unpredictable, rainy or snowy! Please be sure to dress appropriately. We still may need our coats and warm clothing.

### **VDES Cultural Celebration**

On March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023, VDES celebrated the diversity of our community with a showcase of the many countries and regions that make up our school community. Families were invited to share artifacts and traditional clothing from their home culture, country or region. Students ran the entire school event under the guidance of a small team of teachers. Students completed the research and created a slideshow and display boards for each culture, country or region represented on that day. Moving forward, we are inspired to create a mission and vision statement for our school and begin our work to unify our community and build our identity as Viola Desmond Elementary School.

***Thank you to the following Community partners for their support of our event:***

### **Upcoming Dates**

#### **Good Friday**

April 7<sup>th</sup> (no school)

#### **Easter Monday**

April 10<sup>th</sup> (no school)

#### **Character Assemblies**

April 28<sup>th</sup>

K-3 11:10, Gr. 4-8 12:00

#### **Scholastic Book Fair**

May 1-5

#### **Open House**

May 3<sup>rd</sup>

### **Upcoming Trips**

**Gr. 6 Canadian  
Warplane Heritage  
Museum**  
April 27<sup>th</sup>



### **VDES Coach's Corner**

#### **Upcoming Junior Basketball Games:**

April 4<sup>th</sup> @ Winona

April 6<sup>th</sup> @ Prince of Wales

April 11<sup>th</sup> @ Viola Desmond

April 13<sup>th</sup> @ Viola Desmond



- End of the Roll (Stoney Creek location) for donating our runway carpet.
- Empowerment Squared for paying for the binding of our red carpet.
- Red Hill Library -Kat and Luke for setting up a booth and informing our families about the bilingual books available at the public library and about the March Break programs.
- YMCA-SWIS- Rufayda Ali, our Settlement worker set up a booth and shared information with our families to help them connect with various community resources.

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

May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023

@4:30pm

In the Library

### **Reading With Your Child**

Here at Viola Desmond Elementary School, we want to ensure our students form a love of reading and become independent readers. A huge part of this is making sure reading is also done at home. Reading at home does not have to be a chore that everyone dreads. Starting right in JK, reading at home is crucial to a child's reading development. Reading aloud together is so important for your child(ren) and doesn't have to be seen as homework but quality time spent together creating important reading routines.

Make sure to include a variety of books and topics and be consistent and patient.... **READING IS HARD**. By reading 10 minutes every day with your child(ren) the better readers they will become. Reading doesn't just have to be books. It can be reading on the internet, in magazines, signs around the neighborhood etc.

#### **Some tips are:**

- Look at the pictures. Go through the book and point to objects in the pictures and talk about them. Building their oral vocabulary will benefit them while reading.
- Adults reading to children shows children that reading is important and enjoyable. It will stimulate their imagination and expand their understanding of the world around them.
- Children who can read independently still benefit from reading aloud together.
- Make reading at home fun. Schedule a time of the day that is dedicated to reading; such as before bed. Don't worry if you miss a day, just read to your child as often as possible.
- Re-reading the same book multiple days in a row isn't a bad thing. Children will hear the fluency of how a story sounds and can practice it each night.
- Point to words or letters that they know.
- Talk about the stories you are reading.
- Point to the words as you read so that young readers make the connection between oral and written language.
- Re-tell the story after you are done...talk about the characters and plot.



### ***Personal Devices / Cyberbullying***

We are experiencing an alarming number of issues with students using their own personal devices inside and outside of school inappropriately. We understand that as parents you may want your child to carry a device for safety to and from school. However, if the inappropriate usage continues personal devices will need to be stored in a safe location in the office during instructional time. Personal devices are not to be used during instructional time unless directed to do so by an educator. Students are not permitted to take pictures or videos at school.

**It is extremely important to monitor how your child uses social media. Cyberbullying and the use of racial slurs online by our students is increasing and very concerning. Please remember children need to be thirteen years old to use TIK TOK, Snapchat, Instagram and Facebook to be sure they have the maturity to use social media safely and respectfully. For more information, please use the link below to access HWDSB's policy regarding Responsible use of Digital Technology.**

[Responsible-Use-REV-Nov19.pdf \(hwdsb.on.ca\)](#)

Lastly, the school is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged personal devices. If students bring these devices, they are responsible for them.

### ***Parking / Dropping off and Picking Up Students***

We continue to have parents parking in the bus loading zones and other areas where signage indicates no parking, not only delaying the buses but also creating very unsafe situations for everyone. When staff approach these vehicles, they are met with disrespectful behavior. This behavior is inappropriate and unfair to staff as they are trying to keep everyone safe. We also have our neighbors upset as vehicles are not only blocking driveways but are now parked in those driveways and parents are refusing to leave when neighbors come home and try to access their own driveway. This behavior is not the positive example we are trying to model for our students as we are building new relationships in our community. We understand that the parking situation is not ideal, but we must be kind and continue to work together to keep everyone safe.



## ***Participate in the 2023-24 Draft School Year Calendar Consultation***

HWDSB is currently in the process of developing its elementary and secondary calendars for the 2023-24 school year. We are seeking input from parents/guardians, students, staff, and community members on key dates included in the draft elementary and secondary calendars. Please use the link below to view the calendars and complete the survey and add your input. The link will be available until Friday April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

[Participate in the 2023-24 Draft School Year Calendar Consultation | Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board \(hwdsb.on.ca\)](https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/2023-24-Draft-School-Year-Calendar-Consultation)