



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/

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

COLDER WEATHER IS ON THE WAY, PLEASE BE SURE YOUR CHILD IS DRESSED APPROPRIATELY FOR OUTDOOR PLAY DAILY!

School/Parent Council

Our first meeting was held on November 23rd. Minutes from our meeting have been posted on our website. We welcome Laura Neubrand as our returning School Council Chair.

Everyone is welcome to join us at our meetings. We look forward to meeting new people and hearing new ideas!

Meeting Dates:

- Jan. 18, 2024
- March 21, 2024
- May 23, 2024

Upcoming Events

January 26th
PA Day
(no school)

January 27th
Family Literacy Day

Glass Containers

Please be sure to send your child with plastic, leakproof, water bottles and plastic food containers. We have had numerous incidents lately in classrooms with students accidentally breaking their glass water and food containers. We ask for your cooperation in this matter to help keep everyone safe and avoid injuries.

Parking Concerns

Parking passes have been issued to our staff. The parking lot is not to be used for the drop-off and pick up of students. Tickets may be issued by By-Law Enforcement Officers if there are cars parked in the staff lot without a pass.

HWDSB

Snow-clearing at HWDSB Schools

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



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.



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)**

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**.

