



## Viola Desmond Elementary School

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



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### Clubs

There are so many opportunities to get involved at VDES!

- The **Student Ambassador Club** meets on Mondays and Wednesdays and is open to grade 2-8 students. Students talk about upcoming holidays, school events and how to promote a positive mindset at our school.
- The **Morning Announcement Team**- students deliver our announcements, different versions of O' Canada are used

### Upcoming Events

April 4, 5

SK Vision Screening

April 8

PA Day

April 3, 11, 18, 25

Forest of Reading Groups

April date TBA

Spring Fling Dance

April 30

Character Assemblies

K-3/4A - 11:10, ¼ B – gr. 8 12:00

May 2,3

Book Fair Preview

daily, including acapella selections during Ramadan.

- **Grade 3-8 Forest of Reading Group**- meets weekly in the library.
- **Eco-Team** – organizes eco-challenges and events for our school.
- **HAT Team (Healthy Action Team)** - creates and supports school wide activities to promote kindness, well-being and making healthy choices.
- **Positive Space Group** – mainly grade 6 participants, student led conversations.
- **VDE Vipers – Lego Robotics Clubs**, junior and intermediate.

**May 6-10**  
**Book Fair**  
**May 8**  
**Open House**

### Student Volunteers

- Student Paper Recycling Team – collects and recycles every Tuesday and Friday.
- Lunchroom monitors assist our primary students during Nutrition Breaks.
- Peer Mediators help students solve problems during the outside portion of Nutrition Breaks.



### Sports at VDES

- **Junior Basketball** is on-going now.
- **Senior Swim team** (grade 6-8) starts the first week of April
- **Track** starts in May
- **Gr. 3 Swim to Survive Sessions** begin in late April



### Prayer Opportunities at VDES

Ramadan Mubarak! During this holy time of Ramadan, we continue to offer students the opportunity to pray while at school. As we have been having some difficulty with student behavior during this sacred time, please review the expectations below with your child.

#### During Wudu:

- Students should enter the washing area quickly and quietly.
- The area must be left clean and dry to ensure there are no tripping hazards.

#### During Prayer:

- Students should proceed to the prayer area quietly.
- No food or drinks are permitted in the prayer area.
- Once complete students are asked to return to class promptly and quietly.

### MathUp



For further information on the MathUp program developed by Marian Small, click on the link below.

**MathUp** is a new comprehensive Math program purchased for and supported by the HWDSB. Licenses were purchased by the board for all grade 3 and 6 classes.

- VDES has invested in further licenses for each grade and training is being provided for our volunteer teacher leads.
- Professional Development is also being provided by our Math Facilitator in assessment and data collection based on gr. 3 and 6 EQAO results.
- Our next Continuous Learning Improvement Cycle will also focus on Math.

### Literacy

Decodable books have been purchased to support our reading programs in kindergarten to grade 3. As a school we are taking steps to make reading more fun and interactive. We are taking our reading outside of the classroom organizing Scavenger Word Hunts and monthly "Mystery Readers".



### Mental Health and Well-Being

Four Divisional Assemblies took place on March 19<sup>th</sup> which focused on Anti-Bullying Strategies. We are working in partnership with the HWDSB Gender Based Violence and Bullying Prevention Team, Interval House and the Hamilton Tiger-Cats. The work will continue after the long weekend when the team visits classrooms to reinforce the concepts and strategies introduced to the school at the assemblies. The students were very well behaved and receptive during the presentations, which encouraged students to support others and be better by-standers.



**We encourage everyone to label their items for school. Our Lost and Found bins fill up quickly!**

