

# The Montgomery Times

## November – December Updates

Dear families,

It is hard to believe that in a couple of weeks December is already upon us and 2022 has almost come to a close. We look back and reflect on the months that have passed.

2022 has been a unique year where we have seen the resiliency, growth, and kindness of our staff, students and families as we began to go back to our regular schooling free from Covid Protocols.

During this time, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our students for the joy and enthusiasm they bring to our school each day. We are also very thankful to our teachers, DECE's, educational assistants, CYCP's, office staff, custodians and parent community for their ongoing commitment and for working hard every day to support our students and each other.

As we enter into this holiday season, we want to remind parents, guardians and students that our school will be closed from December 26th, 2022 until January 8, 2023. We hope you take this opportunity to rest and connect with family and friends near and far.

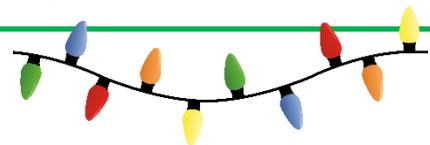
Despite our challenges, we had a great start to the school year and we remain excited to continue to learn and grow together into the New Year as a Viscount Montgomery community!

Sincerely, Mr. D. Fede

## Upcoming EVENTS

- Nov 21 - Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week
- Nov 22 – Dental Screening (Grades K-2)
- Nov 24 – School Council Meeting @ 6pm
- Nov 25 – PA Day (No School)
- Dec 1 – Grade 7-8 Vaccines
- Dec 2 – Grade 7-8 Vaccines
- Dec 2 – Viscount Swag Day
- Dec 5 – Churchill Music Presentation
- Dec 12 – Food Drive Begins (More information to follow)
- Dec 13 – Lockdown Drill
- Dec 16 – Food Drive Ends
- Dec 26 – Jan 8 – Winter Break

**Coming Soon in December  
The 12 Days of Festivities!  
(More information to follow)**



## Bus Safety Presentations

Hamilton-Wentworth Student Transportation Services, is providing Intertrain's NEW and INTERACTIVE school bus safety presentations online this year.

Viscount students will take part in one of two age-appropriate, interactive, 30-minute school bus safety shows. The presentations will be for students in grades K-4 and students in grades 5-8. Both programs are interactive and engaging. Most importantly, they address many safety issues that must be followed when on the bus!



## MEDICAL ALERT

Just a reminder that Viscount Montgomery is a NUT FREE School. We have both staff and students with severe life-threatening allergies to peanuts and tree nuts. Do not send any nut products to school with your child. Thank you!



## EQAO Results

Primary Grade 3	HWDSB Results	Provincial Results	Viscount Montgomery
Reading	66%	73%	86%
Writing	55%	65%	82%
Mathematics	44%	59%	61%

Junior Grade 6	HWDSB Results	Provincial Results	Viscount Montgomery
Reading	77%	85%	74%
Writing	75%	84%	84%
Mathematics	36%	47%	26%

## Attention Parents: Dismissal Policy

Instructional time at Viscount occurs between 9:15-3:35. At times there will be classes outside on the back playground prior to dismissal for a variety of reasons (Phys. Ed, DPA).

Please note that for security and safety reasons, parents are not permitted to be on the back playground before 3:35 as the playground is considered an outside classroom.

Once the 3:35 bell rings for dismissal, we ask that parents only then enter the playground.

Thank you for your understanding so that we can continue to keep your children safe at school.

## No Pictures Please

To respect the safety and confidentiality of all of our students, we kindly ask that parents and care givers do not take pictures of students while other students are in the vicinity. We have many students who do not have consent to have their picture taken.



## ATTENTION!! Parent Parking / Drop Off / Pick Up

Just a friendly reminder that when you are dropping off or picking up your child at dismissal, **please do not block the bus loading zone or enter the parking lot.** We want to ensure the safety of all our students as they are being transported to and from Viscount.

In addition, when dropping off or picking up your child, parents please be aware of children opening car doors to the street access. There have been numerous occasions where students were almost hit by on coming cars. **As a safety reminder, students should enter and exit cars from the sidewalk and never from the street.** We strongly encourage parents to have these safety discussions at home with their children so that we can ensure that all our students remain safe.

## Bus Information

The HWDSB Transportation service is responsible for the carriers that bring our students to and from school. At times, school busses may run late and the delay time could take up to 30 minutes. We strongly encourage all families to check the status of their child's bus on a daily basis. This could be done using the following link:

<https://www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca/>

Here you will find a posting of all the delays.

You can also phone transportation directly at (905) 523-2318 or 1-800-691-6402 with any questions you may have, as our school office closes at 4:00 PM.



## Relocation of the Existing School Bus Loading Zone



Parking Enforcement has noted a bottleneck effect with school buses and cars within the current loading zone on Glenhome Avenue. In order to ensure safety and alleviate congestion, a change has been made to relocate the existing School Bus Loading Zone from Glenholme Avenue to Lucerne Avenue.

The old location of the school bus loading zone will remain as a No Parking area. This will give an area for parents to pick-up/drop off their children.

The changes are effective November 21, 2022.

## Secure School Information

Every year, school communities are required to engage in a number of Secure Schools drills to ensure all students and staff understand how to participate in the case of an emergency situation. These drills include: 6 fire drills (3 in the fall, 3 in the spring), 1 hold and secure drill, 1 shelter in place drill, 2 lockdown drills and 1 bomb threat drill.

The dates of future drills will be posted on the school website at least one day prior to our scheduled drill. If weather conditions do not allow for a safe drill, the drill would be pushed to the next available school day.

Please do not be alarmed if your child tells you that the alarm went off at school. This is all part of our Emergency Plan of Action.

To learn more about HWDSB's approach to secure schools, please go to:

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/secondary/supports/secure-schools/>

**On Remembrance Day**, we took the time to think about all of the people who have served and continue to serve during times of war, conflict and peace. We paid tribute as a Viscount school community to these veterans in our school auditorium. Thank you to all the students who participated and a big thank you to Mr. Fenton for putting it all together.



# Progress Reports

Progress Reports were sent home on November 18! This is a great opportunity for you and your child to celebrate their accomplishments, and review some next steps and to set some goals. If you have any questions about the progress reports, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher!



## CCAT Testing

Each November, Grade 4 students across HWDSB complete the Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test (CCAT 7). The CCAT 7 is administered by LRTs and grade 4 teachers, in the classroom. The CCAT 7 was designed to provide an accurate and efficient measure of the abilities needed to acquire the desired outcomes of formal education. The test measures verbal, nonverbal, and quantitative skills in a multiple-choice format. Test results will be used to assist with program planning for individual students and as part of the board-wide gifted screening process. No advance preparation on the part of students is necessary.

## Viscount Annual Food Drive

During the week of **December 12th to the 16th** we will be holding our annual School Food Drive. Each class will be provided with a box to decorate and fill with their donations.

If you are able to donate, please consider donating the following items:

*Cereal, peanut butter, stuffing mix, boxed potatoes, macaroni and cheese, canned fruit, canned tomatoes, canned tuna, dessert mix, applesauce, canned sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, canned beans, box of crackers, rice, oatmeal, pasta, spaghetti sauce, soup, canned corn, canned mixed vegetables, canned carrots, and canned green beans.*

Please be sure to check the expiration date of the items, as the Food Banks will not accept expired items.

Thank you for your support!

Ms. Jong



# Severe Weather at HWDSB

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During severe winter weather, the difficult decision to remain open or to close is always made with the safety and security of our students and staff in mind.

Here are some guidelines to remember:

## Weather Cancellations

When bad weather is expected, Hamilton-Wentworth Student Transportation Services (HWSTS) carriers check weather reports, road conditions and road clearing, starting as early as 4 a.m.



**6:00 A.M.**



Based on this information, the Director of Education makes the decision in conjunction with Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board.

**HWDSB will announce the cancellation of school and board operations by 6 a.m.** based on the best information at the time. We share this announcement on the HWDSB website, HWDSB's Twitter account and on the HWSTS website. We also contact local media outlets including CHCH TV, CHML and the Hamilton Spectator.

HWDSB makes a decisions by 6 a.m.

## School and Administrative Building Closures

School boards have varied policies on cancellations. **The HWDSB Rule is: Severe weather + Bus cancellation = Schools and Administrative Buildings are closed.** When HWDSB cancels busing due to inclement weather, we have deemed the roads unsafe and this triggers the closure of schools and administrative buildings.

Severe Weather



**Extreme Weather** - In extreme cold, buses may not start or run as expected and HWDSB may need to cancel transportation. But this does not automatically mean that schools will close. The Director (or designate) has discretion to keep schools open when busing is cancelled due to extreme cold.

**Closing a school and administrative buildings is a tough decision** – and some families may disagree with HWDSB's call. Families can always make the choice they feel is best when it comes to sending their child to school.

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## Resources:

HWDSB's website - Severe Weather Information: [www.hwdsb.on.ca/about/severe-weather](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/about/severe-weather)

Inclement Weather and Board Cancellations Policy: [www.hwdsb.on.ca/about/policies](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/about/policies)

Inclement Weather information video: <https://youtu.be/WMkROsXELFY>

# 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?

Contractors will plow or clear up to half of the asphalt play area at schools. Head Caretakers also inspect playgrounds and spot 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**.



## The Difference between Bullying, Aggression and Teasing



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Bullying always involves aggression. Aggression becomes bullying when it is repeated over time between the same individuals and there is a power imbalance.  
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Conflict can be positive or negative. Bullying is a form of negative conflict. Conflict becomes bullying when it is repeated over time and involves a power differential.  
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Teasing becomes hostile when it implies interpersonal rejection and social exclusion, rather than camaraderie and social inclusion.  
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### Bullying

Bullying is behavior that includes the use of any physical, verbal, electronic, written or other means. Bullying is intentional aggressive behaviour. If aggressive behaviour is physical, it may include hitting, pushing, slapping, and tripping. If it is verbal, it may include name calling, mocking, insults, threats, and sexist, racist, homophobic, or transphobic comments. If it is social or relational aggression, it is more subtle and may involve such behaviours as gossiping, shunning, ignoring, spreading rumours, excluding others from a group, or humiliating others with public gestures or graffiti. Social aggression may also occur through the use of technology (e.g., spreading rumours, images, or hurtful comments through the use of e-mail, cell phones, text messaging, Internet websites, social networking, or other technology).

### Aggression

Aggressive behaviour is conflict that may be intentional or unintentional, direct or indirect. It can take many forms, including physical, verbal, and social. It can be experienced in a number of ways including physical, mental, emotional, and psychological harm.

### Teasing

Teasing can be positive or negative.

#### Positive Teasing:

- illustrates closeness, affection, and familiarity with another person
- person being teased is not distressed
- takes place within a strong relationship
- strengthens the relationship

#### Negative Teasing:

- alienates, criticizes, and embarrasses the other person
- the person being teased is distressed
- takes place within a weak relationship
- undermines the relationship

# GROWTH *mindset*

## HOW YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD

### 1 TALK ABOUT IT

Talk with your child about their day, but guide the discussion by asking questions like:

- Did you make a mistake today? What did you learn?
- What did you do that was difficult today?

### 2 PRAISE THE PROCESS

Instead of saying, "You're so smart!" praise effort, goal setting, persisting through challenges, or being creative.

You can say something like:

- "Wow! You must have worked really hard on this!"

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### ENCOURAGE FAILURE (SAY WHAT?!)

Your child needs to know that failure can (and often does) happen and it is okay! Remind them that each time they fail and try again, their brain is growing stronger! Don't step in to prevent your child's failure - this is how they learn to persevere in the face of challenges.

### THE BRAIN CAN GROW!

Remind your child that their intelligence is not fixed. Remind them that when things are difficult, their brain grows if they persist through the challenge. Each time they learn something new, their brain is making new connections. Your child needs to know this is possible!

### HELP THEM CHANGE THEIR DIALOGUE

The way your child talks to themselves makes a huge impact on their mindset. If they say, "This is too hard!" help them change that to "I can't do this yet, but I will keep trying." Give them the words to say when they are feeling defeated by modeling it yourself!

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