

# The Montgomery Times



## Happy New Year and welcome to the beginning of the 2023 school year!

I hope you all had an enjoyable holiday season. As the new year begins, please remember that at Viscount Montgomery, students are always front and center and every decision made will have your child's best interest in mind!

As we begin the new year, our goals remain the same. We want to ensure that your child;

- Feels safe and happy to be part of Viscount Montgomery;
- Is part of a productive learning environment that provides appropriate innovative learning experiences; and
- Works toward their academic learning potential

I am eager to continue to work together to continue to build a positive relationship between all staff, students and parents to make an amazing school year.

Best wishes for a healthy, safe and happy New Year!

D. Fede



January 13 – Swag Day

January 13 – Pizza Day

January 18 – Hold & Secure Drill

January 19 – School Council @ 6PM

January 20 – Pizza Day

January 26 – Literacy Day

January 26 – Pajama Day

January 26 – Pizza Day



**Missed Pizza day from December 23<sup>rd</sup> will be re-scheduled in February. More information will be coming.**



## 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!



## 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.

## 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.



### 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.

### Secure School Information

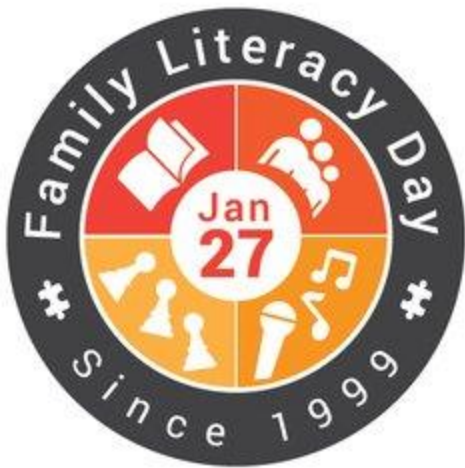
Every year, school communities are required to engage in a number of Secure Schools drills to ensure all students and staff understand how to participate in the case of an emergency situation. These drills include: 6 fire drills (3 in the fall, 3 in the spring), 1 hold and secure drill, 1 shelter in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



Family Literacy Day takes place every January 27th to raise awareness about the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family. Since 1999, thousands of schools, libraries, literacy organizations and other community groups have taken part in the initiative.

**We will be having our school Family Literacy Day on Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup> due to the PA day on the 27<sup>th</sup>.**

Students are invited to wear their Pyjama and bring in their favourite book. Time will be dedicated throughout the day to Snuggle Up and Read!

Since January 27<sup>th</sup> is a school P.D day, here are some activities that you can do at home if you would like.

- Build a fort together, turn out the lights, and read a book using a flashlight.
- Choose or look up a recipe to make.
- Play a board or card game.
- Go for a walk or drive and read the names you see on the signs. How many words can you write using only the letters in Viscount Montgomery.



### Viscount Annual Food Drive

During the week of **December 12th to the 16th** we held our annual School Food Drive. Thank you so much to all of our families for their support in donating so many items. With your help we were able to support 23 families.



# Getting Ready for the Holidays!

The month of December brought so much joy to staff and students! Here's a look back to some of our fun activities...







A big thank you to Ms. Leyzer for taking all of these memorable pictures!

# Severe Weather at HWDSB

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.

## 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