

Spring Edition



Construction at Viscount

I would like to take the opportunity to provide you with details regarding construction at Viscount Montgomery. Our school gym and corridor ceiling will be going through a renovation during the summer months. The corridors will be getting new lighting and ceiling tiles whereas the gym renovation includes new flooring, painting, lights, and RTU replacement.

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) prioritizes the renewal and revitalization of its schools. Our school is undergoing construction to enhance and improve our learning environment.



Be sure to subscribe to our website so that you receive all the latest news.

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/viscountmontgomery/>

Also follow us on Twitter

@Viscount_HWDSB

Biking or Scootering to School

Just a reminder to please ensure that helmets are worn by all students when they are riding their bike or scooter to and from school.



Day of PINK

On Wednesday, April 12th staff and students across HWDSB wore pink on the International Day of Pink.

We do this because we want to make a statement that we stand against all forms of bullying. It also reminds us that if we stand up and speak out, we can make a difference.

The International Day of Pink began in Nova Scotia when two high school students saw a classmate being bullied for wearing a pink shirt.

The two students intervened, but wanted to do more. A few days later they were able to get their entire school to wear pink. That school sent a message that together we can stop bullying.

We know that bullying is a problem in our schools and in our wider community. Bullying can happen to anyone, anywhere. Collectively, we can stand up and speak out against bullying.

We will continue to support anti-bullying efforts that make our schools safe and welcoming places for all of our students.



Basketball Update!

The Junior boys basketball team finished the regular season undefeated to finish 1st in our division.

We wish them luck as playoffs begin tomorrow against Queen Victoria.

Thank you to Mr. Fenton and Mr. Biro for coaching the team!



Secure School Information

During the second term, Viscount will be required to conduct at least 3 Fire Drills, 1 Lockdown Drill and 1 Evacuation Drill so that students are prepared in the event of a real emergency. 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.



Cell Phone Use

In order to keep all students safe, all student cell phones must be kept in their school bag or locker at all times unless instructed to be used by the teacher during instructional time.



EQAO

Primary(Gr. 3) and Junior (Gr. 6) EQAO assessments will resume this year and will take place between May 10th to June 14th. The assessments will continue to be digital and will be completed on a device. More information will be provided shortly. Please feel free to visit the EQAO website at www.eqao.com for parent resources.



School Parking Lot / Pick up- Drop off

Just a friendly reminder that when dropping off or picking up your child (entry and dismissal times) to please not block the bus loading zone or driveways, and please do not enter the parking lot. The parking lot is extremely busy at these times and we want to ensure the safety of all of our students.



Bus Delays



School Busses

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.

Class Placements 2023/24

With a new school year approaching, many parents wonder about who their child's teacher will be. This process for organizing classes will soon be underway. When creating classes, teachers meet with each other and school administration to discuss the needs of each student. Some of the issues that are considered are:

- Balance of ability, interests, and talents
- Learning styles of students
- Teaching styles of teachers
- Resources and remedial needs, enrichment needs
- Students to be kept together or separated because of the positive/negative influence on each other's learning.

We appreciate your trust in our professional judgement in balancing the considerations mentioned above. The final decision for class placements is the responsibility of the principal. If you have further information regarding your child's learning needs that we should consider, please send me an email or note with the specifics. **We will not entertain requests for specific teachers.** Please consider the bullets listed above. We will do our best to accommodate your child so that we can maximize their learning opportunities and be successful.

Please note that all requests are due by email to D. Fede by May 19th, and that class placements are tentative until the end of September.



Administrative Professionals' Day

On April 26th we celebrate Administrative Professionals' Day! We want to extend a big thank you to Mrs. Hylton, and Mrs. Mills for all the hard work they do for us each and every day! You are truly appreciated!



Out of Catchment Requests

As you are aware, Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board has created attendance boundaries for each of its schools. In some cases, families want their child to attend a school that is not within their catchment boundary.

Unfortunately, Viscount Montgomery is staffed based solely on the projected enrollment of students in our catchment area. **This means that there will not be space available for out-of-catchment students.** We regret the impact this will have for families, especially those with siblings who are currently attending our school.

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board uses this protocol to make the most effective use of space and staff in all schools. All parents are urged to register their children at the school for their designated catchment area.

You can learn more on the HWDSB website's page detailing Out-of-Catchment school attendance at <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/find/>



Earth Day – April 22

Our connection to Earth and nature is undeniable: our planet's gain is everyone's gain.

Healthy nature makes our life better by providing us good food, clean air, and fresh water - but it is all under the threat of climate change. We need to raise awareness on the important role of nature in our lives and the benefits nature provides, from good food, clean air, fresh water, to so much more.

The global theme for Earth Day 2023, "Invest in our Planet", brings hope that all people can come together to heal the planet.



Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?

Student "A"
reads **20 minutes**
each day

3600 minutes in
a school year

1,800,000 words



90th percentile

Student "B"
reads **5 minutes**
each day

900 minutes in
a school year

282,000 words



50th percentile

Student "C"
reads **1 minute**
each day

180 minutes in
a school year

8,000 words



10th percentile

By the end of 6th grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?

(Nagy & Herman, 1987)