

David Hornell Junior School Newsletter

December 2022

Phone: 416-394-7690 Website: schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/davidhornell

Twitter: @dhornelltweets **December Character Trait – Kindness & Caring**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The month of December brings many different cultural and religious celebrations such as St. Nicholas Day, Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa.

Knowing that many families will be gathering for the holiday season, we are doing our best to keep students healthy as we have had an extraordinary number of students ill over the past several weeks.

Please read the enclosed information from Toronto Public Health about how to keep children safe and healthy, especially during the holiday season.

We will not be holding our Winter Arts Showcase prior to the holiday break this year as we have done in the past.

We will plan another opportunity to showcase our learning in the Spring when all our students are healthy, safe, and able to participate.

Have a wonderful holiday season and be well.

B. Tratnik

Principal

32 Victoria St.

Toronto, Ont.

M8V 1M6

Principal

B. Tratnik

Office Administrator

M. Flemming

Superintendent

D. Donsky

Ward 3 Trustee

P. Nunziata

School Hours:

8:50 Entry Bell

10:15 – 10:30 Recess

11:40 – 12:30 Lunch (1-5)

11:20– 12:30 JK/SK Lunch

1:55- 2:10 Recess

3:10 JK/SK Dismissal

3:20 Grades 1-5 Dismissal

December School Council Meeting

Our December Parent Council meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the staff room. All parents are always welcome! Please come out to learn more about the school and how we can work together to support our students.

Warm Winter Clothing

As we approach the official start of Winter later this month, we will also encounter colder weather along with more snow and ice. Please make sure that children are dressed warmly with boots, hats, mittens and snowpants if possible. Layering clothes is the best way to stay comfortable.



Photo Re-Takes and Class Photos

Our class photos as well as individual re-takes are scheduled for **Wednesday, December 7**. We have spoken to the vendor (Lifetouch) to express our concerns over the delays that we have experienced this year. We hope to have the original proofs to you prior to next Wednesday so that you can decide whether you would like a re-take of your child's individual photo.

Coyotes in our School Yard

As many of you are aware, we have coyotes in the neighbourhood that often appear on our school grounds. It began as a few times a week but has now been happening daily and most days, more than once.

Coyote activity can be very big concern for staff and students. Toronto Public Health has information on their webpage and a downloadable fact sheet [Coyotes – City of Toronto](#). After reviewing the information, I would recommend the following:

- Never feed coyotes
- Do not approach or touch coyotes
- Keep your dog on a leash
- If you see a coyote, make loud noises to scare it away

Coyotes are naturally timid and flee when confronted assertively. Never run away from a coyote. Avoid turning your back, maintain eye contact and slowly back away.

If you see anyone feeding a coyote, call 311 as it is against City bylaw.

At school, we always check the school yard prior to recesses or any outdoor time. We do our best to scare off coyotes when they are on our playground and if we are unsuccessful, we make the decision to keep students indoors until it leaves, and the outdoor space is safe for our students.

Staff will be working with students to teach them about Coyotes and how to react and remain safe, should they encounter one in the community.

Traffic Safety Tips: Help Make this a Safe Winter Season

As winter approaches, we know that severe weather will be part of our daily lives for the next several months. While traffic safety is an important matter all year long, this is a particularly good time to review what we can do to keep students safe.

The need to be aware and alert at all times, on any road, and even in the most routine circumstances is key to traffic safety. This applies to students and drivers alike. Road conditions can be challenging in the winter months. So to those of us who drive, please take extra care on the roads and in parking lots, especially in areas where children might be present.

School staff periodically review street and traffic safety with students. Parents can help reinforce these safety messages with children at home. Below are some tips that might be helpful to review.

- Stop, look, and listen for traffic.
- Only cross at corners and crosswalks.
- Make eye contact with drivers.
- Walk on the right side of the crosswalk.
- Wear appropriate footwear to reduce the chances of slipping.
- Never run into the street.
- Obey crossing signals.
- Cross only if clear.
- Walk on sidewalks.
- Where there are no sidewalks, walk as far away from traffic as possible, facing traffic.

The safety of our students is always a top priority. Let's work together to make the winter season safe so we can enjoy all it has to offer



Lakeshore Village & Long Branch BIAs Present

Etobicoke Lakeshore Santa Claus Parade

Supported by **QUEENSWAY HYUNDAI**  **QUEENSWAY MITSUBISHI** 

SATURDAY DECEMBER 3RD | 10 AM START

Lake Shore Blvd. West from 1st to 35th Streets



Skate With Santa

FOLLOWING THE PARADE | 12:30PM - 3:30PM



Santa Visits & Free* Family Skate

COLONEL SAM SMITH PARK | 3145 LAKE SHORE BLVD. W



*No Skates? No Problem! The Skate Lending Library will be there to lend skates and helmets.

lakeshoreparade.ca

  @lakeshoresanta

Staying Healthy

As the weather has gotten colder, there has been an increase in respiratory viruses among children including Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), Influenza and COVID-19. These three viruses have been called a "Triple Threat" because they can cause serious illness, especially to children under five years of age, seniors and people with medical conditions.

Recently, there have been higher than usual hospital admissions among children with one or more of these viruses. We have had many students ill and even hospitalized from David Hornell in the past 2 months. Toronto Public Health strongly recommends [layers of protection](#) to help keep children and others safe:

- **Masking:** Wear a well-fitted [mask](#) in indoor public settings, including in schools and childcare. Children under 2 and those with medical exemptions are not recommended to wear a mask.
- **Vaccinations:** Anyone 6 months and older should stay up to date with [COVID-19 vaccines](#), including a fall booster for anyone 5 years of age and older and a fall [influenza vaccine](#). Anyone aged 5 and older can safely get their COVID-19 booster and flu vaccine at the same time.
- **Stay home if sick:** Complete this [daily symptom check](#) for your child. Keep your child home, even if symptoms are mild, and until they are feeling better.
- **Clean your hands:** Use hand sanitizer or wash hands often.
- **Clean surfaces:** Clean commonly touched surfaces frequently.

Call 811 or speak to your child's healthcare provider if you have questions about your child's health. If your child is sick, you can find information about how to care for them [here](#). We can all take care of our families and school communities by reducing the spread of respiratory viruses. When we reduce the spread, we also help ensure that our healthcare system remains able to care for the sick.