



Hillmount Public School Newsletter



February 2022

Upcoming Events

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| February 2: | Winter Walk Day |
| February 9: | Walking Wednesday, Parent Council Meeting 7 pm, ZOOM |
| February 11: | Optional Attendance forms due |
| February 15: | Term 1 Reports Go Home |
| February 16: | Walking Wednesday |
| February 17: | Parent Teacher interviews (p.m.), |
| February 18: | PA Day, Parent-Teacher Interviews, a.m. |
| February 23: | Walking Wednesday |
| February 25: | Spirit Day -Jersey Day |
| March 2: | Walking Wednesday |
| March 4: | Parents to be informed of Optional Attendance acceptance |
| March 9: | Walking Wednesday |
| March 14-18: | March Break, NO SCHOOL |
| March 23: | Walking Wednesday |
| March 29: | Spirit Day, -Character Day |
| March 30: | Walking Wednesday |

From the Principal...

This month the first term report cards will be distributed. We begin Term 2 and continue to focus on learning, well-being and equity. We continue to implement protocols and procedures to ensure that our students, staff and families are safe. Winter weather has meant lots of snow for outdoor play and fresh air. Please continue to dress students appropriately for the weather so they can enjoy this outdoor fun!

E. Mankiewicz

Hillmount Public School

245 McNicoll Avenue
North York. ON, M2H 2C6
Tel: 416-395-2550
Fax: 416-395-4483
Safe Arrival: 416- 395-2556 (call to report all student absences)

Principal :	Elizabeth Mankiewicz.
School Council Chairs:	Jia Li, Sheliza Khan
Superintendent:	Marwa Hamid
Trustee:	James Li

Remember at Hillmount...
we Think Positive, Talk Positive, and Feel Positive

Important Dates

February 18	PA Day, No School
February 21	Family Day, No School
March 14-18	<i>March Break, NO SCHOOL</i>

Student Safety! Parking and Pick-Ups

January 17th's Snow Storm has left our parking lot at reduced capacity. It has also meant that our circular driveway is narrower than usual. We thank the families that walk to school, which is the best way for students to get to school. There is absolutely no space in our parking lot for parent parking. **Any cars that do not belong to child care staff or school staff will be tagged and/ towed. This includes unmarked spots by the garbage bin or in the driveway. If your child is not in Kindergarten, your car should not be coming into the parking lot unless you are waiting in the Kiss and Ride.**

This past month I have observed extremely unsafe actions in the parking lot. I implore you, for the safety of the students, to please ensure the following:

- ◆ Students in Grades 1-5 should be dropped off in the Kiss and Ride zone. There is no need for parents to park and walk students to entry doors. There is supervision provided from 8:40-8:55.
- ◆ Kiss and ride zone is located in the circular driveway, in front of the gym. **NO cars should be parked or stopped in that marked area without a driver.**
- ◆ **Do not drop students in the middle of the parking lot and do not walk through the parking lot.**
- ◆ Do not stop in front of the marked pedestrian crossing.
- ◆ Parents of Kindergarten students can park in the limited spaces in the circular driveway ONLY (please see the [Drop off and Pick Up Zones map](#)) -please ensure that your car is pulled over as far as possible so that cars using the Kiss and Ride can get by

If you choose to use the KISS and RIDE, we appreciate your patience. You may have to wait in line to drop off and pick up your child. If you are in a rush, do not pull your car into the parking lot. Park on the side street and walk to get your child.

Thank you for your help in keeping our students safe.

Ms. Mankiewicz



Kindergarten Registration

Let your friends and neighbours know that February is Kindergarten Registration month! Children born in 2018 are eligible to start school in September 2022. For more information, please see the TDSB Kindergarten Registration page:

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/EarlyYears/KindergartenMonth>

Registration will continue into March.

REPORT CARDS

The Term One Report Card for students in Grades 1 to 8 and the Kindergarten Communication of Learning will be distributed this month, followed by an opportunity for parent/caregiver- teacher interviews for students whose teacher feel an interview is necessary. Your child's teacher will reach out to you if they require an interview.



Walking Wednesdays

Don't hibernate, participate!

We began Walking Wednesdays on February 2nd. We encourage all students to get active and walk to school every Wednesday during the months of February and March. All walkers will receive a walk-to-school sticker and teachers will track the walkers each Wednesday. At the end of March, the class with the most walkers over the 2 months will win the Golden Shoe award!

Share your walk on Twitter and tag Hillmount @TDSB_Hillmount

COVID-19 at Hillmount

Since returning to school in January, at Hillmount, we have had 3 reported cases of Covid-19 in students. As per the TDSB Operational Guidelines, the parents of students in the cohorts impacted were contacted. We encourage you to continue to report positive cases in students so that we can communicate with families, who can use the Screening Tool to determine if their child should return to school or stay home to isolate.

We continue to follow all safety guidelines recommended by Toronto Public Health and the TDSB.

Information about upcoming Vaccine Clinics for children aged 5-11 will be shared through the TDSB email and through our Hillmount School Messenger system.

Switching Between In-Person Learning and Virtual Learning

Thank you to parents who completed the online switching request form. Switches are currently being organized and students will begin in their new classes on February 22nd.

For those switching to Virtual Learning, students may be in virtual classes run by other local schools. Those schools will contact you to let you know how to log on and begin the virtual learning.

For those switching to in-person learning, you will be contacted by your home school to let you know which class to go to on February 22nd.

The number of families switching has not impacted our staffing and there will not be a re-organization needed at Hillmount.

Grade 5 Middle School Registration:

Highland Middle School is the middle school for students who live in the Hillmount catchment area. Registration for middle school is not required. The office at Hillmount will transfer all Grade 5 student records over to Highland for Grade 6. If you do not live in the Highland catchment area or are moving, please inform us which middle school your child will be attending and we will arrange the transfer and registration.

More information on Virtual Open Houses for middle schools will be shared in the coming months.

AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH

During the month of February, the Toronto District School Board proudly recognizes African Heritage Month. It is an occasion to celebrate the many achievements and contributions of peoples of African descent to Canada and the world. The chosen theme for 2021-2022 is *NIA: Walking in Our Purpose*.

The first Black Canadian woman elected to Parliament, the Honourable Jean Augustine, introduced a motion to recognize February as Black History Month. The motion was carried unanimously by the House of Commons. In December 1995, the House of Commons officially recognized February as Black History Month in Canada. At the Toronto District School Board, a motion to recognize African Heritage (Black History) Month was carried in January 2002 and reaffirmed again in January 2004.

There were almost 1.2 million Black people living in Canada in 2016. The Black population is diverse and has a long and rich history in Canada. This dates back as early as 1608 with Mathieu De Costa who came from Holland to Canada to work as a French interpreter. There was also a large settlement of Blacks in New French in and around 1734 with Marie Joseph Angelique. During the 1850's and 1860's many Blacks fled to Canada from the United States seeking refuge from enslavement because of the Trans Atlantic Trade.

Among the Black population born outside of Canada, the source countries of immigration have changed over time. More than half of this population who immigrated before 1981 were born in Jamaica and Haiti. Black newcomers now come from about 125 different countries, mainly from continent of Africa.

The African Heritage Month Volunteer Planning Committee continues to name, notice, and disrupt anti-Black racism through their organized initiatives shared throughout the TDSB and commitment to hold space for Black students, staff, parents, and families, to heal, to celebrate and to thrive.

During the month of February, student learning has been focused on African Heritage and Black History. Please visit our Twitter account: @TDSB_Hillmount to see examples of this teaching and learning.

CHINESE HERITAGE MONTH:

The Toronto District School Board is proud to recognize Chinese Heritage Month (CHM) during the month of February.

This year CHM coincides with one of the most important Chinese celebrations, the Lunar New Year which begins on Tuesday, February 1st. Lunar New Year is also known as the spring festival and begins with the first new moon of the lunar calendar and ends on the first full moon of the lunar calendar 15 days later. We encourage everyone to participate and make our Chinese Heritage Month spectacular. This year's theme is *YEAR OF THE TIGER- Brave, Compassionate, Adventurous, and Optimistic*.

During the month of February, student learning has been focused on Chinese Heritage Month. Please visit our Twitter account: @TDSB_Hillmount to see examples of this teaching and learning.

Optional Attendance

Students who reside within the City of Toronto have the right to attend a school which is designated to serve their residential address. The "[Find Your School](#)" section of the TDSB website identifies the designated schools for each residential address.

Students also have the opportunity to access schools outside of the school that is designated to serve their residential address by applying on optional attendance. Acceptance at these schools is subject to space availability and program suitability. The procedures, conditions and timelines relating to optional attendance are described in the [Optional Attendance Policy](#) and the [Optional Attendance Operational Procedure](#). Families can access the [Optional Attendance: Application for an Elementary Program at a School Outside the Resident Area](#) online. Given the current pandemic, scanned or faxed forms will be accepted.

Optional attendance forms are due on February 11, 2022. Forms **MUST** be signed by the home school Principal, or delivered to the requested school Principal by email from the Home School Principal. Forms that are not signed or emailed from the home school Principal will not be considered.

