



# Hillmount Public School Newsletter



## January 2021

### Upcoming Events

January 4:	Back to School, Remotely
January 15:	PD Day
January 21:	Virtual Assembly 10:05
January 27:	Parent Council Meeting 7 pm
February 3:	Winter Walk Day
February 9:	Term 1 Report Cards Go Home
February 10:	Tentative Return to School, Walking Wednesday
February 11:	Parent-Teacher Interviews (evening)
February 12:	PA Day –Parent Teacher interviews (a.m.), Optional Attendance forms due
February 15:	Family Day –No School
February 17:	Walking Wednesday
February 23:	Parent Council Meeting 7 p.m.
February 24:	Walking Wednesday

### *From the Principal...*



**2021...**

2020 was a very challenging year. We worked hard to get our students safely back to school. We are sad to start this new year without being face-to-face with our students, however, we know we must do what we can to stay safe and prevent further spread of Covid-19. At this time, school will remain closed until at least February 10<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime, we are learning remotely and thank our educators for the fantastic job they are doing to support our students in the remote environment. We wish our families a happy 2021 and hope that this year sees us all back to school together soon!

*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)

<b>Principal :</b>	Elizabeth Mankiewicz.
<b>School Council Chairs:</b>	Jia Li, Jing Chao
<b>Superintendent:</b>	Elizabeth Addo
<b>Trustee:</b>	James Li

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



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## Important Dates

<b>Professional Activity Day:</b>	Friday January 15	<i>No School for Students</i>
	Friday, February 12	<i>No School for Students</i>
<b>Family Day:</b>	Monday, February 15	<i>School Closed for everyone</i>

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## Acts of Violence and Hate at the US Capitol

The acts of violence and issues of white supremacy, antisemitism, anti-Black racism, other forms of hate and issues related to civil liberties/disobedience we witnessed in Washington, D.C. on January 6<sup>th</sup>, are felt personally, and in different ways by our students, staff and community. As we continue to serve students and communities, these acts of violence and issues of white supremacy, antisemitism, anti-Black racism and other forms of hate are critical reminders that we need to remain focused and continuously examine our commitments to make our school a safe place for all students, staff, and parents and guardians.

We know that these critical conversations have already begun in some of our classrooms. As always, we continue to rely on the professionalism of our staff to broach these subjects. In doing so, it is important to provide significant context, to ensure any conversation is age appropriate, while honouring the daily lived experiences of students and staff. We recognize that educators, leaders and educational workers know their students best and in collaboration with each other, will tailor these conversations appropriately. While adults continue to process the events from that day, kids are also trying to make sense of what they're seeing and hearing in the news and on social media. Here are some age-appropriate questions and conversation starters that adults can use to navigate this tricky topic with the kids in their lives.

<https://click.common-sense-email.org/?qs=6f2e6325ce8b2959220b8609bae34f901e0458239e714124907d00c45bcbdda30e3e669771ba6c689fce4865ff6d05204d8c71708134805d9f22bc00ad513645>



### Kindergarten Registration

Let your friends and neighbours know that Kindergarten Registration is coming in February! Children born in 2017 are eligible to start school in September 2020. For more information, please see the TDSB Kindergarten Registration page:

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

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### NEXT MEETING: *January 21, 7pm on Zoom*

Our next Parent Council meeting is Wednesday, January 27 at 7pm. Come on out and join us as we talk about our school and our projects...be the first to know what is happening!

An agenda and the Zoom link will be sent out by email next week.

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### **Winter Walk Day across Canada February 3**

#### **Don't hibernate, participate!**

Hillmount had planned February 3<sup>rd</sup> as our Winter Walk to School Day. Just because we are not at school that day, doesn't mean you can't go out and walk. While we want people to stay home and stay safe, our Ontario Government has said that they encourage getting outside for exercise, safely and while wearing a mask. So, on February 3, we encourage you to get out and walk! Share your walk on Twitter and tag Hillmount @TDSB\_Hillmount

Starting February 10<sup>th</sup>, we will have Walking Wednesdays. 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!

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### **Optional Attendance Requests for September 2021:**

Optional Attendance is when a parent requests their child be allowed to attend a school other than the home school. If your child is in grade 5 and you are considering optional attendance for Grade 6, the deadline for receipt of the Optional Attendance Forms to the requested school is Friday February 12, 2021. Forms can be found on the TDSB website:

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Find-your/School/Optional-Attendance>

Please note that due to the current school closure, Optional Attendance forms must be emailed to the home-school Principal, who will then forward the form to the school you are applying to. Optional Attendance requests for any grade have the same deadline: **Friday February 12, 2021.**

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# *Heritage Month* Tamil Heritage Month

Tamil Heritage Month is recognized nationally since October 2016, provincially since March 2004 and by the Toronto District School Board since January 2016. The month of January was chosen as it coincides with one of the most important celebrations for Canadians of Tamil heritage, the Thai Pongal harvest festival. Millions of Tamil people around the world, irrespective of their religion, celebrate Thai Pongal and offer thanks for an abundant harvest.

This year, the chosen theme selected by the volunteer planning committee is உண்மை - உரிமை - ஒற்றுமை: Truth - Rights - Unity. Unmai (உண்மை) recognizes that our lived experiences are our truths and these truths shape our understanding of the world around us. Urimai (உரிமை) examines our right to flourish and shine. Otrumai (ஒற்றுமை) emphasizes our shared lived experiences with other marginalized communities and our shared humanity.

Toronto has the largest Tamil population outside of the South Asian subcontinent with thousands of TDSB students and staff members identifying as Tamil. The importance of building awareness, creating a strong self identity and understanding one's own roots and rights are important objectives of the TDSB's Tamil Heritage Month.

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## **Terry Fox Foundation:**

Thank you to the families and students who continued to donate online to the Terry Fox Foundation following our run in October. Our final donation was \$916. The Terry Fox Foundation thanks you for your contributions to this important charity!

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