



# Hillmount Public School Newsletter



## September 2020

### Upcoming Events

- September 15: School Begins
- September 30: Orange Shirt Day – wear an orange shirt  
Last day to request to change between in-school and virtual school
  
- October 5: World Teacher Day, Virtual Parent Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- October 9: Terry Fox Run
- October 12: Thanksgiving: School Closed
- October 13: Start date for students moving between virtual school and in-school
  
- October 23: Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day
  
- October 31: Costume Day

Will your child be absent from school?  
Call our Safe Arrival Number.  
**416-395-2556**

TDSB 24 Hour Security Call Centre: 416-395-4620

Welcome back to those students and families who are returning for another great school year at Hillmount Public School and welcome to those new to our school. We also say welcome back to our families whose children are learning at home in the TDSB Virtual School. You are all part of the Hillmount family, a warm, inviting environment that values strong partnerships with students, parents, community and staff. Covid-19 makes this school year a challenging one as we work together to ensure the safety of everyone. Despite this challenge, we will learn and grow together. I value every student and every home-school partnership and look forward to working with you and your children in the year ahead.

*Elizabeth 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, Jing Chao  
**Superintendent:** Elizabeth Addo  
**Trustee:** James Li



Remember at Hillmount...  
we talk positive, think positive, feel  
positive!





Over the summer, Ms. Swee Simpson made the decision to retire. Ms. Simpson is a dedicated educator who made a huge impact on the many students she taught at Hillmount over the years. We will miss her very much and wish her all the best in her retirement!

During the first week of September, due to our reduced in-school enrolment, a number of our teachers were re-deployed to the Virtual School. We sadly say a temporary goodbye to Ms. Khan, Mrs. Hui, Ms. Kuang and Mr. Sadhwani. We welcome Ms. Barreca, who will be teaching Grade ½ in Room 207, while Ms. Simone Lee is on a leave.

We are still working to hire a regular morning teacher for the Grade 4/5 class in Room 204. We thank Mr. Suppa and Ms. Suranyi for taking on this role while we work to find a permanent teacher. We thank our families for their understanding about the changing nature of staff placements during this school year.



## ● Curriculum Night ●

Normally, Hillmount hosts a BBQ and curriculum night in late September or early October. This is usually a chance for parents to visit their child’s class, meet the teacher and learn about what the class will be learning during the year. Unfortunately, due to limits on large gatherings, this will not be possible this year.

It is important to us that you have a chance to see the school and your child’s classroom. We have put together a tour of Hillmount so that all parents can see what the school currently looks like. It can be found on our school website and here:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/189weIxCpsxBndkFonJIHxHq97CS-5L\\_c/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/189weIxCpsxBndkFonJIHxHq97CS-5L_c/view?usp=sharing)

Stay tuned for communication from your child’s teacher about curriculum information.



## School Information

We like to keep in touch. Newsletters will come home by email each month. A limited number of paper copies will be available in the school office. In order to use less paper and help the environment, we will send out communications primarily using our SchoolMessenger Computer system which can make both voice mail messages and e-mail messages.

Another place to look for general information is the school website <http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/hillmount> and you can see what is happening on a daily basis by following us on Twitter @TDSB\_Hillmount Please look for a monthly e-mail announcements coming to your inbox!



## School Hours and Supervision

8:30 AM	School Office opens
8:40 AM	Supervision provided in schoolyard
8:50 AM	Entry Bell
10:05 –10:20 AM	Recess
11:40 AM-12:40PM	Lunch
12:40 PM	Entry Bell
2:05 - 2:20 PM	Recess
3:30 PM	Dismissal
4:30 PM	School Office closes

The main school yard is supervised from 8:40 to 8:55 a.m., each recess, and over the lunch hour each school day. The school yard is not supervised after 3:30 PM Staff on duty at this time are only ensuring students are successfully meeting their adult; they are not supervising students that have been dismissed to parents and caregivers. We recommend that children not be in the school yard beyond the supervised times unless with a parent.

\*The climbers are not supervised by staff before or after school and parents who allow their children on the climbers are assuming responsibility for their safety.

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## TDSB Mask Policy

The TDSB recently updated its mask-wearing policy, based on the recent increase in cases of Covid-19. You can find the policy here:

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Return-to-School/Health-and-Safety/Mask-and-Face-Covering-Requirements-For-TDSB-Students-and-Staff>

This policy clarifies that visitors, which includes parents/guardians, **are required to wear masks outside on school property, especially at peak times such as pick-up and drop-off.**

Currently, most of the adults who come onto school property are wearing masks and are physically distancing during drop-off and pick-up. Thank you. Please ensure that you continue to wear a mask when on school property and share this policy with any grandparents or relatives who may pick up or drop off your child.

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## Student Absence 24/7

If your child will be absent from school for any reason, call us any time, night or day at **416-395-2556**. Hillmount Public School values the safety and security of every student. Parents/guardians of students who have an unexplained absence (one where the school has not been previously notified) will be contacted by a computerized system to verify the reason for the absence. This same process will be followed for the afternoon attendance. \* **If you know of your child's absence, call the school to report it and the system will not call you.**

In the evening, all parents/guardians of students who were late that day will receive a call informing them of their children's absence or tardiness.

**With this in mind, it is important that you ensure the contact information on file at the office is current and up to date. Please let the office know immediately if your contact information changes at any time throughout the school year.**

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## When Parents/Guardians Arrive At School

**Bringing students at entry times:** Please bring your child to the designated doors for kindergarten, primary and junior students so they can line up with their class and enter the school with their teachers.

**Bringing students after entry time:** Please come to front door. Ms. Portolese will open the door and your child may enter. We ask that parents stay outside. The student should come to the office to sign in. Students can go to class independently from there or the office will arrange for your child to be brought to class.

**Delivering something?** Due to restrictions on visitors in the building, we ask that you refrain from delivering items to your child at school. If a parent/guardian arrives at school to deliver something to their child they will need to buzz the main office doors, and we will collect the items from you at the door. Parents will not be allowed inside the building. Items will be retrieved by students during a recess or lunch break.

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## Safety in the School

In order for us to be safe at school, we are required to practise some emergency drills. We will be having six fire drills and two school lockdowns during the year in order to be proactive in case of emergency. Our students will be well trained in case of a problem in the school. This week we had one very successful fire drill. We will have two more in the fall and three more next spring.

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## Allergies in School

We would like all parents and guardians to be aware that there are children in our school with severe life-threatening food allergies called anaphylaxis. This is a medical condition that causes a severe reaction to specific foods or other materials, and can result in death within minutes. Although peanuts and peanut products are the most common foods to cause anaphylaxis, shellfish, fish, eggs, sulphites, milk, sesame seeds, soy or other food can cause this dangerous condition. In recent years, anaphylaxis has increased dramatically among students. Although this may or may not affect your child or your child's class directly, we want to inform you so that you will choose to send foods to school with your child that are free from these products. **Also, if there is a class celebration or birthday celebration, we will not be accepting food treats of any kind.** The Toronto District School Board has procedures for the prevention and management of anaphylactic reactions. If you are interested further information is also available through the Anaphylaxis Network of Canada (416) 785-5666. If your child has health problems of any kind, please inform your child's teacher or office staff immediately so that the necessary health protection steps may be taken. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation in ensuring the safest environment.

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## Student Safety! Parking and Pick-Ups

The best way for students to get to school is to walk. This allows for fresh air and exercise and keeps the roads around the school safe. Crossing guards can assist you and your children in arriving safely at school when walking.

- ◆ Hillmount's parking lot is intended for use by TDSB and daycare staff only.
- ◆ 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 stop in front of the marked pedestrian crossing.

**Kiss and Ride means that the driver remains in the car and the student gets out. IF YOU MUST GET OUT OF THE CAR, AND YOU CANNOT FIND A MARKED SPOT IN THE PARKING LOT, PLEASE PARK ON A SIDE STREET.**

- ◆ Street parking is available —please note the times posted on the signs and be respectful of our neighbours.
- ◆ Do not walk students through the parking lot. Use the path and marked crossing area by the circular driveway.

**THANK YOU!** Please do your part to keep traffic moving smoothly and to keep all of Hillmount's students and families safe.

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## Hillmount Parent Council:

We invite you to join the Hillmount Parent Council! Coming out to meetings is a great way to learn how the school works, meet other parents, feel more connected to the Hillmount community, and make a difference in your child's education. Our first meeting will be on October 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Our meeting will be held virtually. More information will follow.

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## Fundraising

Today you received a paper letter outlining our plans for fundraising for this year. Normally, our school is able to raise additional funds through pizza days, popcorn sales, after school programs and Lunch Lady programs. Since those initiatives are currently on hold due to Covid-19, we are approaching fundraising a little differently. We are taking donations through School CashOnline. Donations of \$25 or more will receive a tax receipt. We plan to use these funds to purchase additional technology for use in classrooms. You can access our donation portal here:

<https://tdsb.schoolcashonline.com/Fee/Details/457/153/false/true>

Thank you for your support!

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## Student Agendas

Most Grade 1-5 students will receive a Student Agenda. We are not charging for the agendas at this time. During the school year, we encourage you to use the agenda to communicate with your child's teacher.

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## Student Photographs

Due to Covid-19, photographs will be scheduled at a later date in the school year. A reminder flyer will be distributed once a date is established.

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## Orange Shirt Day

Orange Shirt Day is an annual event that started in 2013 to recognize the legacy of Residential school system for First Nations, Metis and Inuit families and communities. It is a show of support and understanding of the history of the school system that impacts many First Nations, *Métis* and Inuit families today.

The phrase "Every Child Matters" reminds everyone that children are such an important and integral part of our communities and that they are our future generations of change makers. By wearing orange, we have an opportunity to bring awareness to the history of residential schools and to stand up against other injustices that may impact our children/students. This link gives the story of Phyllis Webstad, who started the campaign.

<http://www.orangeshirtday.org/>

Join us on September 30, 2020, as the Hillmount community wears Orange Shirts to recognize the legacy of the Residential school system.

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## Hillmount After School Programs:

Due to Covid-19, the after-school programs will not be taking place this fall.

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### MANDARIN CLASSES:

Registration for after-school Mandarin classes is now open.

**Due to COVID-19, International Languages program will only provide online classes which consist of two components: face-to-face instruction and independent learning. Though the class schedules remain the same 2.5 hours, face-to-face instruction will start 30 minutes after school ends, allowing enough time for students to get home.**

### Registration and First Day of School:

Registration for Tuesday Mandarin classes has already started. Only online registration is available at the following site:

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/Beyond-the-Classroom/International-Languages-Elementary-and-African-Heritage/Fall-2020-2021>

**First day of Mandarin class:** October 13, 2020.

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