



Hillmount Public School Newsletter



April 2022

Upcoming Events

- April 5: Parent Council Meeting 7 pm. On Zoom
 April 12: Grade 5 Farewell Photo Day -2:30 pm.-3:30 p.m.
 April 13: International Day of Pink
 April 14: Virtual Talent Show 1:00
 April 15: Good Friday, NO SCHOOL
 April 18: Easter Monday, NO SCHOOL
 April 29: Hillmount Heroes – 11 a.m.
- May 12: Parent Council Meeting -Trustee Li attending 7 pm. ZOOM
 May 23: Victoria Day (No School)
 May 30-June 3: Bike to School Week
 May 31: Welcome to Kindergarten 7:30-8:30 on ZOOM

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

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

We hope everyone enjoyed the March Break. Since we returned to school after the March Break, the Ministry of Education and TDSB Operational Guidelines have changed and many COVID-19 safety restrictions have been lifted. As a result, we have begun to make changes to many procedures we have had in place at Hillmount for the past 2 years.

We have seen an increase in the number of students testing positive for COVID-19. We wanted to inform you that notification letters will continue for the remainder of this school year. In order to provide a more comprehensive picture of our school community, these letters will now be shared with the entire school community and include all impacted classes in the school. We appreciate you continuing to screen your child daily, keeping your child home if they are sick and notifying us about any positive tests.

E. Mankiewicz, Principal

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, FEEL POSITIVE

Important Dates

April 15

Good Friday, NO SCHOOL

April 18

Easter Monday, NO SCHOOL

CELEBRATION OF LEARNING

Ms. Khan's Kindergarten Class:

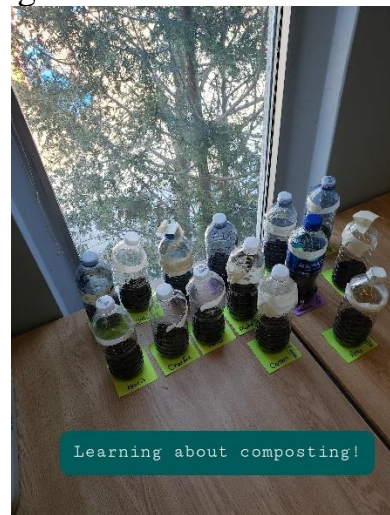
Students were introduced to the concept of estimation. We discussed how the word estimate means to take your best guess. Estimation means..... no counting. This also means that there is only a small chance that we will pick the correct number.

Our students spend much time noticing and wondering about the pine cones - Where are they coming from? How many pine cones are on the ground? Some of the richest math learning happened outdoors, when we collected pine cones and students were given the opportunity to take their best guess and share. Estimating a quantity weaves in mental computations that require problem solving and critical thinking.



Ms. McKay's Grade 3 Class:

We are making composters in science to go along with the Soils in the Environment unit.



SAVE THE DATE: WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN

For parents/guardians of students who are new to Kindergarten in September 2022, we will hold a Virtual Kindergarten event. This event is tentatively scheduled for May 31 from 7:30-8:30 using Zoom. An invitation will be sent to all registered students.

Sikh Heritage Month at the TDSB

Sikh Heritage Month is proudly recognized at the Toronto District School Board during the month of April since 2016 as the Board of Trustees voted to designate April of each year Sikh Heritage Month making the TDSB the first school board in Canada to do so. This designation matches the recognition by the Province of Ontario that proclaimed Sikh Heritage Month Act in December 2013, and the recognition proclaimed by the Government of Canada on April 30, 2019. Sikh Heritage Month is recognized nationally across Canada.

This year our theme is *Come to learn, go to serve; the goal of education is to serve humanity.*

Sikh Canadians have lived in Ontario since the turn of the twentieth century. They have made significant contributions to the growth and prosperity of Ontario and their traditions and culture continue to be a vibrant art of every aspect of life for Canadians today.

During the month of April, Sikh Canadians celebrate Vaisakhi which is also known as Khalsa Day across Ontario. During the past few years, a parade was organized within the City of Toronto to mark this day. This year celebrations will be taking place at Nathan Phillips Square on Sunday, April 24, 2022 from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm.

Latin-America History Month at the TDSB

Latin-America History Month is proudly recognized at the TDSB during the month of April as a result of a motion passed through our Board of Trustees in 2016.

This year the theme to mark Latin-America History Month is *(DeColonizing) Latin-America History Month & Beyond: Learning about our collective pasts through the art of healing.*

Since its creation of the Latin-America History Month Volunteer Planning Committee in 2016, the membership continues to expand searching every year for more intentional ways of working in solidarity with Indigenous Nations of Turtle Island (Canada) and ways to bring Elders, Knowledge Keepers, educators and families together to decolonize understandings of Latin-America. The Latin-America History Volunteer Planning Committee is comprised of TDSB staff, former students, parents/caregivers, and community members.

During the month of April, several activities are being planned for students, staff, and community members.

Learning about careers in various fields, our students will have the opportunity to connect with accomplished Latin-America leaders and acquire information about their educational and professional journey to success. In addition, secondary students will further their learning on art as a form of healing by attending a workshop hosted by a member of the Afrolatinx community.

Hispanic Heritage Month at the TDSB

During the month of April the TDSB recognizes Hispanic Heritage Month. In March 2010, our TDSB Board of Trustees voted that April be designated as Hispanic Heritage Month at the Toronto District School Board.

As stated in the Hispanic Heritage Month Act, (May 5, 2015): "Ontario is home to more than 400,000 first-, second- and third-generation Canadian of Hispanic origin. As early as 1914, Canadians who originated from 23 Hispanic countries began immigrating to the province and today the Hispanic community is one of the fastest growing in Ontario. Hispanic-Canadians represent a dynamic community that has made significant contributions to the growth and prosperity of the Province of Ontario.

By proclaiming the month of October as Hispanic Heritage Month in Ontario, the province recognizes the rich contributions of Hispanic-Canadians to our social economic, political and multicultural fabric. Hispanic Heritage Month is an opportunity to remember, celebrate and educate future generations about the outstanding achievements and contributions of Hispanic people in the province."



DRESS FOR THE WEATHER

Part of the daily program for all grades at Hillmount is outdoor time. Students are outside at least 3 times a day. Students should come dressed appropriately for the weather. If it is raining, students should have rainboots, a raincoat and umbrella. For cold weather, a warm jacket, hat and mittens, along with boots and snowpants are necessary. Dressing for the weather allows students to be comfortable, dry and warm when they are outside, as part of our regular day.



Indoor Shoes

Please make sure your child has indoor shoes at school at all times. We continue to experience wet and muddy conditions outside and students are asked to change their footwear when they enter the school in order to keep their feet dry and warm and to keep the hallways clear of snow and dirt. Indoor shoes should be proper shoes with soles, should be appropriate for gym class and not be slippers for safety purposes.



EXTRA CLOTHING

When playing outside, students often come in with wet socks, pants or shirts. **We strongly recommend that you leave a full change of clothing in your child's backpack (for all grades JK-Grade 5)**, so that we do not have to call you during the day to bring a change of clothing for your child.

STUDENT PLACEMENT FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

The process of student placement is a collaborative one that has input from sending and receiving teachers, the Principal, special education teacher, ESL teacher and support staff (where appropriate).

Before the end of the current school year, several meetings will occur that are devoted to student placement. During these meetings, the best possible educational experience for your child will be kept in mind. Parent information shared throughout the year and at Parent-Teacher interviews will be used as the teachers discuss student placement and consider the following:

- balance of numbers in a class
- Ministry of Education Kindergarten and Primary class caps
- ratio of males to females
- academic needs
- consideration of sibling placement(s)
- social, emotional and physical needs

If there is information about your child that you feel should be considered during these placement meetings, please submit it in writing to Ms. Mankiewicz (elizabeth.mankiewicz@tdsb.on.ca) by Friday, May 6, 2022. Your information should indicate your child's needs as opposed to names of teachers. **Any requests for specific teachers cannot be considered as changes to the 2022-2023 staff, teachers and grades are ongoing and can continue until September.**

If you know that your child will not be attending Hillmount in September (e.g. you are moving, they will be attending a French Immersion program), please let us know so that we can plan accordingly.

Hillmount's School Improvement Plan

Every school in Toronto District School Board is required to have 3 school goals that address the areas of Equity, Well-Being and Student Achievement. Each school's goals differ, as they are based on school data. At Hillmount, we used report card data, EQAO data, Census data and school observations to create the following three goals:

EQUITY:

Through the use of culturally relevant and responsive pedagogy, educators will strive to practise an awareness of our cultural lens on students' individual or collective behaviour that may affect our expectations and value of the knowledge and skills the students bring.

WELL-BEING:

Use Culturally Relevant and Responsive Pedagogy to build positive relationships, connection and a sense of belonging, so that students feel comfortable expressing themselves and sharing their opinions.

ACHIEVEMENT:

Using Culturally Responsive and Relevant Pedagogy, daily guided reading and ongoing assessments, ensure that all students in Grades 1 and 2 are reading at the expected levels.

These goals are presented at Parent Council meetings in November each year. We continue to refine and improve our goals based on changing data and input from key stakeholders.

Elementary Summer School 2022 – Registration Now Open!

The focus of the 2022 Elementary Literacy and Numeracy Summer School Program is to continue student engagement through the month of July.

Programs, embedded in Literacy and Numeracy, are developed by the local summer school principal to reflect the local school focus.

Thirty-four (34) programs are offered in-person to students in K to Grade 8, from July 4 – 29, 2022. This year, one (1) online (remote) program will also be available.

Registration Information

- **Program Dates: July 4-29, 2022**
- **Registration is online.**
- **Program delivery method is in-person this year. One remote (online) program is available.**
- **Most classes run for three (3) hours from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.**
- **Please note, there are limited spaces available for both in-person and remote (online) programs.**
- **The remote (online) program is NOT associated with a particular school. Students who are registered will be grouped by grade and assigned an online teacher.**

[Visit the elementary summer school website for a full list of participating schools and registration information.](#)

Engagement:

Student engagement is an important part of the learning process for all students, In-Person and Virtual Learning.

From the TDSB website:

When students are engaged, student achievement and well-being improves. The more we can engage students and the more culturally aware and responsive to their lived realities, the more we can understand and effectively respond to their voices and needs.

Students can be engaged in a number of ways, including: when curriculum is relevant and meaningful to them; when they are asked to share their experiences, ideas and input; and when they are involved in their own learning and the decisions made about their learning.

But student achievement and well-being is not just about student engagement.

Parents/Guardians/Caregivers also play a significant role. When schools, families, and communities work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer, and enjoy school more.

For suggestions on how parents/guardians/caregivers can get involved and contribute to the school community, please see the TDSB website:

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/Engagement>

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER!



We showcase our learning and provide information about what is happening in our school and our board. Follow us at: [@TDSB_Hillmount](https://twitter.com/TDSB_Hillmount)

