

Happy
Holidays

Hillmount Public School Newsletter



December 2020

Upcoming Events

December 14-18: Holiday music on entry
December 18: Spirit Day-Festive Hat or Sweater Day
December 21-January 1 – Winter Break

January 4: Back to School, Parent Survey
Must be completed
January 15: PA Day
January 20: Traffic Safety Meeting
January 27: Parent Council Meeting 7 pm

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

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

When the weather outside is frightful...

Students are kept indoors for recess and lunch time for a number of weather conditions such as rain, lightning in the area, extreme winds and extreme cold. When temperature and wind chill measure -28C or lower, students are kept indoors. Recess and lunch may be shortened if the temperature and wind chill reading is between -28C and -20C. In extreme conditions the Director of Education may choose to close schools.

In the event schools are closed, the local media will be informed before the beginning of the school day. Tune in to your radio and television news stations for the latest information or visit www.tdsb.on.ca.

See page 4 for details.

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



Wishing you a happy holiday season from Hillmount Public School

Important Dates

Professional Activity Day: December 21-January 1 *No School for Students*
Friday January 15 *No School for Students*



Holiday Fun!

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the annual Hillmount tradition of a morning Holiday sing-along and hot chocolate will not be possible this year. Instead, every morning, holiday music will be played on the announcements. In addition, individual classrooms will be celebrating in their own ways. Please speak to your child's teacher if you have any questions.



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.
- ◆ There are a **limited** number of parking spots for parents who are dropping off students.
- ◆ Kiss and ride zone is located in the circular driveway, **no cars should be parked or stopped 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.

School Travel Survey:







As part of Hillmount and TDSB's Traffic Safety Program, students participated in the School Travel Survey in November. Results are below:

Student Travel Survey Results Fall 2019 and Fall 2020: Hillmount Public School

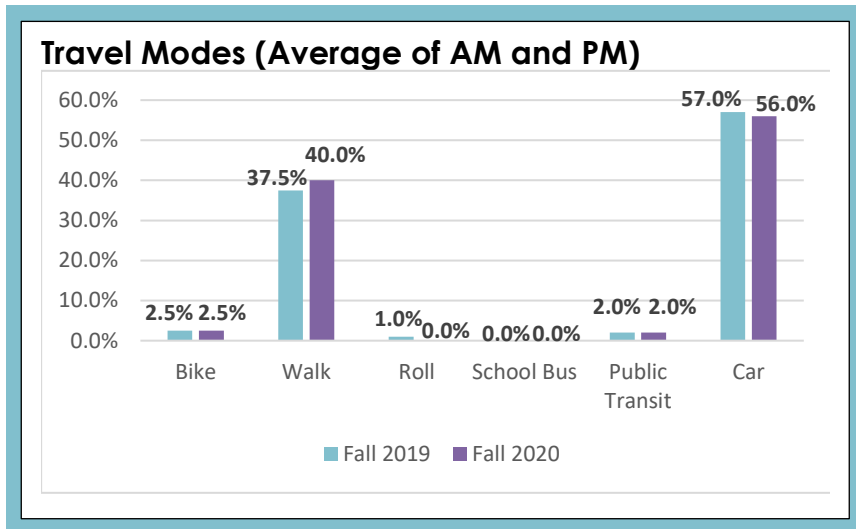
Travel Mode Share (Average % of students)

School Travel Modes for Hillmount: 2019	Bike	Walk	Roll	School Bus	Public Transit	Car

To School	3%	39%	1%	0%	1%	56%
From School	2%	36%	1%	0%	3%	58%

School Travel Modes for Hillmount: 2020	Bike 	Walk 	Roll 	School Bus 	Public Transit 	Car 
	To School	2%	38%	0%	0%	2%
From School	3%	42%	0%	0%	2%	53%

Key findings based on the Student Travel Survey results



Can more students bike, walk or roll to school?

Yes!

89% of students at Hillmount live within the “walk zone” of 1.6km. Many students who live within walking distance report being driven to school.

Notes on the Findings

- This data does not account for absentees and students who didn’t participate in the survey.
- Estimated proportion of students who participated in this survey in Fall 2019: 73%
 - Calculated based on 178 participants per day, on average, over 5 days/ 243 total population
- Estimated proportion of students who participated in this survey in Fall 2020: 76%
 - Calculated based on 92 participants per day, on average, over 5 days/ 121 total population

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 picked up at the school office. Optional Attendance requests for any grade have the same deadline: **Friday February 12, 2021.**

For our families in Virtual School requesting Optional Attendance, the form must be signed by the Principal of the bricks and mortar home school.



Severe Weather

Severe weather conditions may require the TDSB to cancel transportation or, in extreme conditions, close schools. The decision to close schools is made by the Director of Education. In the event transportation is cancelled or schools are closed, the local media will be informed before the beginning of the school day. Tune in to your radio and television news stations for the latest information. If weather conditions become extreme after students are in school, elementary students will remain in the school until they are picked up by a parent or parent designate.

Closure of schools or cancellation of transportation services will be announced from 6:30 a.m. onward on the following stations:

AM Radio

AM 640
680 News Newstalk
1010

FM Radio

KISS 92.5
CHFI 98.1
CBC 99.1
VIRGIN 99.9
The Edge 102.1
CHUM 104.5
Q107
Z103.5
BOOM 97.3
FLOW 93.5

TV

CP24
CTV
CITY-TV
GLOBAL TV

Internet

tdsb.on.ca
TDSB social media
channels

Information on closure of schools and cancellation of transportation services or cancellation of classes will be posted on the TDSB website at www.tdsb.on.ca and on the TDSB social media channels.

If weather conditions become extreme after students are in school, a decision may be made to close the schools. Please listen to the media listed above for any closures declared during the day. In this case, elementary students will remain in the school until they are picked up by a parent or parent designate. If you hear a report of school closure please come and pick up your child.

Recess and Lunch Time

Students are kept indoors for recess and lunch time for a number of weather conditions such as rain, lightening in the area, extreme winds and extreme cold. When temperature and wind chill measure -28C or lower, students are kept indoors. Recess and lunch may be shortened if the temperature and wind chill reading is between -28C and --20C.

If a student's medical condition requires further consideration due to weather conditions, or if you have other questions or concerns about how and when weather conditions affect your child's school day, please speak with someone from the main office.



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 snow pants 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. The colder weather brings with it snow or mud 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.

Fundraising Plans

Normally, our school raises 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. You can access our donation portal here:

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

This link will be open for most of the school year. Donations of \$25 or more will receive a tax receipt.

Each year, we are required to create a plan outlining how fundraising money will be spent. Last year, we planned to spend funds on technology, physical education, grade 5 farewell ceremony, skating and school performances. Due to the school closure from March to June last year, we did not spend all our funds from the 2019-2020 school year. In September we used these funds to purchase Technology, Physical Education Equipment and Core French books.

For the 2020-2021 school year, the plan for fundraising funds is to purchase further technology (ipads, chromebooks, laptops, desktop computers, interactive projectors) and pay for our grade 5 farewell ceremony.

Thank you to those of you who have already made a donation and for your ongoing support!

