

Happy
Holidays

Hillmount Public School Newsletter



December 2021

Upcoming Events

December 13-17: Virtual Sing-A-Long every day
December 17: Spirit Day-Festive Hat or Sweater Day
December 20-
December 31: – Winter Break, NO SCHOOL

January 3: Back to School
January 11: Parent Council Meeting 7 pm
January 14: PA Day, NO SCHOOL

January 28: Spirit Day -Inside Out 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

When the weather outside is frightful...

Students are kept indoors for recess and lunch time for a number of weather conditions such as heavy 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 that 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 3 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, Sheliza Khan
Superintendent:	Marwa Hamid
Trustee:	James Li



Wishing you a happy holiday season from Hillmount Public School

Important Dates

	December 20-December 31	<i>No School for Students</i>
Professional Activity Day:	Friday January 14	<i>No School for Students</i>



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, classrooms will login to Zoom for a Virtual Sing-a-Long. In addition, individual classrooms will be celebrating in their own ways. Please speak to your child's teacher if you have any questions.

Giving Back to the Community

As we highlight Kindness and Caring this month at Hillmount, we have been made aware of a specific need that is casting a shadow over the upcoming holiday season. There are many families in a nearby neighbourhood who are looking at the holiday with sadness, as the financial climate of the past year and a half has hit them very hard. Many of these families will have no additional resources to secure gifts for under the tree.

In partnership with a local TDSB Community Support Worker, Hillmount Public School is collecting donations of gift cards to deliver to this hard-hit community. Gift cards will allow the families to purchase the items that their kids are dreaming of, or even supplies for a joyous holiday meal. Families would appreciate gift cards from the following local stores: Walmart, Winners, Shoppers Drug Mart, Old Navy, and No Frills.

If you would like to donate, please send in all gift cards with your child to their classroom teacher or to the main office by Wednesday, December 15th at noon.

Optional Attendance Requests for September 2022:

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 11, 2022. Forms can be picked up at the school office. Optional Attendance requests for any grade have the same deadline: **Friday February 11, 2022.**

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



DOGS

Many of us love our furry friends, however, many students and family members are uncomfortable with dogs.

Dogs are not permitted on school property. We ask that you respect those that are uncomfortable with dogs by leaving your dogs at home. This will also ensure that our school yard is kept clean and free from dog poop, which can be very unpleasant and messy for students playing on the grass, playground and sand pits areas. Thank you for your understanding.



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 heavy 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 continue to be on hold due to Covid-19, we continue to take 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, and the grade 5 farewell ceremony. Due to the school closures last year, we did not spend all our funds from the 2020-2021 school year. In November we used these funds to purchase Technology.

For the 2021-2022 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!

Middle French Immersion Program - Application Information

For families interested in the Toronto District School Board's system-wide Middle French Immersion Program (begins in Grade 4), we offer an online process to apply. To apply for the Middle French Immersion Program (Grade 4 entry) for September 2022, applications must be completed online between [January 3 and January 28, 2022](#).

An offer of placement in the program (**not** a specific school) is guaranteed to all on-time applicants and will be made in the weeks following the close of the application window.

Please note: Families with an older sibling currently enrolled in a French program and who will be in attendance next year are still required to complete an online application for the new student. Please select the "**sibling option**" within the online application.

For more information about the Middle French Immersion (Grade 4) application process, please join us for a [Virtual Webinar Session](#) on one of the following dates:

DATES, TIME & LINK TO WEBINARS	ALTERNATE WAYS TO PARTICIPATE
January 6, 2022 – 10 am CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE WEBINAR ON JANUARY 6	Webinar ID: 957 9470 9338 Phone one-tap: Canada: +6473744685,,95794709338# or +16475580588,,95794709338# Dial: Canada : +1 647 374 4685 or +1 647 558 0588
January 13, 2022 – 1 pm CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE WEBINAR ON JANUARY 13	Webinar ID: 965 0951 9491 Phone one-tap: Canada: +6475580588,,96509519491# or +16473744685,,96509519491# Dial: Canada:+1 647 558 0588 or +1 647 374 4685
January 17, 2022 – 7 pm CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE WEBINAR ON JANUARY 17	Webinar ID: 998 7090 8992 Phone one-tap: Canada: +16473744685,,99870908992# or +16475580588,,99870908992# Dial: Canada: +1 647 374 4685 or +1 647 558 0588

Families can request interpretation services for this event in advance, by completing this [online form](#) before December 17, 2021.

Information about the Middle French Immersion Program is [available in multiple languages](#). For details, please see the [information package](#). For more information about French programs, the application process and important dates, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/french or click on [Application Process](#).

