



Hillmount Public School Newsletter



March 2021

Upcoming Events

- March 3: Walking Wednesday
- March 10: Walking Wednesday
- March 15-19: March Fun Week
- March 17: Walking Wednesday
- March 24: Walking Wednesday
- March 29: Photo Day (during the school day for in-person, 4-6 p.m. for Virtual School)
- March 31: Walking Wednesday

- April 2: Good Friday, No School
- April 5: Easter Monday, No School
- April 12-16: Spring Break – No School
- April 14: International Day of Pink
- April 22: Parent Council Meeting 7 pm.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

Welcome to March! The school year is passing by very quickly and lots of things are happening in our classrooms and school! We were very excited to partner with other TDSB schools this past month for the Coby Anti-Bullying Magic Show and X-Movement. We thank Cliffwood PS. And Early Beatty P.S. for reaching out and including Hillmount in these virtual presentations.

The Ministry of Education has moved March Break to April. This means we will be at school for the entire month of March. We look forward to a month of focused, in-person learning together, as well as a little fun!

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)

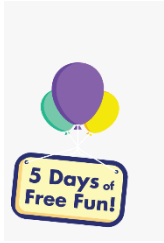
Principal : Elizabeth Mankiewicz.
School Council Chairs: Jia Li, Jing Chao
Superintendent: Elizabeth Addo
Trustee: James Li

Remember at Hillmount we...
THINK POSITIVE, TALK POSITIVE, FEEL POSITIVE

Important Dates

March 15-19

March Break Cancelled, *School is open*



MARCH FUN WEEK

Instead of March Break this year, we have planned a March Fun week, during March 15-19, which would have been March Break. We will have a spirit day each day of the week and classes will plan various fun activities each day. Keep your eyes open for information about Spirit Days on Twitter and on our school website.

From Toronto Public Health:

COVID-19 Screening before Students come to School

Every student must complete a COVID-19 screening before coming to school each day. Toronto Public Health has a COVID-19 screening questionnaire for students JK to Grade 12 that you can use. If your child has one or more symptoms of COVID-19:

- Keep your child home, even if the symptoms are mild.
- Siblings and other children in the home must also stay home.
- Arrange for your child to get tested or contact your health care provider.
- Without testing, your child and their siblings must stay home for 10 days. A doctor's note is not needed for return to school.
- Monitor your family for symptoms. Adults must stay home if they have one or more symptoms.

For more information, visit: <https://www.toronto.ca/home/covid-19/covid-19-reopening-recovery-rebuild/covid-19-reopening-information-for-the-public/covid-19-school-information-for-parents-caregivers/>

Important Reminders for Parents while Toronto is in the Grey Zone

While Toronto is in the Grey Zone, here are some important reminders for parents:

- Do not schedule playdates even among students in the same class cohort.
- Make use of outdoor recreational amenities like playgrounds, tobogganing hills, fitness equipment and designated off-leash dog parks, but only with people you live with.
- Stay two metres away from people that you don't live with.

Wearing a Mask to Reduce the Spread of COVID-19

It is important for students to wear their masks when they are in school. Wearing a mask along with physical distancing and other public health measures can reduce the spread of COVID-19. When we all wear a mask to cover our respiratory droplets it provides source control to reduce the spread of germs into the air and on surfaces. Teach your child the proper use of masks and how to safely put on and take off a mask.

Photo Day

We have scheduled a photo day for both in-person and Virtual School students. This day is Monday, March 29th. Our photographer, Edge Imaging, has strict Covid-19 protocols. They will only be taking individual photos. Group class photos will not be taken this year. In-person students will have photos taken during the school day. Virtual School students will be able to sign up online for an appointment after school, to ensure that cohorts do not mix. Information on how to access the sign-up portal will be sent out to Virtual School families shortly.

If you have any questions about this year's Photo Day, please contact the office.

Kindergarten Registration 2020

Registration for all TDSB Kindergarten programs began in February. We continue to accept registrations for students living in the Hillmount Public School catchment area. The deadline for Optional Attendance applications has passed.

To attend Junior Kindergarten in September, children must turn four years old by December 31. To register for Senior Kindergarten, children must be five years old by December 31. You may choose to register in person at the school or begin this process online.

For more information about the Kindergarten program and registration requirements, please visit: www.tdsb.on.ca/kindergarten

To make an appointment to register your child, please call 416-395-2550



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 first part of the circular driveway, no cars should be parked in that area
- ◆ 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. We encourage parents of students in Grades 1-5 to use the Kiss and Ride. Students are supervised from 8:40 a.m. and at 3:30 until 3:45, at which time they will be taken to the office.

- ◆ 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.

Below are some surprising statistics about dangerous behaviours in school zones:

- Nearly a quarter of drivers reported witnessing a near miss or collision in a school zone, more than half of which involved a child (CAA polling, 2019).
- Nearly 1/2 of Canadians say they witnessed a distracted driver in a school zone (CAA polling, 2019).
- During Ottawa Police's week long blitz focused on traffic safety in and around school zones they issued 504 tickets to drivers for the following infractions; speeding in school zones, failing to stop, failing to yield to pedestrians at school crossings, failing to obey crossing guards, failing to obey school bus signs, and distracted driving (Ottawa Police, 2017).
- In Edmonton more than 106,000 tickets were issued to drivers speeding in school zones during the 2014-2015 school year (Edmonton Police, 2016).

Please be careful when you are driving around our school or in our parking lot. Let's work together to keep our children safe.



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 be 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.



TOYS and BELONGINGS from HOME

In a normal school year, we discourage students from bringing toys, electronics and other personal belongings from home. The school cannot be responsible for lost or stolen items. Due to Covid-19, it is essential that all toys and personal items remain at home. There has been an increase in Pokemon cards, make-up, toys and books coming to school. If children take these things out at recess, there is a possibility that other children may touch them, increasing the risk of Covid-19. Please speak to your children about this and remind them not to bring any items from home.

Thank you for helping us to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Grade 5 Farewell:

The TDSB has made the difficult decision that all grade 8 and grade 12 graduations and grade 5 and 6 farewell ceremonies for the 2020-2021 school year, are to take place virtually. While we do not know what will be possible in June, planning these events take time and effort and the board has wanted to give us as much notice as possible. This means that our Grade 5 Farewell ceremony for this year will take place virtually. We will begin to work on it and more information about the time and format of this event will be shared in the coming months. The ceremony will include both bricks and mortar and virtual school students.



DOGS

Many of us love our furry friends, however, for some of our students, dogs can be a source of anxiety and discomfort. In addition, when our neighbours bring them onto school property and do not pick up after them, we have problems. For the safety and well-being of all of our Hillmount students and staff, we ask that you obey the signage on the property (and local by-laws) by not bringing your dog to school. If you must walk your dog to pick-up and drop-off your child, please leave your dog off of the school property when coming to collect your children.



Greek Heritage Month



March is Greek Heritage Month at the Toronto District School Board. It is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Greek Canadians to Canada, and an occasion to mark and enjoy the history of Greek culture.

The theme for this year is:

1821-2021

Freedom and Unity – Ελευθερία και Ενότητα

Learning From Our Roots...Shaping Our Future

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**

FUNDRAISING:

Covid-19 has changed a lot this year. 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. In September, we began taking donations through School CashOnline. We thank the families who have contributed to this fundraising. We have been able to purchase 5 additional Chromebooks for student learning. We will continue to take donations using 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.schoolcashionline.com/Fee/Details/457/153/false/true>

Thank you for your support!

