



Hillmount Public School Newsletter



November 2020

Upcoming Events

- November 11: Remembrance Day-Virtual Recognition in individual classrooms
- November 17: Progress Reports Go Home
- November 17-19: Parent Teacher Interviews
- November 20: PA Day-Parent Teacher Interviews
- November 23: Parent Council meeting 7:00 pm - virtual using Zoom
- November 23-December 4: Virtual Scholastic Book Fair
- December 18: Spirit Day-Holiday Hat or Sweater Day
- December 21-January 1: Winter Break

Will your child be absent from school?
Call our Safe Arrival Number.

416-395-2556

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

From the Principal...

While the month of October brought some change, with a required re-organization, we have settled into our routines with our new classroom organization. We are happy that this structure will remain stable until at least February, which is the next time there will be an opportunity to switch between virtual and in-person learning. In addition to an ongoing focus on safety, hygiene and physical distancing, our staff and students are focused on teaching and learning, with academics, well-being and equity at the forefront. This month, you will learn more about how your child is doing through progress reports and parent-teacher interviews. We thank you for supporting your child's learning in this modified learning environment due to Covid 19.

E. 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 Think Positive, Talk Positive and Feel Positive!



Important Dates

Professional Activity Day: Friday November 20 *No School for Students*

Report Cards and Parent-Teacher Interviews:

On November 17, Grades 1-5 students will receive Progress Reports and Kindergarten students will receive the Kindergarten Communication of Learning. Parents/guardians will be contacted by the classroom teacher to arrange a virtual meeting or phone call to discuss progress to date. These meetings will take place during the week of November 16th and on the morning of Friday, November 20. There is no school scheduled for students on Friday November 20 as it is a professional day for all schools in the TDSB.



Early French Immersion Program - Application Information

For families interested in the Toronto District School Board's [Early French Immersion](#) Program (begins in Senior Kindergarten), we offer an online process to apply.

To apply for the Early French Immersion Program (SK entry) for September 2021, applications must be completed online between [November 2 and November 27, 2020](#).

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 the same 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 Early French Immersion (SK) application process, please join us for a [Virtual Information Session](#) on one of the following dates:

- November 12, 2020, 7 p.m.
- November 19, 2020, 10 a.m.

For more information about French as a Second Language programs, the application process and important dates, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/french.

November is Hindu Heritage Month in TDSB

In 2016, the Government of Ontario declared the month of November each year as Hindu Heritage Month. Further to this, on April 18, 2018, the TDSB Board of Trustees voted to recognize the month of November as Hindu Heritage Month.

Canadians of Hindu faith have greatly contributed to civic life in Canada for decades, and are a vibrant part of the growth and prosperity of Toronto, Ontario and Canada. November is an opportunity to celebrate the Hindu way of life, examine its impact and contributions to the world culture, and recognize values which promote compassion, mutual respect and inclusion – and hey, it is the birthplace of the number zero, without which the binary code in computers could not exist!

Indigenous Education Month in the Toronto District School Board

In November, we celebrate Indigenous Education Month at the TDSB. This month provides an opportunity to re-examine how Indigenous perspectives, histories and contemporary realities may be centred across the curricula, and to focus on treaties and the legacy of residential schools.

At the TDSB, all students should feel supported, have a sense of belonging and feel respected and valued. Ensuring these values are at the core of Indigenous education, is a priority.

By centering Indigenous perspectives across curriculum in all areas, we want to create inclusive spaces for students to see themselves reflected as individuals and validated within the school community.

Indigenous education is not just for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students, but for all students and staff. When non-Indigenous people learn about the rich histories, cultures and contemporary contexts of diverse Indigenous peoples, cross-cultural understandings occurs and a common commitment is formed, leading to equitable and more inclusive learning spaces.

We value the opportunity to collaborate with community members, educators and policy makers to deepen knowledge and understanding of Indigenous perspectives in supporting student success and well-being.

First Nations, Métis and Inuit Days of Significance

Over the course of November, students, staff and community members will be recognizing a number of important days to deepen knowledge and build stronger relationships between non-Indigenous and Indigenous peoples in Canada. This includes Treaty Recognition Week (Nov. 2-6), Inuit Day (Nov. 7), Aboriginal Veterans' Day (Nov. 8), Louis Riel Day (Nov. 16).

Please look for celebrations of student learning about these Heritage months on our Twitter Account @TDSB_Hillmount

Virtual Scholastic Book Fair

This year, due to restrictions related to Covid-19, we are not able to host our regular in-person book fair. However, we have been able to partner with Scholastic to organize a Virtual Book Fair.

Between November 23, 2020 and December 4, 2020, visit the following link:

<https://bookfairs-canada.myshopify.com/pages/5152096>

You can browse and select books for your children, friends and family and they will be shipped to you. The bonus is that a percentage of the proceeds will be given to Hillmount and will allow us to purchase books and resources for our library and classrooms.

2021 PIAC Annual Parent Conference:

The TDSB PIAC (Parent Involvement Advisory Committee) invites all parents and caregivers to take part in our 14th annual parent conference. This will be the first-ever virtual conference on November 21 and 22, 2020 for two days of workshops for parents and for school councils. Please find more information at: www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/Conferences/PIAC-Conference.

Problem Solving at Hillmount

At Hillmount we have a **Code of Conduct** to ensure that we provide a safe and nurturing environment for all our learners. To support these, encourage positive behaviour and discourage inappropriate behaviour we use the TDSB and the Ministry Progressive Discipline Process. Progressive Discipline is a policy that is a whole-school approach to student behaviour. It utilizes a continuum of interventions, supports, and consequences to address inappropriate student behaviour and to build upon strategies that promote positive behaviours. When inappropriate behaviour occurs, disciplinary measures are applied within a framework that shifts the focus from one that is solely punitive to a focus that is both corrective and supportive. It is designed to create the expectation that the degree of discipline will be in proportion to the severity of the behaviour. Progressive discipline must take into account the needs of individual students by showing sensitivity to diversity, to cultural needs, and to special education needs. In addition progressive discipline must be in keeping with Ministry of Education and Board policies on antiracism, ethno cultural equity and antidiscrimination education. To support problem solving and encourage positive behaviours we also use the following 3 simple expectations to guide our actions. By following these expectations everyone can have a great day!



When we have a problem... we fix it! We use the Hillmount Problem Solving Sheet below to guide, record and communicate our discussions and problem solving. It is a tool that assists in focusing on strategies for improvement. If a problem solving sheet comes home please discuss the problem and solutions with your child to support their learning and if you have any questions please contact the school.

Hillmount Problem Solving Sheet	
Name:	Date:
Dear Parent/Guardian, Today I was involved in this situation at school. I learned how to solve my problem with the other person. Please review this with me to make sure that I understand how to behave at school. Please RETURN TO SCHOOL. Thanks for your help!	
Parent/Guardian Signature:	
The Story...what happened?	The Plan...what will you do now and later?
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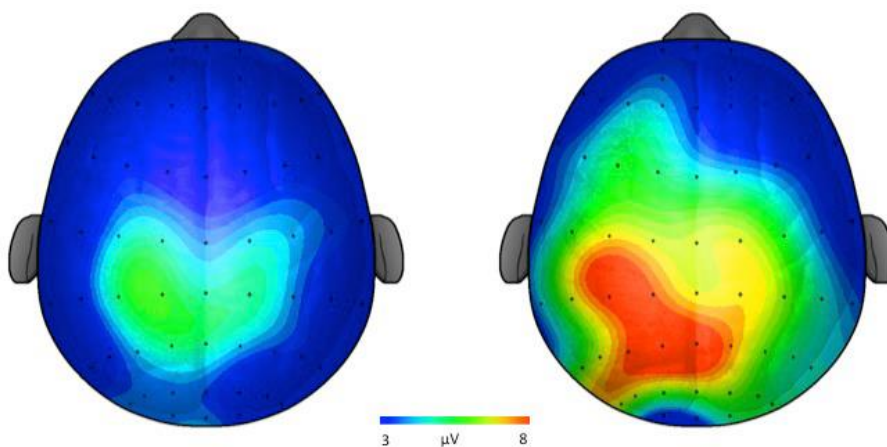
Walk To School

At Hillmount, we encourage students to walk, roll or bike to school. Active travel to school helps to decrease the traffic in our parking lot and has many benefits for students.

Please see the information below from the website: activelivingresearch.org

“Brain processes such as directing one’s attention, switching attention between tasks, and moving information from short- to long-term memory are necessary actions for learning. Recently, scientists have been examining the underlying brain functions that may explain some of the immediate and more gradual academic benefits of physical activity.

After walking on a treadmill for 20 minutes at a moderate pace, children responded to test questions (in the content areas of reading, spelling, and arithmetic) with greater accuracy, and had a more intense response within the brain, than children who had been sitting (see Figure 2).



After 20 minutes of sitting quietly

After 20 minutes of walking

Further, children who walked for 20 minutes performed better on reading comprehension than those who sat for a similar length of time. Following physical activity, children also completed learning tasks faster and more accurately, and were more likely to read above their grade level”

So keep up with the active travel! That activity on the way to school will benefit your child all day long at school!



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.

It is also important for all students from JK to Grade 5 to have a change of clothes in their backpack. This will allow students to change if they get wet or have an accident and means we will not have to call you to come to school midday with a change of clothes.
