



Hillmount Public School Newsletter



October 2020

Upcoming Events

- October 5: World Teacher's Day, Parent Council Meeting 7:00 virtual
October 7: Walk to School Day,
October 9: Terry Fox Run
October 12: Thanksgiving: School Closed
October 13: School Re-Organization
October 24: ECE Appreciation Day
October 24-25: Parents as Partners Virtual Conference
October 27: IEPs Go Home
October 30: Costume Day
- November 1: Photo Retake Day
November 11: Remembrance Day
November 17: Progress Reports Go Home
November 20: Parent Teacher Interviews, PD Day, No School

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...

The beginning of October has been a challenging one. Just as our teachers and students got comfortable with their routine, we have had to re-organize, say goodbye to another staff member and have students and teachers move classes and rooms. We know that this has been difficult and appreciate your understanding and support as we navigate this unusual school year.

Despite that many changes, we thank you for continuing to complete the daily health screening, following safety protocols and encouraging your children to do so. We continue to work together as a Hillmount team: staff, students and parents, to keep everyone safe and healthy.

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!



Updates on Switching between Virtual School and In-Person Learning

The timing for elementary students to switch between Virtual School and In-Person Learning has been changed. The next opportunity will be offered at the **end of January 2021**. There will no longer be an opportunity for elementary students to switch in November. The TDSB is confident that this approach will help maintain current classes and teacher assignments in both in-person and virtual classrooms until the new year and will benefit all students and staff by ensuring no further disruptions.

Hillmount Organization

This month, due to the large number of students who have selected to learn in the TDSB Virtual School, Hillmount was required to re-organize. Re-organization took place on October 8 and all students began in their new classes on October 13. We appreciate the student, parent and teacher flexibility and patience as we made this change. All students have settled in nicely into their new classrooms.

Please be aware that with another switch between Virtual School and In-Person learning in January, it is possible that we may have another re-organization. We thank you in advance for your patience and understanding in this situation.

Important Dates

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

“Terry Lives Here”

On October 9th, our students ran into the Hillmount neighbourhood this year to raise money for the Terry Fox Foundation. At the time of this writing, the school raised over \$900 and students earned an extra 15 minutes of recess! Thank you for the donations sent in for the Terry Fox Foundation. A **BIG Thank you** to Mr. Pozin for all his efforts to organize this important event!



● International Walk to School Day ●

Wednesday, October 7 was International Walk to School Day and October is Walk To School Month. Many of our families joined hundreds of students across Canada in this world wide event. Thank you to those families who left the car/van at home and chose to walk to school and enjoy the benefits of walking together: healthy, active habits, reduced traffic congestion around the school, fewer harmful emissions released into the air and, of course, quality time spent with your child/ren.

October is Islamic Heritage Month

At the Toronto District School Board, Islamic Heritage Month is proudly recognized during the month of October. On June 22, 2016, the TDSB passed a motion to recognize Islamic Heritage Month in October. Subsequently, in 2016, the province of Ontario established October as Islamic History Month (IHM) through the Islamic Heritage Month Act, “*proclaiming a month to be Islamic Heritage Month in Ontario will provide all Ontarians, both today and in future generations, with an opportunity to reflect, celebrate and learn about the rich and longstanding Islamic history in the Province and the diverse roles and contributions of Muslim people in communities across Ontario. This new understanding will in turn help combat anti-Islamic sentiment.*”

October is Somali Heritage Month

Since June 2016, the TDSB has had the privilege to proudly recognize Somali Heritage Month. The TDSB affirms our commitment to celebrating Somali Heritage Month and encourages students and staff to take this opportunity to learn about the history, heritage and diversity of the Somali community. The theme “*Educate. Elevate. Excel.*” continues to be explored this year.

There are many Somalians who immigrated to Canada who continue to participate and to educate others in their traditions within their new environment. Music has always been an integral part of Somali tradition, and one well-known Somali-Canadian artist who has been sharing his love of songs on the world stage is **Keinan Abdi Warsame (K'naan)**. K'naan was born in May 30, 1978 in Mogadishu which is located in the southeastern Banaadir province of Somali and later moved to Toronto's Rexdale community as a young teenager with members of his family. K'naan is identified as a poet, rapper, singer, songwriter and instrumentalist; however, he is renowned for his song “Waving Flag” as it was chosen as Coca-Cola's promotional anthem for the 2010 FIFA World Cup that was hosted by South Africa. This song continues to be a favourite across the globe today.

Students will be learning about both Somali Heritage and Islamic heritage during the month of October. Please look for celebrations of their learning on our Twitter Account @TDSB_Hillmount



Student Absence 24/7

If your child will be absent from school for any reason, call us any time, night or day at **416-395-2556**. Hillmount Public School values the safety and security of every student. Parents/guardians of students who have an unexplained absence (one where the school has not been previously notified) will be contacted by a computerized system to verify the reason for the absence. This same process will be followed for the afternoon attendance. * **If you know of your child's absence, call the school to report it and the system will not call you.**

In the evening, all parents/guardians of students who were late that day will receive a call informing them of their children's absence or tardiness.

With this in mind, it is important that you ensure the contact information on file at the office is current and up to date. Please let the office know immediately if your contact information changes at any time throughout the school year.



Emergency Preparation

Each year school staff reviews our emergency preparedness plans and we discuss and practice with students what is expected of them in emergency situations. We practice two types of drills- fire and lockdown. Fire drills are practiced so that we can evacuate the building quickly and safely. Lockdown drills are practiced so that we can be safe inside the classrooms should there be a dangerous situation within the school. There is also a Hold and Secure procedure that is followed when there is an unsafe situation outside the building. Please note that during a Hold and Secure situation, all doors to the school are locked and no one is allowed to enter the building until the Hold and Secure is called off. In such a situation please know that your children are safe, and that children will be dismissed as soon as the situation has been resolved. In that situation please call the school for more information.



Arrive on Time

The best start to each school day is one that starts with arriving at school on time. In order to provide the best possible program for students, it is necessary for them to attend school regularly and on time. This means students should arrive before the bell rings so that they enter with classmates and have time to place things in their coat hook area and get what they need for the day. The Education Act states that it is the responsibility of the parent (or guardian) to ensure that their children attend school regularly and on time.



Allergies in School and Celebrating Birthdays

At Hillmount we recognize birthdays by announcing them each day and presenting students with a small birthday gift from the office. Hillmount Public School has students with severe life threatening allergies to certain foods. Because of that and due to current restrictions around Covid-19, we will not be able to accept food of any kind to celebrate student birthdays. Loot bags and items sent from home are also not acceptable.

The TDSB has procedures for the prevention and management of anaphylactic reactions. Further information is also available through the Anaphylaxis Network of Canada (416) 785-5666.

Halloween

Halloween will be recognized at Hillmount Public School on Friday, October 30. For some families, Halloween is a family celebration, enabling families to spend time together creating costumes, carving pumpkins, planning trick or treat activities and participating in family parties. Halloween is also an event at schools providing opportunities for creative activities, art programs and impromptu history lessons. For children, Halloween is an exciting time. It appeals to their imaginations, stimulating ideas to be something or someone else, to dress up and have fun.

Our next Spirit Day falls on October 30th. On that day, students are encouraged to wear a costume or dress in fall attire. Due to restrictions to prevent the spread of Covid-19, we will not be able to hold our annual Loonie Arcade and students will still be required to wear masks and face coverings throughout the day, except during outdoor mask breaks and while eating at lunchtime. Individual classrooms will recognize and celebrate in their own way. Teachers will be in contact about this over the next week or so.

Please remember:

*****TDSB Operational Guidelines do not allow for food other than the child's individual lunch or snacks to be brought into the building. This means we cannot allow Halloween treats or food of any kind.**

***** Students are asked to leave all accessories at home such as wands, broomsticks, swords etc. under no circumstances are toy weapons to be brought to school.**

Hillmount Public School, along with the TDSB, acknowledges that not all families celebrate Halloween and we can plan alternate activities for those students who do not wish to participate. If you prefer your child not participate please contact the classroom teacher or inform the office at 416-395-2550.



Safety on the Climbers

During school hours the students are asked to follow rules designed to enhance the safety of the climbers. We encourage the students to also use these rules when using the equipment outside of school hours.

- **WALK while using the equipment, running and games like Tag make it unsafe**
- **PROPER FOOTWEAR**
- **KEEP HANDS FREE** things in our hands, even mittens can get in the way of a safe grip
- **ONE AT A TIME**
- **FEET FIRST DOWN THE SLIDE**

* Remember:

- There is no supervision of the climbers before or after school
- Before and after school, once students are dismissed, parents are responsible for supervising their own children on the climbers.
- Please follow the posted guidelines for the recommended ages that may use the equipment



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. We also recommend keeping a change of clothing in your child's backpack, so that if your child does get wet or dirty, we do not have to bother you at home.

PARENTS AS PARTNERS!!!!

The Annual Parents as Partners Conference will be held virtually on Oct 24th and Oct 25, 2020. This year's conference includes two amazing keynotes as well as a host of breakout sessions that you can choose to tailor to your own interests and needs. Registration is now open and you can find all details at www.parentsaspartners.ca

