



# Hillmount Public School Newsletter



## October 2021

### Upcoming Events

- October 5: World Teacher's Day, Parent Council Meeting 7:00 virtual
- October 6: Walk to School Day,
- October 11: Thanksgiving: School Closed
- October 13: Photo Day
- October 23: ECE Appreciation Day
- October 21: IEPs Go Home
- October 29: Hillmount Heroes Assembly  
Spirit Day -Costume Day
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- November 10: Parent Council Meeting 7:00  
Virtual
- November 11: Remembrance Day
- November 16: Progress Reports Go Home
- November 19: 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 month of September has been a busy and successful month as we settled into classrooms and learned school and classroom routines. We are pleased that we will not be required to re-organize classes at this time. Class placements should remain the same until next February, when there will be an opportunity for families to switch between virtual and in-person learning.

For our in-person families, 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, Sheliza Khan  
**Superintendent:** Marwa Hamid  
**Trustee:** James Li



Remember at Hillmount...  
we Think Positive, Talk Positive and Feel Positive!



## Hillmount Organization

Every September, schools review actual student enrolment as compared to initial projections from last April. Ministry of Education caps on class sizes sometimes require a re-organization. **We are pleased to share that Hillmount will not need to re-organize this school year.** Classroom allocations and student placements will remain the same at this time. There may be changes required when switching between Virtual and In-Person learning is allowed in February. We will do our best at that time to minimize any disruptions to student learning.

## Updates on Switching between Virtual School and In-Person Learning

As mentioned, the next opportunity to switch between Virtual Learning and In-Person Learning will be in February. There will no switches between now and February. The TDSB is confident that this approach will help maintain current classes and teacher assignments in both in-person and virtual classrooms and will benefit all students and staff by ensuring no further disruptions.

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## Important Dates

Monday, October 11	<b>Thanksgiving Day:</b>	<i>No School for Students</i>
Friday November 19	<b>Professional Activity Day:</b>	<i>No School for Students</i>

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## “Terry Lives Here”

On September 29th, 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 \$2000 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!

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## ● International Walk to School Day ●

Wednesday, October 6 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.

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## October is Islamic Heritage Month

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) proudly recognizes Islamic Heritage Month during the month of October. Our main theme for the month continues to be: Reflect. Celebrate. Learn.

Canadian Islamic Heritage Month is also recognized across our nation since October 2007. Subsequently, since November 2016, the province of Ontario established October as Islamic History Month 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 turn help combat anti-Islamic sentiment."

### **October is Somali Heritage Month**

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) proudly recognizes Somali Heritage Month during the month of October. The TDSB has been marking Somali Heritage Month since June 2016, and we continue to expand on the selected theme **Educate. Elevate. Excel.**

During this month, we recognize the economic, political, social and cultural achievements and contributions of Somali Canadians in all aspects of Ontario society. Like many refugees and immigrants who have made Ontario their home, Somali Canadians are proud to be part of diverse communities across the province.

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



### **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.



### **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.

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## Halloween

Halloween will be recognized at Hillmount Public School on Friday, October 29. 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 29th. 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.

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### **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.

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## **CASHLESS SCHOOLS**

Please take some time to sign up for a Cash Online account. This will allow you to pay for school-related items and activities online, without submitting cash. Sign up using the link below:

<https://tdsb.schoolcashionline.com>

All students in Grades 1-5 have received an agenda to be used for communication between home and school. If you have not already done so, please submit the \$7.00 fee using Cash Online.

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## **SickKids Partnership Testing Program**

Hillmount is partnered with Sick Kids Hospital for the COVID-19 Saliva Test Kit Program. The program is scheduled to start **October 18th** – earlier if there is a declared outbreak in a cohort.

SickKids has been working with Toronto Public Health (TPH) and the school board to make access to testing simple and easy for everyone. At this time, TPH, the Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Education are not conducting surveillance testing in schools for COVID-19; however, testing will be available for these three groups:

1. Symptomatic testing: Individuals (staff, students, household members), with 1 or more signs or symptoms consistent with COVID-19.
2. Exposure testing: Individuals (staff, students, household members) identified by TPH as a high risk/close contact to someone diagnosed with COVID-19
3. Cohort/Outbreak testing: Individuals (staff and/or students) identified as being part of an exposed cohort and notified to be tested by TPH

### HOW IT WORKS:

- If you, your child or a family member fit the above testing criteria, come to Hillmount to pick up a COVID-19 saliva kit
- Collect and label your sample, fill out the requisition, seal it in the biohazard bag, and drop off at the designated school location
- At Hillmount, there will be a pre-designated drop off location inside the front entrance, open Monday-Friday during school hours.
- Please place your sealed saliva kit (containing your labelled saliva container and the completed lab requisition) inside the brown paper bag.
- Samples will be picked up daily and couriered to Sick Kids Hospital for testing
- **If the sample is positive, you will receive a telephone call** from SickKids within 24-48hours and Toronto Public Health to follow up on your result.
- **If the result is negative, you will not receive a call but will be able to check for your results on the Covid 19 results website.**

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### **Food Bank Donations:**

At Hillmount, we continue to use our voices to help those in need. This year, rather than collect food items for donation, we are encouraging all families to donate to the North York Harvest Food Bank using the following link:

<https://northyorkharvest.akaraisin.com/ui/FallHeroes/t/6ece33b732c44966a58aacb652de3ff2>

Join us and make a difference by donating and fundraising in support of our community.

Every \$15 raised will give a family ONE emergency food hamper containing essential items such as canned beans, pasta and canned fish.

Together, with your support, we can help our community members in need!

# CELEBRATING THANKSGIVING

## Stay safe & protect your family & friends from COVID-19

**Outdoor gatherings are safer than indoor gatherings.**

**Keep outdoor gatherings to a max of 100 people, with physical distancing in place.**

**Limit indoor gatherings to 25 people. Keep a distance & masks on if some are unvaccinated/ unknown vaccination status**

**Stay home & don't attend if you have even 1 symptom of COVID-19 & get tested.**

**If dining out, remember to bring your proof of vaccination & ID.**

[TORONTO.CA/COVID19](https://toronto.ca/covid19)

**TORONTO** Public Health

