



HILLSDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
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Principal: Ms. Marci Duncan

November Newsletter

Dear Parents, Families and Caregivers,

I am thrilled to be writing to you today to introduce myself as the new Principal of Hillsdale Elementary School! Over the past week, students and staff have been very welcoming! I am honored to have the opportunity to lead a school with such amazing students, an extremely dedicated staff, and a supportive school community. I look forward to getting to know you and learning from you about our students, school and community.



We have a new Twitter account [@HillsdaleES](https://twitter.com/HillsdaleES) that will be used to share information about school events and happenings. If you have a Twitter account please follow us and if you do not, you can use this link to view the content: <https://twitter.com/HillsdaleES>. The Twitter feed can also be viewed on our school website: hid.scdsb.on.ca

Ms. Marci Duncan
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Upcoming Events

Date	Event
Monthly Character Trait	The November Character trait is Courage. Courage - we do the right thing even when it's difficult. More information about Character Education can be found here: www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character_education
November	Financial Literacy Month
November	Movember
November 1-7	Canadian Down Syndrome Week
November 2-6	Treaties Recognition Week

November 9-20	Virtual Book Fair (see the information below for more details on how to shop!)
November 11	Remembrance Day
November 12	Progress Report Progress reports will be sent home with students on November 12. Learn@Home progress reports will be sent electronically by email on Nov. 12.
November 13	World Kindness Day
November 15-21	Bullying Awareness Week
November 16	Virtual School Council - 6pm via Zoom All of our parents and caregivers are welcome! Please call the school if you would like to attend and we will email you the Zoom link.
November 16th to 19th in the evening and November 20th in the morning	Parent/Teacher Interviews This year, we are asking our teachers to reach out to parents to arrange an interview through a virtual platform (Zoom, Google Meet, etc) or by phone to discuss your child's progress. The time scheduled for your conference will be confirmed by the classroom teacher as soon as possible.
November 20	PA Day for both Learn@Home and in school students.
November 20	Third annual Eat Well to Excel Day in Simcoe County (see more information below)
November 20	Trans Day of Remembrance
<p>Stay updated on information regarding the 2020-21 school year on the SCDSB's website and social media.</p> <p>For ongoing updates and information, please continue to visit the COVID-19 page on the SCDSB website, or follow SCDSB on social media (Twitter: @SCDSB_Schools or Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/SCDSB).</p> <p>Follow Hillsdale Elementary School on Twitter @HillsdaleES and see our website http://hid.scdsb.on.ca/ for more information on school events and happenings!</p>	

Gifted Screening Process

Students who display an advanced degree of general intellectual ability require additional program support to reach their educational potential. This support may be through enhancing the curriculum, differentiated instruction and through providing program modifications. This type of programming is important to engage, motivate and challenge students who are identified as gifted in either the regular classroom or in gifted classroom placements.

Parents/guardians of a student who will be in or above Grade 3 in the next school year, who wish to nominate their child for gifted screening, are asked to contact Marnie Hermiston before November 27, 2020.

Students may be nominated by either a teacher or parent/guardian.

A letter examining the gifted screening process in greater detail will be sent to parents/guardians of students in Grade 3 in September 2020.

If you require further information about the gifted screening process, please contact the school.

Support Eat Well to Excel (EWTE) across Simcoe County – November 20th

November 20th is our third annual Eat Well to Excel Day in Simcoe County!

We need your help! COVID-19 has affected how Student Nutrition Programs are being offered in schools throughout Simcoe County. The grab and go requirements to keep the students safe means that it is harder and more expensive to source food items for the programs.

Here's how you can support an Eat Well to Excel program in your area:

- DONATE via www.eatwelltoexcel.ca - click on Donate now button (printable tax receipts will be issued). Include the school's name in the comment box if you want to support a specific school. If no school is identified, the funds will be used to support the purchase of equipment and food for schools with high needs.
- JOIN the EWTE partnership committee. We want to hear from you. To find out more, inquire at www.eatwelltoexcel.ca, under Volunteers.
- For more information, Contact us at <http://eatwelltoexcel.ca/contact-us/>

Eat Well to Excel, the Simcoe County Nutrition Program for School-Age Children is a non-profit community partnership that supports volunteer run Student Nutrition Programs in over 185 schools/programs (including elementary and secondary schools, learning centres and alternative programs) in Simcoe County.

School bus transportation information available from the SCSTC

For school bus transportation information, visit the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC)'s website at: main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca. Also, remember to bookmark the school bus information page at: simcoecountyschoolbus.ca for bus delay and cancellation information on inclement weather days.

Communication to families regarding inclement weather days

All information regarding cancelled buses in Simcoe County is posted on the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC)'s bus information website at www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca. Our school is in the **North zone**. When buses are cancelled, schools remain open for student learning, unless otherwise noted. It is always a family decision whether or not it is safe for their child(ren) to leave for school under severe weather conditions.

The Consortium and bus operators try to make the decision to cancel school buses before 6 a.m. and make every effort to post announcements before 7 a.m. Inclement weather cancellations are effective for the whole day and buses cancelled in the morning will not run at the end of the day. You can follow the Consortium on Twitter [@SCSTC_SchoolBus](https://twitter.com/SCSTC_SchoolBus) for bus cancellations and other information. You can also subscribe to receive bus delay notifications here: <https://scstc.ca/Subscriptions/Login.asp>

November PA Day

Please note that Friday, Nov. 20 is a PA day for all secondary and elementary SCDSB students, both Learn@Home and in school. Please refer to the 2020-2021 School Year Calendar on the SCDSB website for more information: www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/school_year_calendar.

COVID-19 self-assessment

All students and staff will be expected to self-screen prior to attending school each day, using a self-assessment tool provided by the SMDHU. Students or staff with symptoms must stay home from school. To access the COVID-19 self-assessment tool, please visit the [SMDHU website](http://www.smdhu.ca).

Virtual Book Fair

The fun and excitement of a Scholastic Book Fair is coming to our school! To adapt to our changing needs, Scholastic has developed a Virtual Book Fair to provide an opportunity for our students and families to experience the joy of reading together.

Our Scholastic Virtual Book Fair will take place: Monday, November 9th - Friday November 20th

When it's time to shop, visit our school's Virtual Book Fair site using this link:

<https://bookfairs-canada.myshopify.com/pages/5151353>

Thank you for your continued support. All purchases benefit our school and earn rewards that can be redeemed for books and Education Resources for our school's classrooms and library.



Scholastic Book Fairs

The screenshot shows the top of a web page with a red header containing the Scholastic logo and 'Virtual Book Fairs'. Below the header, the school name 'HILLSDALE ELEM SCHOOL' and address '16 ALBERT ST. EAST, HILLSDALE, ON, CA, L0L1V0' are displayed. A large heading reads 'Welcome to our Virtual Book Fair!'. A yellow banner below says 'Support HILLSDALE ELEM SCHOOL by shopping today!' and 'More than 0 books sold!'. A section titled 'Join us at our Virtual Book Fair, from the comfort of your own home!' lists three bullet points: 'REMEMBER! Your purchases earn Book Fair Rewards that can be used for resources to support our students.', 'Orders are delivered right to your home! Safe and Easy.', and 'FREE STANDARD SHIPPING on orders over \$35!'. To the right, a box titled 'Your Virtual Book Fair Dates' shows 'Starts November 09' and 'Ends November 20'. A red arrow points from the text 'Click here to shop!' to a red 'Shop Now' button.

Royal Canadian Legion poppy campaign

The SCDSB has a time-honoured relationship with our local Royal Canadian Legions through the annual poetry and poster competitions and the annual poppy campaign. For the 2020-2021 year, it is our intention to once again support the poppy campaign. Due to the health and safety protocols in place, we will not be collecting donations from students. Instead, schools are asked to work with their school councils to make a suitable donation through school generated funds. Families interested in making their own donations can do so by visiting the Royal Canadian Legion's poppy campaign at www.legion.ca/remembrance/the-poppy.

mPower: supporting your child's math learning

Are you looking for a way to provide extra math practice for your child at home, in a fun and engaging format? [TVO mPower](#) is a free digital tool that includes 65+ online games to support the mastery of tough-to-learn math concepts.

TVO mPower's goals are:

1. To provide Ontario students with opportunities to practice important math skills and to foster positive attitudes towards math by making learning fun and engaging
2. To show students that math is everywhere by connecting math games to the big ideas in science and social studies
3. To support students to develop 21st century global competencies by integrating skills such as metacognition, problem solving, creativity and citizenship

TVO mPower is:

1. Ontario curriculum-based: Aligns with the Ontario mathematics, science and technology and social studies curricula while also supporting the development of global competencies
2. Learner-centred: Tracks student progress and responds to learners' needs
3. Assessment-driven: Includes teacher dashboard and educator resources
4. Tested and trusted: Developed in partnership with Ontario educators and students
5. Free: Always free for Ontario students and educators - and now for Ontario families
6. Safe and advertising-free
7. Available for desktop and laptop computers and iPad tablets

Visit tvompower.com for more information.

Grade 1 French Immersion information

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) offers French Immersion (FI) at select schools throughout Simcoe County beginning in Grade 1. The goal of the FI program is to enable students to communicate in French with a high level of proficiency, enabling them to function with ease in both French and English. Upon graduation from the program, students will communicate in French with confidence in a wide variety of real-life situations.

Historically, in-person Grade 1 FI Family Information Nights are held annually in advance of the application process for the following school year. This year, due to restrictions to large-group public gatherings, in-person Family Information Nights will not be held. In lieu of this, an [information page on the board's public website](#) has been created to allow families the ability to access and learn about the program and the application process.

The online Grade 1 FI application form will be available from 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2020 until 4 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 18, 2020. In Grade 1, enrollment in the FI Program is limited to a maximum of two classes of 20 students per class at each host site for the FI program. The electronic applications will be processed in the order determined by a digitally randomized lottery system.

Please note that the host sites for FI may change during your child's time in the program, and your child may need to move schools. This may also include splitting the program between two different sites.

Keeping kids healthy and active

[National health guidelines](#) recommend that children and youth (aged 5-17) have high levels of physical activity, low levels of sedentary behavior and sufficient sleep each day for a balanced lifestyle. Here are three easy tips to help your kids stay healthy and active:

Get more sleep – Getting the [recommended hours of sleep](#) each night can go a long way in ensuring everyone in your family has the proper energy to take on the next day. More sleep means better ability to get moving and think more clearly!

Practice relaxation – Mental health is just as important as physical health. Now more than ever, we are realizing the important connection between the mind and body in our overall wellbeing. Providing yourself and your kids with a small amount of relaxation or ‘time out’ every day – even just 15 minutes – can improve your health dramatically. Try doing a [virtual family yoga class](#) to reduce stress and clear the mind!

Get active together – When you’re active with your kids, it sends them an important message about healthy living. Get out for a walk, play outside or do a [family workout](#) from the comfort of your home. It’s always more fun to exercise with a buddy!

Looking for ways to keep your children active and healthy while in a remote learning environment? YGym offers free virtual physical activities from YMCA certified fitness instructors for children of varying ages and abilities. Visit [YMCAHome.ca/YGym](#) for free virtual physical activities for children and youth, anywhere, anytime!

Information provided by the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka

Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) Clinical Services changes due to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Vision screening

The SMDHU will not be offering the Vision Screening Program for JK/SK for the 2020-2021 school year. Eye exams are free, with an OHIP card, for children 19 years old and under. Visit the [College of Optometrists of Ontario](#) to find an optometrist near you.

Oral health

Oral health screening at school will be delayed this year. The SMDHU will be looking for an opportunity to offer this screening later in the year if possible.

Screening and fluoride varnish application continues to be available in our offices by appointment for children 17 years and under.

Immunization

The SMDHU will not be holding immunization clinics at your child’s school during the 2020-2021 school year. We are planning to have school-based immunizations offered in the 2021-2022 school year for Grade 7 and 8 students.

For families of current Grade 8 students who have not completed their immunization series of Hepatitis B (HB), Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and Menactra due to COVID-19, we are offering immunization clinics at our health unit offices throughout Simcoe County and the District of Muskoka. Immunization clinics start Nov. 2, 2020 and are by appointment only. No walk-ins will be immunized. Please call us at 1-877-721-7520 x8827 to book your child’s appointment.

For more information on SMDHU clinical services for children, please contact Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520, or visit www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit