



HILLSDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

16 Albert Street East

Hillsdale, Ontario

L0L 1V0

Phone: 705-835-2108

Fax: 705-835-6308

<http://hid.scdsb.on.ca>

Principal: Ms. Marci Duncan

March 2021 Newsletter

Dear Parents, Families and Caregivers,

Across the school, our students have learned about the enormous contributions that Black people have made, and continue to make, in all sectors of society during Black History Month. We hope your children came home to discuss important issues, learning about new people, the amazing art they created and talked about new books read in the classroom. Check out our Facebook page to see pictures of student learning.

Thank you to our School Council for sharing many amazing ideas for physical wellness through our Fit Family February Activity. Also, we are looking forward to our Virtual Science Nights that are sponsored by our School Council through the Parent Reaching Out Grant.

As a reminder, all students arriving after the 9:05 a.m. bell must come in the school through the front doors so that we can ensure that attendance and safe arrival are correct. Thank you for your help and support.

Thank you to our whole school community for their continued efforts with all of the safety protocols designed to keep our students and staff safe, including wearing masks when dropping your child off and picking them up. Thank you to everyone for not parking in the spaces diagonally across from the school parking lot exit as this is making it much easier for the buses to get out at the end of the day!

This month we look forward to some warmer weather! With that warmer weather comes lots of puddles and mud! We encourage everyone to bring extra socks and pants (just in case they are needed).

All the best,

The Hillsdale Huskies Staff and Principal Duncan

Upcoming Events

Date	Event
Monthly Character Trait 	The March Character trait is Integrity. Integrity - we act justly and honourably in all that we do. More information about Character Education can be found here: www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character_edu
March	County of Simcoe #ITSTARTS Campaign in the month of March
Friday, March 5	National Employee Appreciation Day
Monday, March 8	International Women's Day
Sunday, March 14	Pi Day
Wednesday, March 17	School Spirit Day: St. Patrick's Day - wear green!
Friday, March 19	World Down Syndrome Day is March 21 but we will celebrate it today in school. #LotsOfSocks! We encourage all of our students to wear colourful, fun socks on WDSB to help raise awareness.
Sunday, March 21	World Down Syndrome Day International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
Monday, March 22	School Spirit Day: wear spring colours and prints! Saturday, March 20 is the first day of spring.
March 23 and 4	Family Virtual Science Nights (registration closed on March 1)
Friday, March 26	Purple Day to promote epilepsy awareness. We encourage our students to wear purple to school https://www.purpleday.org/
Friday, March 26	Earth Hour (in schools)

Stay Connected with Us!

Stay updated on information regarding the 2020-21 school year on the SCDSB's website and social media.

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>).

Follow Hillsdale Elementary School on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) and see our website <http://hid.scdsb.on.ca/> for more information on school events and happenings!

Kindergarten registration for September 2021 is open!

Kindergarten is the beginning of a wonderful journey of learning and we want your child to begin their journey in a SCDSB school! Do you have a child who is turning four in 2021? If so, we invite you to register your child for kindergarten. To register online or for more information visit:

www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/kindergarten.

Updates to the COVID-19 school screening tool and process

Each day, families are asked to ensure that their child(ren) completes the COVID-19 school screening tool prior to coming to school. Secondary school students are required to confirm with their teacher that the COVID-19 school screening tool has been completed at the beginning of each day.

In an effort to strengthen health and safety measures and help reduce the spread of COVID-19, the criteria in the provincial COVID-19 school screening tool has been updated by the Chief Medical Officer of Health. The updated provincial direction states that students and staff with any new or worsening symptoms of COVID-19 (as indicated in the screening tool), even those with only one symptom, must stay home until:

- They receive a negative COVID-19 test result;
- They receive an alternative diagnosis by a health care professional; or,
- It has been 10 days since their symptom onset and they are feeling better.

In addition, all asymptomatic household contacts of symptomatic individuals are required to quarantine until the symptomatic household member receives a negative COVID-19 test result or receives an alternative diagnosis by a health care professional.

The updated COVID-19 school screening tool is available on the Ontario government's website here: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>. A printable version of the COVID-19 school screening tool can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3ulap6V>. More information is also available on the SCDSB website at www.scdsb.on.ca/covid-19.

Inclement weather and bus cancellation information reminder

All information regarding cancelled buses in Simcoe County is posted on the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC)'s bus information website at <https://simcoecountyschoolbus.ca/>. Our school is in the **North zone**.

When buses are cancelled, schools remain open for student learning, as in previous years. It is always a family decision whether or not it is safe for your child(ren) to leave for school under severe weather conditions.

This year, please note that students who are unable to attend school due to bus cancellations will be able to access learning materials on the digital learning platform assigned by their teacher, either Desire2Learn (D2L) or Google Classroom.

Students in the Learn@Home program will continue with regular programming as scheduled.

The SCSTC 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](#) for bus cancellations and other information. You can also subscribe to receive bus delay notifications here: <https://scstc.ca/Subscriptions/Login.aspx>.

Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) to deliver first-ever student census in April 2021

At the SCDSB we are committed to identifying and removing barriers within our system that impact equity, achievement and well-being of students, and to ensuring that all students are offered supportive, inclusive and respectful learning environments. To support these efforts, we must learn more about our students.

In April 2021, the SCDSB will hold its first student census. The confidential SCDSB Student Census 2020-2021 will be used to collect identity-based student data so that systemic barriers can be identified. The results will guide our focus on programs, supports and resources to address inequities within our system.

Between April 1 and 30, 2021 students in Grade 7 to 12 and parents/guardians of students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 will be invited to participate in the SCDSB Student Census 2020-2021. To support the delivery of the SCDSB student census, the SCDSB is hosting information sessions in March. Details regarding the information sessions, including how to register, will be available on the SCDSB website.

For further information regarding the SCDSB Student Census 2020-2021, visit the SCDSB website or contact Lisa Newton, Manager of Research and Decision Support, at census@scdsb.on.ca or 705-734-6363 x11731.

Days of awareness and recognition taking place in March

Throughout the year, there are many awareness days that focus on different causes and recognition. The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) has developed a list of these days as a guide for schools. Schools may participate in recognizing some or all of these days in various ways. This list is not exhaustive. Following are the days of awareness and recognition that the SCDSB will recognize during the month of March:

March 5	National Employee Appreciation Day
March 8	International Women's Day
March 14	Pi Day
March 21	World Down Syndrome Day International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
March 26	Earth Hour (in schools)

Mental health and well-being resource hub

COVID-19 has, and will, impact the mental health of people everywhere. Kids Help Phone has seen an unprecedented surge of young people feeling more stressed than usual reaching out during this global pandemic. Finding accurate information and appropriate resources can be hard. [Jack.org](#), [School Mental](#)

[Health Ontario](#) and [Kids Help Phone](#) have partnered to bring you all the information needed in one easy-to-access hub so that youth mental health remains top of mind, and our communities are able to easily access the education, tools, support and reliable information they need. Please share widely with the young people in your life.

Jack.org is a Canadian non-profit organization focused on helping youth understand how to take care of their mental health and look out for others.

Making ‘cents’ of money matters

All students need the skills and knowledge to take responsibility for managing their personal financial well-being with confidence, competence and a critical and compassionate awareness of the world around them. In the 2020 math curriculum there is focus on financial literacy learning in Grades 1 to 8, including understanding the value and use of money over time, how to manage financial well-being and the value of budgeting.

Students build their skills and knowledge about the value and use of money, how decisions impact personal finances, as well as develop consumer and civic awareness.

Students will:

- Learn how to manage finances responsibly, such as creating a budget to help save enough money to buy something they want such as a book, toy or a video game.
- Begin to develop a greater awareness as consumers and contributors in the local and broader economic system.

Wondering how you can support the development of your child’s financial literacy skills at home? Check out some of these great tips and resources!

Tips:

- Find daily, real-world opportunities to talk about money in the contexts of earning, saving, spending and giving.
- Consider the financial habits you want to instill in your child and talk about them.
- Involve your child in making decisions about purchases for household items and compare the costs of different items. (e.g. We need to save money to repave the driveway, so we’re going to cut down on spending. Do you have any ideas?)

Resources:

- A Parent's Guide to Financial Literacy
http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/financial_guide.html
- Peter Pig's Money Counter
<https://practicalmoneyskills.ca/games/peterpigs/>
- Help Your Kids Understand Money: A Parent’s Guide
<http://www.themint.org/parents/parenting-guide.html>

Get into coding!

Interested in exploring coding with your child at home? There are several user-friendly programs that make coding fun, accessible and easy to discover! [Code.org](#) is a nonprofit dedicated to expanding access to

computer science in schools and increasing participation by young women and students from other underrepresented groups. They offer easily accessible coding projects, lessons and experiences for students to create and alter code.

Visit this website for Hour of Code tutorials (<https://studio.code.org/courses>) or try some of the ones we recommend below!

- Dance Party - <https://studio.code.org/s/dance-2019/stage/1/puzzle/1>
- Minecraft Voyage Aquatic - <https://studio.code.org/s/aquatic/stage/1/puzzle/1>
- Flappy Code - <https://studio.code.org/flappy/1>
- Classic Maze - <https://studio.code.org/hoc/1>

Scratch Junior (www.scratchjr.org/) - With the ScratchJr iPad app, young children (ages 5-7) can program their own interactive stories and games. In the process, they learn to solve problems, design projects and express themselves creatively on the computer.

Scratch (<https://scratch.mit.edu/>) - Scratch is a web-based tool where you can program your own interactive stories, games, and animations and share your creations with others in the online community. Scratch includes easy to follow tutorials, and endless project ideas to get your young coder creating and exploring the world of code.

Check out some of the great Scratch Tutorials (<https://scratch.mit.edu/ideas>) or try some of the ones we recommend below!

- Animate your Name - <https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/462492913/editor>
- Make a Chase Game - <https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/462493493/editor>
- Create a Story - <https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/462493360/editor>

Screen-free activities to keep kids active

Finding ways to break up your daily schedule with active play will pay off in the long term, and encourages creative thinking, problem solving and so much more. Here are some ideas for screen-free activities to keep kids active while having fun:

Enjoy the great outdoors

Breathe in some fresh winter air as you explore your local trails, parks and toboggan hills or have a family snowman-building contest to see who can make the most creative snow sculpture!

Get creative with indoor games

If it's too cold to explore the outdoors, there's plenty of fun indoor activities that use common items from around the house. Try playing a game of 'bedsheet parachute' – grab a twin-sized or smaller bedsheet or blanket to make a DIY parachute. Then get the kids (or even you!) to hold onto each end of the bedsheet and work together to try to shake a small stuffed animal or ball off the parachute!

Lead your family in a group workout

When you're active with your kids, it sends them an important message about healthy living. Try leading your family in a group workout from the comfort of your home. If you're looking for ideas and inspiration for family-friendly workouts, visit [YMCA at Home](#) where you can find activities for all ages and fitness levels. Once you learn the basic movements of the workout, gather your family and exercise together. It's always more fun to exercise with a buddy!

Information provided by the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka

Nutrition and self-regulation

Self-regulation is the ability to manage your own energy states, emotions, behaviours and attention in ways that are socially acceptable and help achieve positive goals such as learning at school, having good relationships and being well. Healthy eating may improve your child's ability to self-regulate.

Eat more:

- Plant-based foods: colourful vegetables, fruits, whole grains
- Healthy proteins: nuts, seeds, legumes, fish, seafood

Eat less:

- Sugar and sodium
- Highly processed, refined foods

Focus on:

- Water or milk to drink
- More than one type of food at every meal or snack
- Eating regularly
- Creating a calm, relaxing environment where you can enjoy your food and not feel rushed

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit