



# COOTES PARADISE WEEKLY UPDATE



Monday, April 27th	Tuesday, April 28th	Wednesday, April 29th	Thursday, April 30th	Friday, May 1st
		-Kindergarten Trip, Rms 123 & 121 -Pizza Day -Last day to order donuts for Fundraiser	-Cookie Day	-International Workers Day
Monday, May 4th	Tuesday, May 5th	Wednesday, May 6th	Thursday, May 7th	Friday, May 8th
-Start of Education Week	-Cinco de Mayo -National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women	-Pizza Day -Open House	-Cookie Day	

### UPCOMING DATES:

- Education Week - May 4 - 8
- Forge FC School Day Match - May 13
- Kindergarten Orientation - May 21
- Pizza Day- June 3 is the make-up day due to school closure on Wednesday February 18

### Letter From Admin

Dear Cootes Paradise Families,

As warmer weather arrives and we enjoy longer, brighter days, we are excited to take advantage of increased opportunities for outdoor learning and play. Time spent outside supports student well-being and engagement, and we look forward to using our outdoor spaces to enhance learning experiences whenever possible.

This time of year also brings renewed energy, and we encourage students to use that energy in positive ways—by practicing kindness, making thoughtful choices, and showing care for one another. As students spend more time interacting outdoors, we continue to emphasize the importance of respectful behaviour, inclusion, and safe play so that recess and outdoor learning remain enjoyable for everyone.

We are also encouraging students to demonstrate initiative—taking responsibility for their actions, making positive choices, and stepping in to help when they see a need. These skills support not only academic success, but also personal growth and confidence.

As always, the partnership between home and school plays a vital role in helping students thrive. We appreciate your continued support in reinforcing positive habits and expectations at home. When students experience consistency and encouragement across both environments, they are better positioned to succeed.

Thank you for your ongoing support and open communication. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Warm regards,

J. Hogan and J. Corbin- Harper



# OFFICE UPDATES

## **Student Up-to-Date Records**

We have found that over the last couple of months, we have experienced difficulty reaching a few of our families. Please remember that it is vital that we have up-to-date records of your address, phone numbers and emergency contacts in the event that the school must contact you regarding your child, especially in the case of an emergency. Student Verification forms were sent home back in Sept. 2025, however if any of your information has changed since then, you need to update it ASAP.

## **Dress for the Weather**

April/May weather can be very unpredictable and the “April Showers” can just as easily be “April Snowflakes”! We are outside at both nutrition breaks and very rarely stay indoors because of inclement weather. Please be sure that your child has appropriate outdoor clothing at school every day to accommodate these weather changes. We strongly encourage splash pants at this time of year so students can be comfortable in their classrooms with clean, dry clothes after recesses.

For safety and school cleanliness, please ensure that your child has clean indoor shoes. Running shoes with non-marking soles are required for gym. Flip flops or Croc-style shoes are not safe for gym classes.

## **Parking Lot Safety**

We are asking for your help with parking lot safety after school. We have noticed that some students are cutting through the staff parking lot while leaving school. This area has moving vehicles and is not a safe space for students. Please remind your child to use designated sidewalks and walkways when leaving school and to avoid the parking lot altogether. Your support helps us keep everyone safe at dismissal.

## **Construction Near the School**

The primary new accessible trail near Cootes Paradise Elementary School is the McMaster West Campus Accessible Loop, which is part of a major marsh restoration project completed in April 2026. This project includes the creation of 11 vernal ponds and the conversion of an abandoned rail line into a fully accessible trail. Reminder for students to maintain safety around the construction area.



**Cootes Paradise**  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



# WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

## RECESS EXPECTATIONS

Recently, staff have observed an increase in behaviours during outdoor play that do not align with our school expectations. In particular, students are being reminded to:

- Keep hands to themselves (no hands-on play)
- Use appropriate and respectful language
- Play safely and include others
- Follow staff directions promptly

Recess is an important time for students to socialize and be active, and our goal is to ensure it remains a safe and enjoyable time for everyone. Consistent messages between home and school make a strong difference, and we appreciate your support in reviewing these expectations with your child.

## HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND SEXUAL HEALTH LEARNING

As we continue our Health and Physical Education learning, students will be engaging in the Human Development and Sexual Health component of the Ontario curriculum in the coming weeks.

We would like to remind families to please review the letter that was previously sent home by the school, which outlines the specific topics that will be taught at each grade level. This information is provided to ensure transparency and to help families understand the learning expectations for their child's grade. Teachers are required to teach and report on the curriculum provided by the Ministry of Education. Teaching and learning in all subject areas need to be inclusive, accepting, and free from discrimination.

We encourage you to take time to review these expectations and to have conversations at home that align with your family's values. Supporting students with clear, consistent messaging from both home and school helps them feel informed, comfortable, and confident in their learning.

Should you have any questions or require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

## BUS EXPECTATIONS

Just a quick reminder to please review school bus rules with your child. These expectations help keep everyone safe, calm, and comfortable on the ride to and from school.

Students are reminded to:

- Stay seated while the bus is moving
- Keep hands, feet, and belongings to themselves
- Use kind words and a reasonable voice level
- Follow the bus driver's directions
- Enter and exit the bus safely

Riding the bus is a privilege, and following these simple rules helps make the trip a positive experience for everyone.



**COOTES PARADISE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S**



# **OPEN HOUSE**



**MAY 6, 2026, FROM 4:30 – 6:00**  
**900 KING ST. W., HAMILTON, ON.**



**YOU WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO:**

**CHAT WITH TEACHERS**   **VISIT OUR BOOK FAIR**  
**TOUR THE SCHOOL**   **VISIT CLASSROOMS**  
**INTERACT WITH OTHER PARENTS**  
**TAKE PART IN SOME FUN ACTIVITIES**

If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact the school at 905-522-0601 or email us at [cootesparadise@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:cootesparadise@hwdsb.on.ca). Thank you.  
(Just a reminder that all monies raised from School events will be going towards School Support Subsidies and can be used to enhance student activities around the school. E.g., our sensory room equipment; help subsidise school nutrition program, etc.)

**SCHOLASTIC**

## **BOOK FAIR**

**BRING ON THE BOOKJOY!**  
**COME TO OUR FAMILY EVENT**

Student Book Fair: Tuesday, May 5 and Wednesday, May 6 during school hours  
(CASH ONLY for students)  
Family Book Fair: Wednesday, May 6 from 4:30 - 6 PM in the gym  
Cash, debit, and credit are all accepted forms of payment during family event

**MORE BOOKS!**  
**MORE READING!**



**Cootes Paradise**  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



# Fundraiser at Open House!

**FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO PRE-ORDER A BOX OF 6 ASSORTED DONUTS FROM DONUT MONSTER THROUGH SCHOOL CASH ONLINE FROM MONDAY, APRIL 20 TO WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29. EACH BOX IS \$20 AND INCLUDES AN ASSORTMENT OF:**

- CINNAMON SPICE
- VANILLA BEAN
- GLAZED MAPLE DIP
- LEMON LAVENDER
- COCOA DIP
- VANILLA SPRINKLE



**PICKUP: WEDNESDAY, MAY 6 AT OUR OPEN HOUSE**

**ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARD PURCHASING ITEMS AND EQUIPMENT FOR OUR SENSORY ROOM. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT, YOUR PURCHASE MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE!**



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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



# COOTES GREEN AND CLEAN & BIKE SWAP

In honour of The Provincial Day of Action on Litter, the Cootes Paradise Home and School Association is hosting a spring clean-up event!

Help clean up Cootes Paradise and surrounding areas!

- **May 9<sup>th</sup>** 11-2 pm
- Garbage bags and gloves provided
- Family friendly activities



The back yard of Cootes Paradise will be our “home base” where you can collect supplies, participate in Earth themed activities, and visit our Bike Swap (details to come!)

**\*We recommend everyone bring a reusable water bottle\***

