



# Harvest Hills Public School Newsletter

## MARCH 2024

## IMPORTANT DATES

**New!** **SAFE ARRIVAL CALL**  
**1-888-885-8065**

**289-831-9652**

289-831-9656

[harvesthills@scdsb.on.ca](mailto:harvesthills@scdsb.on.ca)

[hhl.scdsb.on.ca](http://hhl.scdsb.on.ca)

Harvest Hills Public School  
400 Crossland Boulevard  
Bradford, Ontario L3Z 0G8

Inclement Weather Zone: **SOUTH**

**DAILY SCHEDULE FOR  
2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR**  
*Where possible, we ask that pick up of your student be done before 3:20 pm as teachers are busy getting students ready for dismissal.*

Yard Supervision	9:15-9:30am
<b>Entry Bell</b>	<b>9:30am</b>
Class Time	9:30-11:10am
<b>Nutrition Break 11:10-11:30am</b>	FDK, 7/8 Outside Gr 1-6 Eating
<b>Nutrition Break 11:30-11:50am</b>	FDK & 7/8 Eating Gr 1-6 Outside
Class Time	11:50am-1:30pm
<b>Nutrition Break 1:30-1:50pm</b>	FDK, 7/8 Outside Gr 1-6 Eating
<b>Nutrition Break 1:50-2:10pm</b>	FDK & 7/8 Eating Gr 1-6 Outside
Class Time	2:10-3:50pm
<b>Dismissal</b>	<b>3:50pm</b>

March:

**March 5th**  
Intermediate Girls Volleyball County

**March 5th**  
Intermediate Boys Basketball County

**March 5th**  
Daytime Primary Concert

**March 6th**  
Evening Primary Concert  
(Snow date March 7th)

**March 11th-15th**  
March Break No School

**March 19th**  
Grade 3 VanGo

**March 20th**  
Spirit Day—International Day of Happiness

March 22nd

**March 29th**  
Good Friday No School

**SAFE ARRIVAL**

You can also email your student absences to the office at [hhlattendance@scdsb.on.ca](mailto:hhlattendance@scdsb.on.ca)



**Harvest Hills Fall Food Drive**

**March 4th - March 27th**

Any non-perishable food items for the local Helping Hand Food Bank would be greatly appreciated. We will have boxes in the front foyer of the school where students can bring their donations. Thank you for helping us to support our local community! The Helping Hand Food Bank has advised that the most-needed items are:

**breakfast cereal, juice boxes, diapers, pasta sauce, baked beans, canned soup, canned fruit, Kraft Dinner, cereal bars**

**Helping Hand  
FOODBANK**  
Bradford West Gwillimbury

**[SCDSB Days of Awareness  
2023-2024](#)**

 **Administrative & Office Staff**

Principal: Jennifer Frans      Senior Office Support: Vicky Zanatta

Vice Principal: Nadene Fischer      Office Support: Angela Dayton

Superintendent: Matthew Webbe      Head Custodian: Sokol Mulla

Trustee: Debbie Connors



Our Grade 8 Students are having a

# “Celebrate March Break”

Freeze Fundraiser!

Students are celebrating spring coming soon and the holiday week!

Students will be selling Mr. Freeze Jumbo Freeze Pops in the Front Foyer on Thursday, March 7

11:10am to 11:50am

\$1.00 for 1/2 a JUMBO freeze

\$2.00 for 1 full JUMBO freeze

**\*\*\*Cash Sales Only\*\*\***



**NO LARGE BILLS (\$50/\$100) WILL BE ACCEPTED**

## Around the School

### Freeze Frame - Primary Winter Musical

The primary classes have been hard at work preparing to bring you this year's winter musical: Freeze Frame! Shows will be held on March 5 (daytime) and 6 (evening). Come on out and celebrate the winter season with this fun night of story and song. Please note that due to fire code regulations, no one will be admitted without a ticket. All attendees, including children and babies, will need a ticket to attend the performance. Tickets can be ordered at no cost via School Cash Online



#### Daytime Performance:

Tuesday March 5th 2:30-3:30pm doors open @ 2:20pm

#### Evening Performance

Wednesday March 6th 6:30-8:00pm doors open @ 6:15pm

### Harvest Hills Yard Sale Grade 8 Fundraiser

The Grade 8 classes are fundraising for our trip at the end of the year. We are looking for donations of gently used toys, puzzles, games and activities that you no longer use. Between now and the end of March, please send any items to school with your child. The Grade 8's will collect and organize them in preparation for our sale in April. More information about the sale in the coming weeks! Thank you for your support in helping to make our 2024 Grade 8 trip memorable and exciting!



### PALS

Our school staff have been working hard to prepare a group of junior/intermediate Playground Activities Leaders who will facilitate games on the playground. The purpose of PALS program is to engage our students in structured activities during recess. The program promotes increased physical activity, reduces conflict, increases students' sense of belonging and provides leadership skills.

### Pink Shirt Day



### Bullying Prevention Assembly

On Thursday February 28th, students in Grades 4-8 took part in a youth led interactive presentation by trained speakers from YouthSpeak. The assembly focused on mental health and wellness, inclusivity, resilience, digital citizenship and online bullying.



## Clubs and Groups

### Harvest Hills Affinity Groups

The Inclusive Empowering Connection now meets on Day 4s. Junior/Intermediate students are collaborating and learning about how they can be leaders in their school/community to promote the inclusion and celebration of Black Excellence.

### Grade 4, 5, 6 Math Help and/or Catch up time

Juniors First Recess @ 11:30 on Tuesday and Thursday—20 minutes.

Math Help and/or Catch-up time ~ Quiet spot to get work completed in Ms. Fountain's classroom.



### Comic Club

Students in Ms. Fountain's Grade 4 class are hosting a Grade 4 comic book club Wednesdays at first nutrition break (11:30am—11:50)

### Book Club

Each year the Ontario Library Association (OLA) nominates the ten best Canadian titles for primary, junior and young adult books. This is called the Forest of Reading. This year our library ordered duplicate copies of all these books and students in Junior and Intermediate grades who were interested in reading them have been attending our weekly book club. Students are keeping track of the titles they have read and are writing a short review. In our meetings students have an opportunity to discuss the books with one another and enjoy the company of other like-minded readers! In the spring all who have participated will vote on their favourite title and compare this to the province wide vote. Our club is hoping to also make a walking trip to the Bradford Public Library. Stay tuned!

### Chess Club



With a mix of novice and experienced players, Grade 4-8 students in the Harvest Hills Chess Club have been enjoying their weekly games. It's amazing to see so many students collaborating, challenging and teaching each other!





## Street Safety

Please remind students to disembark their bikes, scooters, and skateboards when they arrive at the crosswalk. This will help to ensure our Crossing Guard can make sure all students arrive safely to school.



# Popcorn Fridays!

**Our Grade 8 Students are holding a Popcorn Friday Fundraiser!**

Starting Friday, March 22 on **FRIDAYS ONLY** until Friday May 31 (delivery Thursday, March 28 due to Good Friday Holiday), students will be able to have popcorn delivered to their classrooms for snack time!

Purchases must be made via **School Cash Online February 21-March 6**. Select the week and the popcorn flavours you wish to order for your student. Each bag is \$2.00.

We will have **LIMITED** bags and flavours available for **CASH SALES** for students on Fridays in the foyer from 11:10am-11:50am.

Proceeds will support grade 8 graduation and end of year trip.

Thank you for your support! Grade 8 Graduation Committee



**6 Flavours to choose from: Butter & Salt, White Cheddar, Dill Pickle, Sweet & Salty, Salt & Vinegar, and Chipotle Cheddar! Only \$2.00 per bag!**

**NO LARGE BILLS (\$50/\$100) WILL BE ACCEPTED**

## YARD GATES CLOSED AT 9:30AM - DO NOT OPEN!

Please note that yard supervision ends when the bell rings at 9:30 a.m. At this time the gates will be closed and any student arriving past 9:30 a.m. should report to the main office as per the **Safe Schools Act**. Opening the gates after this time not only sends your own student into an unsupervised area but you also risk other students exiting the property without supervision. Failure to follow this procedure can result in unattended and/or missing students for safe arrival. We appreciate your cooperation in keeping our Harvest Hills students safe.



## HOW EMAILING AHEAD HELPS WITH EARLY DISMISSALS

- The office cannot dismiss students who are out on a community walk with their class. By messaging in advance the teacher can plan to return to the school for pick up time or make alternate arrangements for the student to stay back with another class.
- Students spend time in many different areas of our school such as the gym, library, visits to other classrooms and the general purpose room for activities like music. By notifying the office of an early pick up the teacher can ensure your student will have all of their belongs with them and the office can locate the student easily once you arrive.
- Teachers can make sure that the student has enough time to clean up any projects they are working on before you arrive and where possible teachers can plan classroom activities with consideration to the student leaving early (i.e. tests and presentations).
- The office can notify supply teachers in the event your classroom teacher is absent.
- The office can notify you if your planned arrival time is during recess. Students are with duty teachers during the breaks and it can be difficult to locate them.

We Appreciate your help!



## HAWKS SPORTS UPDATES

### Intermediate Boys Basketball

The Intermediate Boys Basketball team worked hard and improved so much over the season. We won two games and lost in the semi-finals at the Zones tournament. The boys displayed sportsmanship, leadership, and hustle. We are so proud of how they represented Harvest Hills as student athletes! Way to go boys!

**IMPORTANT**

Spectators are not allowed at games without parental supervision.

Thank you for your assistance!

### Intermediate Girls Volleyball

A huge congratulations goes out to our Intermediate Girls Volleyball team for a very successful season. They had a great season and should be very proud of themselves. The girls were fabulous representatives of Harvest Hills during our games and our area tournament. Ms. McGuire and Miss Loftus thank you for all of your hard work and dedication. Way to go girls!

### Dodgeball

The Harvest Hills Dodgeball League is in full swing! Students in Grades 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 are having tons of fun participating in games of Dr. Dodgeball during select recesses.



## EXTENDED ABSENCES FOR TRIPS/VACATIONS -URGENT

**IMPORTANT  
NOTICE**

We often have several families leave for extended vacations during the school year. It is **mandatory** to let the school know in advance via email at [harvesthills@scdsb.on.ca](mailto:harvesthills@scdsb.on.ca) of student absences due to extended travel/trips. Please do not send these notifications to the homeroom teachers, the office will advise them as necessary. This is part of the Safe Schools program in conjunction with the Safe Arrival Program.

If the email is sent to the teachers and they are not here, the student will be marked absent unknown, and safe arrival calls will go out to you and all the emergency contacts you provided until we know that the student is safe. If there is no reply from parents/guardians/emergency contacts because you are out of the country, the school may have to contact South Simcoe Police to perform a wellness check. This is a board procedure to ensure the safety of all our students.

For absences of 1-14 days, the office will update the student attendance as required. **Please note that if a student is absent for 15 or more consecutive days**, in accordance with the Simcoe County District School Board, we must take them off our enrollment roster and re-enroll them when they return. **This is per the Government of Ontario Ministry of Education guidelines.**

The Ministry will make exceptions if your student will be absent 15+ days due to medical procedures or serious illness if documentation is provided by the accredited Physician treating the student.

Provided the office receives notice before your student leaves for the extended absence, the office will coordinate the paperwork required here on site to demit and then re-admit your student without parents/guardians having to register their student online all over again. If you do not provide notice before leaving, you will be required to register your student upon your return via the board website as you did when your student first attended a Simcoe County school.

Where possible we will attempt to place your student in the same class when they return but we cannot guarantee this placement due to ongoing registrations and Ministry of Education class caps.

There is no asynchronous learning available during extended travel, this was an emergency measure for Covid 19 only.

**NOTE: French Immersion students who are withdrawn for 15+ days absences will lose their placement in the French Immersion program. The student will then have to return to their home school in Bradford (based on your home address) to continue in the regular English stream if and until a space opens again. Parent/Guardians may apply to the French Immersion Program waitlist before they leave by contacting the school office in such cases.**

### REMINDER WE ARE SCENT FREE!!

If you are visiting the school please make sure to be **Scent Free**. We have several individuals in the building with allergies and asthma.

### STUDENT LUNCHES

Please make sure to send your child's lunch and snacks to school with them in the morning.

**No fast-food lunches are to be dropped off for students**



**Harvest Hills is a Nut Aware, Shell Fish Aware & Scent Free school. Please refrain from bringing any products containing nuts and/or shell fish to the school and from wearing any scents. We have staff and students that are greatly affected and may have anaphylaxis reactions. Thank you.**



## SCHOOL ACCESS INFORMATION 2023-2024

**Please send students with lunch and all items they need for the day in the morning when leaving home. There will be limited staff to answer the door for forgotten items between 9:30 am–3:50pm. School doors are locked as per the SCDSB Safe School Policy.**

Please ensure your students have plenty of lunch, snacks, water and extra clothing in their backpacks for washroom accidents and come prepared with proper clothing for the weather (ie. mittens, hats, ect). Thank you for your assistance as we strive to keep our students and staff safe and healthy.

If your student needs to be signed out, **we ask that you send an email to the office in advance [harvesthills@scdsb.on.ca](mailto:harvesthills@scdsb.on.ca). PLEASE DO NOT EMAIL or MESSAGE** the teachers directly because the office will not receive your messages if they are not at school that day, the office will advise the teacher. Once you arrive at the school, please ring the front doorbell and we will call your student down and a staff member will then escort the student to the front doors for the parent/guardian. Photo identification, as always, will be required to pickup a student from Harvest Hills.

## SIGN UP WITH SCHOOLCASH ONLINE

School Cash Online is now the board system for all permission forms, school forms with no fees and purchases. Whether it's lunch days, field trips or school wear, we have it online for you!

Follow these three steps to get started:

1. Go to [simcoecounty.schoolcashonline.com](http://simcoecounty.schoolcashonline.com) or visit our school website and click on 'Pay Fees'
2. Register and add your student to the newly created account
3. View and purchase items through bank transfer or credit card

It's safe, fast and convenient!

Contact the office with any questions at [harvesthills@scdsb.on.ca](mailto:harvesthills@scdsb.on.ca)



## PARKING LOT

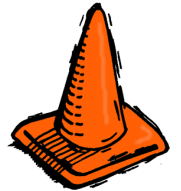


Our parking lots are very busy especially at arrival and dismissal time. For everyone's safety, we encourage parents to have students in the bus areas to please take the bus to and from school daily. Walking students walk to and from school daily.

**Please do not park out front of the school on Crossland Boulevard as per the town of Bradford West Gwillimbury. South Simcoe Police Serviced and By-law officers have been monitoring and ticketing this area.**

The WEST parking lot is for school buses and staff only. Only school vehicles (school buses and vans) or emergency vehicles (ambulances/Police cars) are allowed in the school bus loading zone that is in the WEST parking lot.

The EAST parking has the **designated student pick-up and drop-off**. The lot may have some parking spaces open when you arrive for pickup and drop off other than the dedicated accessible parking spots (which can only be used by those with legal permits). If you arrive before 9:15am to drop off your students, please park in open parking spaces. If you arrive early at dismissal, please follow the same process of parking where spaces are open. **Please keep the pick-up and drop-off lane moving.**



Thank you for keeping our students and school community safe!

## SAFE ARRIVAL



If your student will be absent/late, please call the school's safe arrival line at **1-888-885-8065**. Leave a message with your student's name (spelling the last name), teacher/grade, and date of absence and the reason for the absence. This is a

24-hour service where a message must be left if your student will be absent or late.

**OR email absences to [hhlattendance@scdsb.on.ca](mailto:hhlattendance@scdsb.on.ca).** If your student is absent for 3 or more consecutive days, please send a note to the office. **PLEASE DO NOT EMAIL or MESSAGE the teachers directly** because the office will not receive your messages if they are not at school that day.



# News From Simcoe County District School Board

## March 2024

Date(s)	Observance
March 1-31	Bangladeshi Heritage Month
	Hellenic Heritage Month
March 1	Bahá'i Fast (Bahá'i)
	National Employee Appreciation Day
	Zero Discrimination Day
March 3	World Wildlife Day
March 4-8	Black Mental Health Week
March 8	International Women's Day
	Maha Shivratri (Hinduism)
March 10 – April 9	Ramadan (Islam)
March 11	National COVID-19 Day of Observance
March 12	Epilepsy Awareness Day
March 14	Memorial of Shan-tao/Zendo Daishi (Buddhism)
	National Pi Day
	Sikh New Year (Sikhism)
March 15	International Day to Combat Islamophobia
March 17	Irish Heritage Day
March 18	Clean Monday (Christianity)
March 19	Ostara/Mabon/Lady Day/Spring Equinox (Wicca)
March 20	Festival of Higan-e (Buddhism)
	French Language Day
	International Day of Happiness
	Naw Ruz/New Year (Bahá'i)
	New Year (Hindu)
March 21	Eid-e-Navroz (Islam)
	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
	International Day of Forests
	Navroze/New Year (Zoroastrianism – Fasli Calendar)
	World Down Syndrome Day
	World Poetry Day

# News From Simcoe County District School Board

March 22	World Water Day
March 23	National School Crossing Guard Appreciation Day
March 23-24	Purim (Judaism)
March 25	Holi (Hinduism)
	International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade
March 25-27	Hola Mohalla (Sikhism)
March 26	Khordad Sal (Zoroastrianism – Fasli Calendar)
	Purple Day – Supporting Epilepsy
March 29	Good Friday (Christianity)
March 30	Earth Hour
March 31	Easter (Christianity)
	International Transgender Day of Visibility

[www.scdsb.on.ca/about/equity\\_and\\_inclusion](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/about/equity_and_inclusion)