

Walter E. Harris Hurricanes!

October, 2020



“A unique and caring experience”

“Me tient à coeur.”

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER!



We would like to thank our Walter E. Harris Public School community for a fantastic first month. We appreciate the support, understanding, patience, collaboration and cooperation demonstrated by all students and parents/guardians this past month.

We are so happy to have our students back at the school!

Reminder Regarding Kiss and Ride

We have some big requests when it comes to the Kiss and Ride.

- For Covid-19 related reasons (e.g. limiting touch points, social distancing, etc.), we will not have staff members assigned to the Kiss and Ride this year.
- Parents/guardians are not permitted to exit their vehicle at any time while in the Kiss and Ride. Students are able to get out of their vehicles independently. A suggestion is to practice this with your child at home so they can exit the vehicle quickly and safely.
- Due to the reasons listed in a and b above, we are kindly asking our Walter E. Harris community to consider adopting a new approach to morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up. We would prefer and are encouraging all families to consider parking their vehicles on nearby side streets and walking to the school to drop or pick-up your child(ren). This will limit congestion in the Kiss and Ride and will keep all our students and staff safe. Due to specific limitations/constraints, we understand that this may not be possible for all families. With that said, we are asking those that are able, to please work with us by honouring this request so that we can maintain the safest drop-off/pick-up possible, given the current circumstances. To ensure safety and avoid congestion, parents/guardians should also consider walking, biking or using a safe drop-off location near the school.

Safe Arrival Line

24 hours

Toll Free Number:

1-844-350-2646

Website:

attendance.ddsbc.ca

Principal

Trina Lewis

Vice Principal

Michael Loscavo

Administrative Assistants

Melody Colatosti

Kathleen Park

Superintendent

Jack Nigro

Administrative Officer

Michel Bowman

Oshawa Trustees

Michael Barrett

Darlene Forbes

Ashley Noble

Address

495 Central Blvd North,
Oshawa, ON
L1G 6A2
Canada

Website:

<http://www.ddsbc.ca/school/waltereharris>

8:00 Entry

10:45 -11:55 Lunch

2:40 Dismissal

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER CONTINUED...

Social Distancing on the Yard

As smooth as our return to school has been, one of our ongoing difficulties is around social distancing on the school yard during recess. Staff are providing constant and regular communications to students about the importance of maintaining a distance. However, for some students the message is not being received. We would appreciate it if parents/guardians addressed with their child(ren) about the importance of trying to maintain a social distance while on the yard during recess. Your prompt attention to this matter and cooperation is greatly appreciated. Our main priority and focus continues to be maintaining and providing students with the safest learning environment as possible.

Transferring to DDSB@Home (Virtual School)

We understand that some of you are considering a transfer to the DDSB@Home virtual school and other families are currently on the waitlist. We also know that many of you are choosing to continue with in-person learning. At Walter E. Harris P.S., we are making every effort to ensure that our school continues to be safe to attend, and we are committed to open and transparent communication with you during the COVID-19 pandemic.

For anyone wishing to transfer from in-person to virtual learning, this will take place on November 16, 2020. This is the time that students receive their Progress Report and is a natural break in the term so that teachers can effectively assess students and assign grades.

Deadline to Request a Transfer

For us to re-staff classrooms by November 16, 2020, you must inform the Durham District School Board no later than October 5, 2020 if you would like your child(ren) to switch to DDSB@Home. Requests received after this date will be placed on a waitlist closing January 7, 2021 for a transfer to take place at the start of Term 2 on February 1, 2021.

How to Request a Transfer

You can request to be added to the waitlist by logging into the parent portal, clicking the DDSB@Home Waitlist button in the navigation menu and following the instructions on the page. You can opt to be added or removed from the waitlist this way and can change your selection there. Please do not e-mail the school office to request a transfer as the page on the parent portal is the best way to make this request. If you are having trouble logging into your parent portal account, please e-mail parentportal@ddsb.ca

The deadline is necessary for us to accurately know how many families would like to switch between in-person learning and DDSB@Home. We then may need to assess the size of the waitlist and undertake a reorganization that will result in staff likely being shifted from in-person classrooms to DDSB@Home. This is a complicated process and some students will have different classmates and will likely have a different classroom teacher. If there are large waitlist numbers, it is possible an earlier transition may occur and/or that this plan may change so it is critical that we know by October 5, 2020 of your intentions.

Yours in education,

Trina Lewis (Principal) and Michael Loscavo (Vice Principal)

Follow us on Twitter!!!



Walter E. Harris

@EcoleWEH

French Immersion Grades 1-8

Scent Sensitivities at School Use Sense with Scents

Please be mindful that there are a number of staff and students with scent sensitivities.

Thank you for your ongoing support.



Allergies and Medication

Please let the school know if your child has a severe or life-threatening allergy or medical condition. If your child requires medication or medical care while at school, please contact the office for the appropriate forms, which must be completed and signed by your physician annually. Medication must be stored in the office at all times.

School Community Council

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Next Meeting: *October 5th*, 2029 at 6:00 in the Staff Room

The SCC is a group of interested parents, guardians and school members who meet once a month. This advisory body plans fundraising and student activities, working together to make the school a better place for all.

Character Education Matters

Trait/Focus of the Month...





October is... ISLAMIC HISTORY MONTH

On October 25, 2007, the Parliament of Canada officially declared October as Islamic History Month in Canada. This is intended to be a time for Canadians to celebrate and focus on Muslim cultural heritage and the over 1000 years of Muslim contribution to world history and knowledge in order to build bridges between Canadian Muslims and all Canadians.

Background image:

'Doorway in courtyard, Morocco, North Africa'



**ALL EVENTS LISTED BELOW ARE FREE AND
OPEN TO ALL DDSB STUDENTS, STAFF AND FAMILIES**



MEND Presents
Islamic Heritage Month 2020
Elevating Voices

ISLAMIC HERITAGE MONTH 2020 LAUNCH

October 1, 2020 | 7:15-8 p.m.

October marks the beginning of Islamic Heritage Month. The Muslim Educators' Network invites you to kick off Islamic Heritage Month: Gone Virtual. The evening will highlight the amazing events planned for Islamic Heritage Month. Guests will be treated to student performances and guest speakers. Join us as we celebrate in the pride of Islamic Heritage.

FAMILY FITNESS NIGHT (KID'S EDITION)

October 8, 2020 | 6-6:45 p.m.

Are you looking for ways to keep your family fit while maintaining social distancing? Get ready to participate in a virtual workout with Mr. Funi! He will teach you ways to keep your family fit and active while at home.

**FAMILY FITNESS NIGHT WITH
COMMUNITY NURSE (PARENT SESSION)**

October 8, 2020 | 7:15-8 p.m.

This session will offer parents an opportunity to learn about keeping our children safe and healthy during the pandemic. Nurse Maryam Abdel-Salam will offer tips and answer questions regarding Covid safety.

STORY TIME WITH MEND

October 15, 2020 | 6-6:45 p.m.

Snuggle up for storytime with MEND while listening to a live reading by astounding children's storybook author Asmaa Hussein. Children will have the opportunity to post questions and learn about the writing process.

**ELEVATING THE VOICES OF OUR BLACK MUSLIM
COMMUNITY (PARENT SESSION)**

October 15, 2020 | 7:15-8:00 p.m.

Join a discussion on anti-Black racism and Islamophobia with a panel of Black Muslim educators and students. Panelists will share their experiences and the importance of community support.

FAMILY ART NIGHT

October 22, 2020 | 6-6:45 p.m.

Get CRAFTY! MEND is hosting an art night for ALL families under the expert instruction of talented, professional local artists. Create a beautiful themed art piece that explores the richness of Islamic cultures around the world. All levels of creativity at all ages are welcome. All sessions begin at 6 p.m. sharp, so don't be late.

**TAKING CARE OF THE MIND AND SOUL
DURING COVID (PARENT SESSION)**

October 22, 2020 | 7:15- 8:00 p.m.

In this workshop families will engage in a conversation around mental health and well being with leading health experts. This session will highlight the importance of a healthy mind and provide strategies to maintain balance during these unprecedented times.

FAMILY STEM NIGHT

October 29, 2020 | 6-6:45 p.m.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) is the incorporation of engineering and technology into the study of mathematics and science. Families and students are invited to participate in an evening of fun, interactive and engaging STEM activities that include circuit programming, coding and math. Students and families will have an opportunity to explore and learn with STEM experts.

**NAVIGATING THE ONLINE CLASSROOM
(PARENT SESSION)**

October 29, 2020 | 7:15- 8:00 p.m.

In this session parents will learn about the online platforms and tools that students are using during distance learning. Topics will include navigating Google Classroom and other programs, as well as tips for virtual learning success.

REGISTER AT WWW.WEAREMEND.CA

October is

Hispanic Heritage Month

Ontario is home to more than 400,000 first, second and third generation Canadians of Hispanic origin. As early as 1914, Canadians who originated from the 23 Hispanic countries began immigrating to the province and today the Hispanic community is one of the fastest growing in Ontario. Hispanic-Canadians represent a dynamic community that has made significant contributions to the growth and prosperity of the Province of Ontario.

Support all dimensions
of diversity.



October is

Women's History Month

**International Day of the Girl Child (UN)
October 11**

October is Women's History Month in Canada, an opportunity for Canadians to learn about women's and girls' valuable contributions to our country's history – and to the quality of our lives in the 21st century.

For more information: <http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/commemoration/whm-mhf/idex-eng.html> ,
<http://www.nwhm.org/html/involved/donttellme/index.html>

Support all dimensions
of diversity





Lesbian Gay Bisexual Trans
History Month

We Value the Diversity of our Community!

The Durham District School Board values and respects all members in its school community. We believe that it is important that our school libraries and classroom resources reflect inclusivity and serve to foster sensitivity towards individuals and groups that have traditionally been and/or are currently being marginalized within the broader society. These resources serve to identify and remove barriers that may exist for various groups and families. They may touch on topics of ethnicity, disability, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, family status and marital status. They are intended to help students to acquire the knowledge and skills that enable them to challenge unjust practices, and to build positive human relationships as members of a global community. Our goal is to provide students with opportunities to promote equity and social justice.

October 5-9 - Solidarity Week

October 3-9 - Sukkot (Judaism)

October 5th - World Teachers' Day

October 11th - Simchat Torah (Judaism)

October 11th - National Coming Out Day

October 11th - International Day of the Girl

October 17 - Navratri (Hinduism)

October 18 - Birth of the Bab (Bahai)

October 18th - Birth Of Bahá'u'lláh (Bahá'í)

October 23 - Durga Puja (Hinduism)

October 25th - Dussehra (Hinduism)

October 29 - Eid-Milad-un-Nabi Islam

October 31 - Samhain (Wicca)

October 31 - Halloween





The School Community Council(SCC) supports student achievement and well-being through an advisory role with the school principal. SCC also supports parent engagement and communication between home and school.

This year with the creation of the DDSB@Home virtual schools, parents/guardians may wish to be involved in both their home school SCC as well as the virtual DDSB@Home SCC. Students have been cross-enrolled in the virtual school with their home school allowing parents/guardians to participate in both SCC's.

We encourage and welcome new and returning School Community Council (S.C.C.) members to attend our first meeting on **Monday, October 5th at 6:00 p.m** (which will be virtual - Google Meet link to be sent closer to the meeting date). The role of the S.C.C. is to act as a liaison and "voice" between the school and parent community in regards to school fundraising items, academic achievement and school events, and is a great way to get involved in your child's education. The first meeting will involve elections, if needed, for the 2020-2021 S.C.C. executive positions (Chair or Co-Chairs, Treasurer, Secretary). All parents interested in running for an executive position must complete a Parent Nomination Form and scan and email it to the office by Friday, October 2nd. (email address: waltereharrisps@ddsb.ca). The nomination form is included below.

Parents who are not interested in being a part of the Executive Council, but would like to attend the meetings, are always welcome to attend as well.

We look forward to working with you over the school year!

Trina Lewis
Principal

Michael Loscavo
Vice Principal

School Community Council Candidate Nomination Form

2020 - 2021



School Name: Walter E. Harris Public School

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone # _____ E-mail Address: _____

I am the parent/guardian of _____

currently registered at Walter E. Harris Public School in grade(s) _____.

YES, I AM INTERESTED IN BEING ON THE WALTER E. HARRIS SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL.

I would like to be a General Member of the Council OR

I wish to declare my candidacy for an elected position on the Walter E. Harris Public School Community Council (SCC).

Please check any position(s) you are interested in holding.

Elections will be held on Monday, October 5th at 6:00 p.m. unless positions are acclaimed.

Co-Chair (two positions)

Treasurer

Secretary

I understand the role and responsibilities of a member of the SCC.

Candidate's Signature _____ Date: _____

Received by: _____ Date: _____

Walter E. Harris Public School Nomination Form Receipt

The nomination form for _____ has been received for the S.C.C. at
Walter E. Harris Public School.

School Official: _____ Date: _____



Providing safe learning environments is a strong and constant focus at the Durham District School Board. Families should however recognize that there is always a potential risk of injury with field trips, sports and other student activities both on and off school grounds. Accidents can happen, despite precautions to prevent them. Accidental injuries may involve medical, dental or other expenses not covered by provincial health care or employer group plans.

Please be aware that the Durham District School Board does not provide accident insurance coverage for student injuries. For your convenience, we do make available a Student Accident Insurance program through Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada. This program offers a variety of plans and benefits at affordable prices.

All rates are one-time annual premiums. The insurance agreement is between **you** and **Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada**. For complete details please refer to the *insuremykids Protection Plan* information/application form or visit their website at: www.insuremykids.com.

Any questions should be directed to Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada toll free at 1-800-463-5437.