



# Billy Green School

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PRINCIPAL: Mr. B. Berketa  
VICE-PRINCIPALS: Mrs. J. Adler & Mrs. C. Barwinski

## January-February 2017

### Principal's Message—Mr. Berketa

Happy New Year! In this busy world of ours I know how hard it is to juggle the many personal, work, household and family commitments and still make time to read the school newsletter and the many other forms of communication that come from the school in print, on the website or by phone message. I would like to thank all of our families that are able to make the time to keep up to date as the partnership between home and school makes a big difference in a child's success and attitude at school. Just like many households our school is a busy place too. On February 17 your child will receive their term 1 report card that will communicate their learning skills and levels of achievement from September until the end of January. Celebrate the successes and take note of the areas for improvement and work with your child and your child's teacher to develop a plan in any areas where your child is struggling.

I am pleased to welcome Vice Principal Mrs. Barwinski to Billy Green. Mrs. Barwinski is at our school every morning. Mrs. Adler is at Billy Green on Days 1, 3 and alternate 5. I am also pleased to welcome Mrs. Gayle Hyatt to our office staff. Mrs. Aitken has accepted the position of Office Administrator at Green Acres School. We offer her best wishes in her new position.

Please note that student supervision in the morning does not start until 8:25am. We are noticing that a few students are arriving prior to this time. Supervision and care of students is a parent/guardian responsibility prior to this time. If you require before school care for your child prior to 8:25am please consider contacting YMCA who offers before and after school care for Billy Green students.

Billy Green participates in the TipOff service. This service is an anonymous reporting tool that can be used to report incidents of bullying or crime. Please visit [www.hwdsb.on.ca/schools/tipoff/](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/schools/tipoff/) for more information on this program. Reports can be made through this service by texting, use of the app or calling.

### Traffic

When dropping off or picking up students please ensure that you are obeying all street, driveway and parking lot signage as well as following staff direction to maintain the flow of traffic. **Patience is essential** at these times as we are moving over 480 students into or out of the building as well maintaining the flow of many vehicles and buses. Remember that you should not be entering the parking lot at school entry and dismissal to drop off or pick up your child as this interferes with bus traffic flow and creates a safety risk. There are walkways from the sidewalk to the school at the north and south ends of the school property that should be used. Please also respect our neighbours by not parking in front of their driveways or parking in nearby condominium parking lots. This has resulted in by-law enforcement fines. Please do not compromise safety for convenience!



**January 27**  
P.A. Day  
No School

**February 6**  
Kindergarten  
Registration

**February 17**  
Report Cards  
Go Home

**February 20**  
Family Day  
No School

**February 23**  
School Council  
Meeting

**March 3**  
P.A. Day  
No School

# Kindergarten

LEARN and GROW  
at **HWDSB**



Kindergarten Registration begins on **Monday, February 6, 2017**

As we anticipate a large number of registrants this year, please see below for our Registration Process.

### Registration Information

Parents/Guardians are welcome to register in person on

**Monday, February 6, 2016 - 9:00 am to 2:30 pm.**

If you are not available to come on this day, continual registration is available

Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 2:30 pm.

If you are not available to come during these times,

please call the office and inquire about getting a registration package.

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## Cold Weather and Outdoor Play

Please note the following information on cold weather and outdoor play available on our website at: <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/schools/inclement-weather/>

Time spent outdoors is an integral part of the school day. There are great benefits when children experience fresh air, exercise and time spent time outside. Outdoor play is also a break from the structure of the classroom.



Depending on the season, preparing for outdoor play in Canada can mean anything from applying sunscreen to wear mittens and a hat. During winter, it's important that children come to school prepared for the cold. Students should wear boots, mittens/gloves and hats and it's a good idea to pack extra mittens, socks, etc. in case they are needed.

Principals can always use their judgment to decide whether to send students outside for recess. However, HWDSB asks Principals to follow the City of Hamilton recommendation that individuals stay inside when the temperature drops below -15 C without wind chill. Questions or concerns regarding winter outdoor play should be directed to the school Principal.

Parents are encouraged to go to [hamiltonschoolbus.ca](http://hamiltonschoolbus.ca) to check for any potential transportation delays.

### How does snow-clearing work around HWDSB schools?



With winter ahead, parents may be interested in some of the following information about snow clearing around schools in Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB). Note that staff, contractors and the City of Hamilton share this responsibility. We urge all visitors to our schools to use caution when grounds may be slippery.

The City of Hamilton is responsible for clearing snow and ice from sidewalks directly in front of schools. Clearing sidewalks in front of schools is a top priority for the City. It may take up to 24 hours after a snow event for the sidewalks to be cleared. To report a sidewalk fronting a school that needs to be cleared please call 905-546-CITY (2489).

HWDSB staff will clear, salt and/or sand walkways from the city sidewalk to the school; school steps and portable steps; walkways to the portables; ramps to schools and portables; an area outside of entrances and Fire Exit Doors; and Fire Exit stairs and ramps.

Facing more than 5 cm of snow, approved contractors will plow parking lots and sidewalks. Before schools starts, contracted staff will salt and sand the parking lot when HWDSB Facilities staff deem it necessary. If required, Head Caretakers may also salt or sand parts of the parking lot.

Note that playgrounds will not be ploughed or cleared. However, Head Caretakers will inspect playgrounds and will sand and/or salt isolated areas that have become slippery due to changing temperatures.

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### **Lost and Found**

During the last 2 school days of each month lost and found clothing items will be on display on the wall hooks on the 2nd floor. Please encourage your child to check regularly for lost items. The items that are not claimed will be donated to a local charity.



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### **Student Spectators at Games**

We are proud that many of our students, especially those in the upper grades want to stay to observe and support our “Gator” athletes when games take place after school, however some family pre-planning is required. Students have been reminded that they are not permitted to attend games unless they are in the care of a parent or an adult caregiver. The teachers/school staff that are present at games are focused on their coaching responsibilities during these times. It is recommended that students who wish to observe games take their usual mode of transportation home after school and return with a parent or caregiver.

Students who are in the care of an adult other than their own parent must have a signed note indicating permission has been granted for this arrangement. Students who are not taking their usual method of transportation home after school and/or are going to another location prior to a game must have a note signed by a parent indicating the arrangements. This needs to be shared with the office well in advance and not at the end of the day.



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### **How to Change Authorized Parent/Guardian Names at Bus Stop**

If you would like to change or update the names of caregivers who have permission to greet your child at the bus stop at the end of the day, go to [www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca](http://www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca), choose Parent’s Portal, JK/SK Authorizations and complete the on-line form.

**Toddler and Preschool Program located in Gatestone Elementary School**

127 Gatestone Drive, Stoney Creek | Telephone: 905.573.9268

Open 7 am – 6 pm: Monday through Friday

Umbrella Family and Child Centres of Hamilton is a non-profit organization, offering high-quality licensed child care to over 1,400 children each day, ranging in age from 18 months to 12 years. Currently, we operate 27 programs in Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board elementary schools.

Spaces are currently available in our toddler and preschool programs at **Gatestone Elementary School**. Registered Early Childhood Educators provide a program that promotes healthy growth and skill development through age appropriate play activities. Nutritious lunches and snacks are provided daily. Fee subsidy is available.

# Students of the Week







**HAMILTON-  
WENTWORTH**  
DISTRICT  
SCHOOL  
BOARD



# TipOff

## School safety starts with you!

Get help or share anonymous tips on  
bullying & crime, text or call:

**905-963-0066**

*(Standard text messaging rates apply.)*

**Download the free TipOff app**



iPhone



If you have questions, contact your school principal.



Web chat also available at

**[www.hwdsb.on.ca/schools/tipoff](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/schools/tipoff)**