



Billy Green School

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PRINCIPAL: Mr. B. Berketa
VICE-PRINCIPAL: Mrs. B. MacDiarmid

December 2017/January 2018



Important Dates

Dec. 25—Jan. 5 Holiday Break (School Closed)

Jan. 8—First Day of Classes

Jan. 18—School Council Meeting 6:30pm

Jan. 26—PA Day (No School for Students)

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents:

With 4 months of the school year behind us already it is a great time to reflect on our progress thus far, make adjustments and set new goals for the new year 2018.

To improve the efficiency of our office we ask that if it is necessary to pick up your child before the end of the school day, or if you are changing your child's normal dismissal routine please ensure that you contact the school office prior to 1:30pm. Our office is extremely busy at the end of the day and for safety and security reasons it is essential that any change in plan is communicated to the office and your child's teacher well in advance. Please note that if someone other than the child's parent or guardian wishes to pick up a child from school we require authorization in writing or by phone from the custodial parent / guardian before we will release the child to that individual. Please make every effort to send your child's lunch with them in the morning rather than dropping it off during the day.

As wonderful as it has been having Mrs. MacDiarmid as our Vice Principal this fall she is very much looking forward to returning to retirement for the new year. Currently the HWDSB continues to experience a shortage of administrators. As a result we will continue to have the expertise and experience of a retired

principal in the Vice Principal role in January. I'm pleased to welcome **Mrs. Lindy Millen** to Billy Green starting in January.

I continue to be grateful for the support of the Billy Green community. Thanks to our School Council for their recent efforts in organizing the Winter Market as well as looking after our Wednesday popcorn days. Thank you to our parent volunteers who assist our staff and students in a variety of ways on a daily basis from providing extra academic support to students, assisting with class trips, helping with lunch days and assisting teachers and our office team. Prior to working in the school volunteers must complete a registration package, submit a police check including a **vulnerable sector screening search** and be approved by the principal or vice principal. As per the new HWDSB volunteer policy police checks are only valid for a maximum of 3 years and annual offence declarations are required.

As we approach the holiday season I am proud of the generosity demonstrated by our students, staff and community as we support those less fortunate. I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy holiday!

Mr. Berketa

2018



Library News

We would like to thank the Gibson and Hageman families for their generous donations of new and gently used books. We can always use more books for our library that are suitable for Kindergarten to grade 8. Please contact Ms. Miller-Boyes for more information on what types of books we can accept for the library.

Library books are due back December 8 so that the library can be organized for the new year. There will be no book sign out after November 30. Book sign out will begin again on January 8, 2018.

Students can access a wide variety of resources on the Board's website through the HUB. Directions on how to access the HUB are attached. If you print off the directions page, there is a spot for your child to record their login information. There are some great websites for all students to access.

Thanks to the HWDSB Foundation

Billy Green School would like to thank the HWDSB Foundation for their support in purchasing dual language books for our learning commons. Students have the opportunity to share in their culture with their families while reading books in their first language. As well, students who are learning English will have the opportunity to read curriculum related topics in their first language. The foundation grant facilitated the school in purchasing both picture books, non fiction books and novels in various languages, for students and families to enjoy.

Drinking Water Testing and Drinking Water Fixture Signage

Ontario is continuing to protect children's health with new regulation changes aimed at improving drinking water testing in child care centres and schools to minimize children's exposure to lead.

New amendments to Ontario Regulation 243/07 that took effect July 1, 2017, now require lead testing within these facilities for all fixtures used to provide drinking water and/or prepare food or drink for children under 18. There is a three-year period to test at elementary schools and child care centres, and a five-year period to complete testing at secondary schools.

Ontario Regulation 243/07 also requires testing to measure the presence of lead in drinking water against the provincial drinking water quality standard of 10 micrograms per litre, based on a national guideline set by Health Canada.

As we go through testing each year at Billy Green you may notice stickers around certain sinks in the school. Any water fixture that is meant to provide water for consumption or for food preparation will be clearly labelled with a sign illustrating that the water is provided for drinking purposes. Water fountains will not have these signs as their intended purpose is for drinking.

Cold Weather and Outdoor Play

Time spent outdoors is an integral part of the school day. Children need fresh air and exercise and time spent outside affords students an opportunity to break free from the structure of the classroom.



With the Canadian climate, time spent outside could mean anything from applying sunscreen to donning extra mittens and a hat, depending on the season. In the winter, it's important children come to school prepared for the cold. Boots, mittens or gloves and hats should be worn to school and it's a good idea to provide extra mittens, socks, etc. in the event they are needed.

As always, Principals can use their judgment in determining whether or not students remain inside during recess given the weather conditions. However, the City of Hamilton's Public Health and Community Services Department recommends individuals stay indoors when the temperature drops below minus 15 degrees Celsius without wind chill.

The Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board asks Principals to follow this recommendation and ensure children are not outside when it is that cold. Questions or concerns regarding outdoor activities in the winter should be directed to the school Principal.

Cancellation of School and Board Operations

The decision to cancel School and Board Administrative Operations is often a difficult call to make. Please be assured that the decision to remain open or to close is always made with the safety and security of our students and staff in mind.

In the event of inclement weather, our Transportation Department advises our carriers to drive predetermined routes to assess the condition of the roads. This is done between 4:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. The drivers report back to the carriers and HWDSB begins to receive reports between 5:30 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.

In the meantime, our Transportation Department is verifying the weather forecast through our local media outlets as well as contacting the City of Hamilton Works Department to determine where possible what roads have been cleared or when they are expected to be serviced.

We will make every effort to cancel all school and board administrative operations by **6:00 a.m.**

School Boards across Ontario have varying policies about the cancellation of schools. At HWDSB, the cancellation of transportation due to **inclement weather** immediately triggers the closure of our schools. However, at its meeting of November 17, 2014, the Board of Trustees approved a resolution that allows the Director, (or designate), the discretion to keep schools open in the event transportation is cancelled due to **extreme cold temperatures**.

Please remember, as a parent/guardian you always have the choice on whether or not to send your child to school.

Hotline # 905.521.2535

HWDSB will NOT post a weather alert on its website to signal that schools are open. For more information on the Cancellation of School & Board Operations visit our Policy page at: <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/schools/inclement-weather/>

Please listen to stations indicated for cancellation information: KLITE FM 102.9 FM, CJXY-Y108 FM 107.8 FM, CHAM 820 AM, CHML 900 AM, Oldies 1150 1150 AM; CHKX-KX94.7.FM; CKPC Brantford 1380 AM, 92.1 FM, CHTV Hamilton,

www.hwdsb.on.ca

No Cheques Please

Our preferred method of payment for school items such as lunches, trips and other events is School Cash Online. Cash is also accepted.

<https://hwdsb.schoolcashionline.com/>



Hand Hygiene and Health



It is the time of year that various illnesses spread. Please review with your children (and practice yourself) correct handwashing procedures and emphasize the importance of doing so especially after using the washroom.

If your children are sick, and especially when they exhibit any of the following symptoms: fever, stomach upset, vomiting and/or diarrhea they need to stay home and remain at home until they have been symptom free for a full 24 hours. Please ensure that your emergency contact information is up to date at the school office and that you have a plan in place should your child(ren) need to be picked up from school if they are ill.

Stay healthy!

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!

Dear Parents and Students:

The HUB is a resource available to all students through HWDSB. It allows us to share resources with students that they can access at school AND at home. It is a protected virtual learning environment that can provide enrichment to what students are learning during the day at school.

Here is how to access these resources with your child.

1. Go to **home.hwdsb.on.ca** in any browser (Google Chrome, Firefox, Internet Explorer, Safari)
2. Click on the **I am a STUDENT** icon.



3. Click on the purple **HUB** icon.



4. Sign in with child's individual student username and password.
5. Click on the waffle at the top of the screen to get to the school's Library / Learning Commons. You can switch between different courses if there are several here.



Explore some of the awesome resources

GRADE CAROUSELS

Scroll down to the bottom to explore some of the grade resources.



Click on your child's **grade number** to see some great activities and resources related to different curriculum areas.






These are older activities based on flash player so they work better on a computer. To access it on a tablet, use the app “puffin browser”.

VIRTUAL LIBRARY

Click on the Virtual Library icon to the right of the screen to access virtual books and research resources.

Students can view new hard copy resources in their own library. But they can also access virtual resources (including encyclopedias, databases, video platforms, digital books, audio books, and many more) at school and at home on any device!



	<p>Britannica is an online encyclopedia. You can search any number of topics at different reading levels. It will also read to you AND you can translate it into many different languages.</p> <p>It is great use f</p>
	<p>PebbleGo is an online resource that targets science and social studies topics. It can also read to you as you search. It is perfect for K-3 especially.</p>
	<p>BookFlix is a collection of book pairs under different themes. There is always a fiction book and a nonfiction book to engage different students. It is perfect for K-3.</p>

Ask your child to show you how to navigate through these resources. They love to share what they are learning in the virtual space of their classroom as well the actual physical space of their classroom.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask.

Free Access to the Virtual Immersion Campus for Your Child

Dear Parents,

Your children can now access the Virtual Immersion Campus and receive help from our online teachers in French, English and Math.

Send your homework to to: homework@voilalearning.com before accessing the platform. Your children can also practice their French and play French games on the platform (riddles, pictograms and much more), all while earning points.

To register to the Virtual Immersion Campus:

- Visit voilalearning.com, click on 'My school board is registered'
- Enter the code: 09HWDSB

The Virtual Immersion Campus
will be open **Monday to Thursday**
from **5pm to 6:30pm** for homework help
and from **6:30pm to 8pm** for French practice.



Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions,

Your online tutor,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized name or initials.

Cool Little Kids®

An Anxiety Prevention Program: Working with Parents to support young Children

Cool Little Kids is an Evidence Based program grounded in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy

Parent Information Night

January 16, 2018

6:30 pm-7:30pm

Education Centre

20 Education Court

Hamilton, Ontario



RSVP by:

January 12, 2018

Call: 905 527 5092 ext. 2923

Email:

coollittlekids@hwdsb.on.ca

If you are a primary caregiver of a Student in JK-Grade 2

If your child is described as Shy, Withdrawn or Worried

Learn practical strategies that will help to build your child's confidence



This program is offered by the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board Social Work Department.

HWDSB

Snow-clearing at HWDSB Schools

A responsibility shared by Board staff, contractors and the City of Hamilton



HWDSB Staff

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
- area outside entrances and Fire Exit Doors
- Fire Exit stairs & ramps



HWDSB Contractors

After 5cm+ of snow, will...

- Plow parking lots and sidewalks when HWDSB Facilities staff deem it necessary
- Salt and sand the parking lot before school starts
- If required, Head Caretakers may also salt or sand parts of the parking lot



City of Hamilton

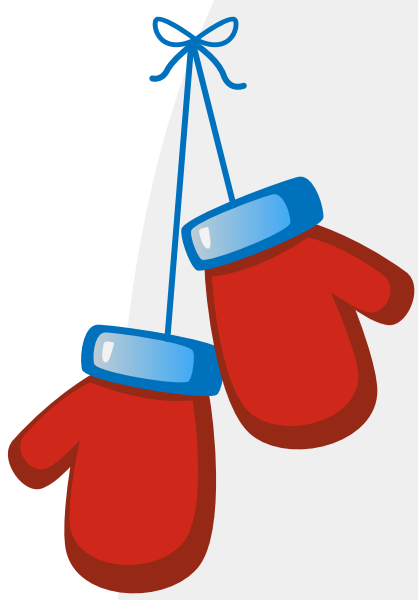
Responsible for clearing...

- Snow and ice from sidewalks directly in front of schools, a top priority for the City.
- **Note:** It may take up to 24 hours after a snowfall for sidewalks to be cleared. Report a sidewalk fronting a school in need of clearing at **905-546-CITY (2489)**

What about playgrounds?

Playgrounds **are not** plowed or cleared. Head Caretakers inspect playgrounds and sand and/or salt areas made slippery by changing temperatures.

Students, take extra caution when walking or playing on school property that may be slippery. Principals concerned about weather or playground conditions may hold indoor recesses and lunch/nutrition breaks.



Benefits of outdoor play

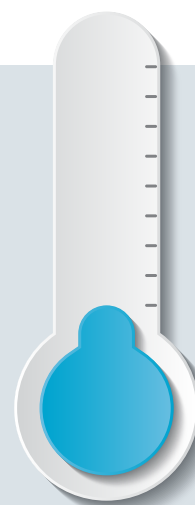
Time spent outdoors is an integral part of the school day. There are great benefits when children experience **fresh air, exercise and time spent time outside**. Outdoor play is also a break from the structure of the classroom.

Preparing for the outdoors

It's important that children come to school **prepared for the cold**. This means boots, mittens/gloves, hats and even extra mittens and socks in case they are needed.

When is it too cold for outdoor play?

Principals decide whether to send students outside for recess. HWDSB asks Principals to follow the City of Hamilton guideline that we stay inside when it's at or **below -15C, or -20C with wind chill**.



*below -15C,
or -20C with
wind chill*

Learn more

Please direct questions or concerns about winter outdoor play to your school Principal.

Parents should check www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca for any potential transportation delays.