



Billy Green Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

1105 Paramount Drive
Hamilton, Ontario L8J 1W2
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EMAIL: billygreen@hwdsb.on.ca
PRINCIPAL: Mr. B. Berketa
VICE-PRINCIPAL: Mrs. L. Millen
www.hwdsb.on.ca/billygreen

February 2018 Newsletter



Principal's Message

Mr. B. Berketa

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 13 students in Grade 1 through 8 will receive their term 1 report card that will communicate their learning skills and levels of achievement from September until the end of January. Kindergarten students will receive their report cards on February 16. 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 our new Head Caretaker Mr. Gaglione.

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 8:25am. 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/ for more information on this program. Reports can be made through this service by texting, use of the app or calling.

Kindergarten Registration

What is kindergarten?

Kindergarten is a two-year, full-day program that helps children get the best possible start in school. Your child will be challenged and encouraged to do their very best. Our caring team of educators, including a teacher and an early childhood educator, are with them every step of the way! They are also a great resource for you to talk with.



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Why is kindergarten important?

- Early learning experiences are crucial to the future well-being of children
- Early interactions affect the way connections are made in the brain
- A solid foundation for reading and math must be built
- Children build skills through developmentally appropriate play-based experiences

Kindergarten Registration begins on **Monday, February 5.**

Parents/Guardians are welcome to register in person on **Monday, February 5 - 9:00 am to 2:30 pm.** If you are not available to come on this day, ongoing 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. Please share this information with your friends and neighbours who have children that will turn 4 or 5 years old before the end of December of this year. Early registration helps us accurately capture enrollment and staff our program for September.

HWDSB Launches Parent Voice Survey to Gather Input for Improvement

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) invites parents, guardians and caregivers to participate in a Parent Voice Survey to share what you think HWDSB is doing well, and how might HWDSB improve its education services.

Parents, guardians and caregivers play an important role in HWDSB and we value your opinion. Your feedback helps us make decisions about how we deliver school services for students.

HWDSB has made a commitment to partner with its parent/guardian and caregiver communities, and to work together to help students learn and grow to their full potential.

This survey should take no longer than 15 minutes to complete. There are no right or wrong answers. All data collected in this survey is anonymous and combined as a group.

You can find the survey online at https://hwdsb.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3TKK1aKCPgO8e3j
If you would like to learn more about how we use the data and maintain your privacy, please click [here](#).

Thank you for taking the time for this survey and helping HWDSB with your feedback.



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New school website coming soon

Billy Green will unveil its new school website during the month of February. This represents the first significant update to the look of our school website since 2013.

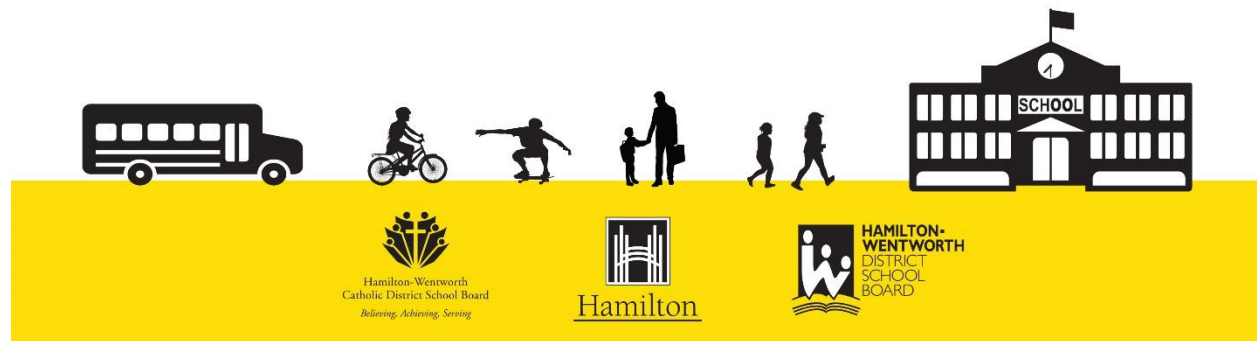
School websites in HWDSB are being enhanced to improve the standards associated with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).

Websites will be easier to navigate from mobile devices, display standardized icons for accessibility, offer larger font size and place a greater emphasis on the search function, to name some enhancements.

Wear Yellow Day / Winter Walk to School Day – February 7

On Wear Yellow Day (WYD) students, parents, and staff are encouraged to wear yellow clothing and use active transportation (walking, cycling, rolling) to and from school. Not only is this a great way to be physical active, it also helps decrease our carbon footprint.

Walk, Wheel, Wear Yellow



SafeArrival

At Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB), one of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely at school every day.

curiosity.

creativity.

possibility.

HWDSB



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To enhance our absence-checking procedure, we have introduced the student absence reporting system **SafeArrival**. This will save time to verify a student attendance, make it easy for you to report your child's absence and easy for staff to respond to unexplained student absences.

With **SafeArrival**, families report a child's absence in one of three ways:

1. Using your mobile device, download and install the **SchoolMessenger app** from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store (or from links at <https://go.schoolmessenger.com>). The first time you use the app, select **Sign Up** to create your account. Select **Attendance** then **Report an Absence**.
2. Use the SafeArrival website, <https://go.schoolmessenger.com>. The first time you use the website, select **Sign Up** to create your account. Select **Attendance** then **Report an Absence**.
3. Call the toll-free number 844-506-4350 to report an absence using the automated phone system.

These options are available 24 hours/day, seven days a week. You can report a future absence any time.

In addition, we will use the **SchoolMessenger Communicate** automated notification system to contact parents whose child is absent when the absence was not reported in advance. The automated notification system will attempt to contact parents multiple times until parents submit a reason for their child's absence. If this system cannot reach the designated contacts, office staff will follow up.

If you report your child's absence in advance using the **SafeArrival** toll-free number, website or mobile app, you will NOT receive these notifications.

Please report absences in advance using **SafeArrival** instead of sending notes or calling/emailing the school. Staff will be using the **SafeArrival** notifications to let you know if your student is absent (when you haven't reported the absence in advance).

If you have children attending other schools, please continue to report absences using the existing procedures for those schools. Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we implement this new system.

Follow us on Twitter: @BillyGreenHWDSB

Website: www.hwdsb.on.ca/billygreen