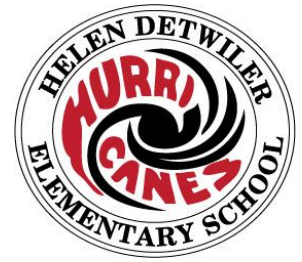




# Helen Detwiler School



Hamilton Wentworth District School Board - Respect, Creativity, Excellence, Citizenship

## *From the Principal & Vice-Principal's Desk*



We have had a very enjoyable fall and are heading into the winter season with many events and extracurricular activities going on at Helen Detwiler. Students are participating in volleyball, fitness club and other extra-curriculars to keep them engaged at school.

The month of December started off with our P.A. day giving our school team an opportunity to work on developing our School Annual Plan focusing on the Renewed Math Strategy and Well Being. As a school team we had time to focus in on areas of student need and develop strategies to support our students math skill development and implement instructional practices to meet their needs. We are on an exciting learning journey ahead and look forward to developing new skills and strategies to support our students focusing on next steps that will guide our learning for the remainder of the year.

With the holiday season fast approaching we are in the spirit of giving and have a school wide focus of "Just Give It" to support families in need. Thank you to all of our families for sending items in to support Neighbour To Neighbour and Interval House. We also look forward to welcoming the character trait of "Caring" during the month of December with our upcoming assembly scheduled for Wednesday December 6th. Students always enjoy being "caught" in the moment showing their care in the classrooms, hallways and outside on the playground.

On behalf of the staff & administrative team, we hope you enjoy a restful & relaxing holiday valuing time with family & friends. We would also like to take this opportunity to wish you a very special holiday season and look forward to our students' safe return in 2018!

Sincerely,  
*Ms. Radojevic & Mr. Oulahen*

## DECEMBER 2017

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Follow us on Twitter! -  
[twitter.com/HDHurricanes](https://twitter.com/HDHurricanes)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **Friday, December 1st**

PD Day - No School

#### **Wednesday, December 6th**

Character Education Assembly  
@11:10 am in the Gymnasium

#### **Thursday, December 7th**

Grade 8 Start @ Henderson Secondary  
School Council Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.

#### **Wednesday, December 13th**

Grade 7 & 8 Immunization

#### **Thursday, December 14th**

Last Day for "Just Give It"

#### **Wednesday, December 20th**

Pita Pit Day

#### **Thursday, December 21st**

Holiday Assembly - Parent Show  
**Doors open @ 1:20 p.m. in the gym.**

#### **Friday, December 22nd**

FDK Trip to Puddicombe Polar Express  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

#### **Monday, Dec. 25th - Friday, Jan. 5th**

Winter Break

#### **Looking Ahead**

**Monday, January 8th** - First Day Back

#### **Tuesday, January 9th**

Character Education Assembly  
11:15 a.m. in the gymnasium

## Character Builds - THE WORD ON THE STREET!



In order to build upon our students Character development, at Helen Detwiler we are focusing on educating our school community on the Character Traits that will support our students success in life and build upon a positive school

culture. Last month our Character focus was Courage. This month's Character Focus is **Caring** where we are sharing its' meaning of demonstrating a willingness to reach out and help, support & protect others.

### Monthly Focus

September - <b>Respect</b>	February - <b>Empathy</b>
October - <b>Self Regulation</b>	March - <b>Honesty</b>
November - <b>Courage</b>	April - <b>Acceptance</b>
December - <b>Caring</b>	May - <b>Integrity</b>
January - <b>Responsibility</b>	June - <b>Citizenship</b>

### JUST GIVE IT!

We are in the giving spirit at Helen Detwiler. Class 7B has begun a donation drive and are very pleased how every classroom has embraced the initiative. Thank you to those of you who have already sent in items with your children. There is still plenty of time for everyone to get involved. We will accept donations right up until Thursday, December 14. Thank you so much for your generosity. Together, we are making a difference. Donations will be given to Hamilton Interval House and Neighbour To Neighbour.

### Just Give It Suggestions

**Parents:** Cosmetics, Deodorant, Shaving Items, Toiletries, Jewelry, Gift Cards, Gloves, Hats, Teas

**Teens:** Gift Cards, Toiletries, Cosmetics, Energy Bars, Sport Socks, Gloves, Hats, Hoodies

**Children:** Books, Toys, Pyjamas, Socks, Diapers, Mittens, Hats

**Also Accepting:** Non-perishable Food Items  
Cash Donations (loose change is great)

\*Please ensure all gifts are unwrapped.

***Thank you for your generosity and good spirit!***

## School Cash Online

School Cash Online is an easy to use and safe way to pay for most school items from your own home. All you have to do is register an account, attach your children and in no time you will be able to make payments online. School Cash Online is available at all HWDSB schools and transfers from school to school with your child right up to grade 12. For your convenience, we offer many payment options including prepaid Visa or Mastercard.

<https://hwdsb.schoolcashonline.com/Home/WhatIsSchoolCashOnline>

### Volunteers at Helen Detwiler

We are so very grateful for all the work our volunteers do at Helen Detwiler. From driving and supervising students on field trips to running pizza days and our daily snack program, volunteers provide invaluable support for student well-being at our school. But they also help students to find and sign out books in the library and provide support in helping students to read. We would like to thank all of you for the contributions you make. It truly takes a whole village to raise a child. We are proud of our community!

If you wish to become a volunteer, please contact our office for information.

A purple heart graphic with the text "WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS" written in purple.

### Parking Near Schools

The safety of children is important to everyone in our community. Pedestrian activity is traditionally more prevalent in proximity to schools particularly during morning arrival and afternoon dismissal.

Over the last several years, the high volume of motorists dropping off and picking up children at schools throughout the city has increased, creating potentially unsafe traffic conditions. In an effort to improve traffic safety around schools, various parking regulations have been enacted. Drivers are encouraged to obey these regulations to create a safer environment for school children.

Enforcement of parking regulations around schools encourages compliance and results in a safer environment for all pedestrians, including students. Schools normally attempt to resolve parking conflicts through school newsletters, flyers, school council meetings, etc. However, when issues arising out of parking violations cannot be resolved by other means, dedicated parking enforcement is undertaken at the request of the school.

## Question of the Month

Q: "With the cold season upon us, do you have any nutritional ideas to help keep kids healthy?"

A: Start with a healthy diet to keep everyone's immune system in cold-fighting shape. While there isn't one specific food that can help fight the sniffles, foods that contain vitamin C and probiotics may help shorten the duration of colds; probiotics may also lessen the severity of the symptoms. Probiotics are good bacteria that help keep your immune system healthy. To fight colds, children and adults need about 10 billion active probiotic cultures per day starting three months before cold season. This amount can be found in some yogurts with added probiotics – but not all so remember to check the label. Foods high in vitamin C include sweet peppers, strawberries, kiwi, oranges and broccoli. If a cold strikes despite your efforts, have your children drink plenty of fluids to help relieve symptoms.

## Inclement Weather

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. Please check the Board's Website ([www.hwdsb.on.ca](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca)) or listen to local media (CHML900) for notice of school closure. *School Closure Hotline # 905.521.2535*. The board's commitment is to have families informed as early as possible on the days that school will be closed.

## Piano Instruction at Helen Detwiler

Ms. Zoe Barnett (piano teacher) is accepting registrations for The Piano Program. The program offers semi-private piano lessons in the school during school hours. It is best suited to students in grade 1 and up. The Piano Program is great for students who have never played the piano OR for students who have taken piano lessons in the past.

\*\*\*A piano or keyboard at home is essential for students to practice during the week and get the most out of the Piano Program.

email her at [zoe.b.rd@gmail.com](mailto:zoe.b.rd@gmail.com) if you are interested

Ms. Zoe Barnett is registered with ORMTA as an Affiliate level 2 music teacher. The Piano Program is not a board program and will not be supervised by the board.



## Holiday Concert December 21st

- Doors Open at 1:20 p.m.
- Program begins at 1:30 p.m.
- Program ends at 2:45 p.m.

Our Holiday Assembly will take place on Thursday, December 21st. Parents and community guests are invited to attend the assembly beginning at 1:30 pm. We look forward to celebrating the season with many of you at this time. Given it is a regular instructional school day, parents we ask that students remain at school until dismissal. Thank you for your understanding and enjoy the concert!



Le Chef à l'école



Grade 6 - 8 students are in for a French treat on either December 15th or December 18th. Select classes on each day are invited to participate in combining their French oral skills with their culinary talents as they embark on a unique baking and cultural experience. All students in these grades need to submit their forms and money as soon as possible in order to secure their participation in this exciting event. Please direct any questions to Mme Payant.

## Mabel's Labels Fundraising

More information coming in January!

## FDK Popcorn Sales

FDK Popcorn Tricycle - A big thank you to all the Kindergarten families who have been supporting our Friday Popcorn days. We are happy to announce that we have purchased a second blue tricycle for the Kindergarten area with proceeds from FDK popcorn sales.

## Vision Clinic Coming to Helen Detwiler Rescheduled to January 2018



The Vision Clinic has informed us of a scheduling change for servicing our school. They will be at Helen Detwiler servicing our students at the end of January. Thank you to our families for sending in their requests for free eye exams. They will be taking place on January 29, 30 & 31st in our Library.

## Bullying Prevention & Awareness Week

Helen Detwiler recognized Bullying Prevention & Awareness week from Nov. 20-24th by having many in-class discussions about the definition of bullying and the specific steps and strategies students can take to keep themselves safe at school. We encourage you to continue the discussions with your children at home. We recognize that families are important partners when it comes to preventing and reducing bullying.

To help, we would like to highlight a great resource shared by our Board entitled: Bullying Prevention and Intervention - Information for Parents and Students that has been posted on our Board website. This Resource can be relied on as a support for both students and parents regarding Bullying Prevention, do's and don'ts and the importance of student well being. It is important to bring your concerns forward to the teacher. Staying silent is never a good option. By working with the school to help your child or teen handle the bullying problem, you are leading by example and giving a clear message that bullying is unacceptable.

## Ontario Early Years Centre

The Ontario Early Years Centre is a place where parents, grandparents, caregivers and children from newborn to 6 years of age play and learn together. Adults can learn about the benefits of early literacy, parenting, child development, health and nutrition. Staff can assist families in accessing information on community agencies, services, supports and events. To learn more about our free programs call 905-385-3020 or visit the website at [www.ontarioearlyyears.ca](http://www.ontarioearlyyears.ca)

**MAIN SITE – Helen Detwiler  
320 Brigade Drive, Hamilton**

Monday: 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Tuesday: 8:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday: 8:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
Thursday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

## Our Character Focus For December



## New Kiss N' Ride Lane at Helen Detwiler

### New Signage

We are pleased to announce the start of our new Kiss 'N Ride Zone at Helen Detwiler School. We have communicated this information via our School newsletter, syner voice as well as a flyer.

The safety of all students at Helen Detwiler continues to be a priority. Our new Kiss N' Ride lane on the south side of the school can be a safe way for parents to drop off their children in the morning and pick up at the end of the day.

If everyone follows these basic safety rules, the Kiss N' Ride Lane will be a success.

1. Signs reading Kiss N' Ride Zone, NO Parking and One Way are clearly marked in the loop at the south end of the school. There is NO PARKING anywhere inside the Kiss N' Ride loop. Following these signs is key to everyone's safety.
2. There are 2 lanes for the Kiss N' Ride loop. The right lane is used for drop off/pick up. The left lane is used for entrance, exit.
3. Proceed as far into the loop as possible and pull into the right lane to stop.
4. Do not get out of your vehicle.
5. All children exit/enter via the passenger side doors and go directly to/from the sidewalk.
6. When your drop off/pick up is complete, proceed slowly ahead into the left lane to exit the loop.

### **Tips for safety and success.**

1. Your children must be ready to exit your vehicle asap when the vehicle stops for drop off.
2. At pick up at the end of the day, instruct your children to meet at a specific spot in the loop for quicker connection.
3. Exit the loop via the left lane as soon as possible to make room for other vehicles.

***With everyone's cooperation, The new Kiss N' Ride Lane at Helen Detwiler will be a safe, successful zone.***

***It is imperative that our safe school protocol regarding the Kiss 'N Ride Zone be followed by everyone. Bylaw enforcement officers will be ticketing vehicles found in contravention of the protocol.***



**Holiday Break is Dec. 25th to Jan. 5th  
Mark your calendar now!**

