



Helen Detwiler School



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

From the Principal & Vice-Principal's Desk



We welcome all of our students and families to the start of 2018! We hope you have all had an enjoyable holiday season and have had an opportunity to get back into routines to start the new year off. We have reminded our students to place an emphasis on the use of their agenda to focus on getting back into a scheduled routine.

We also have an update to share regarding a change to our administration in the New Year. We thank Mr. Oulahan for leading and supporting our staff as our Vice Principal until the end of December and welcome Mrs. McQueen as our Vice Principal in January.

In January, we are focusing on the Character trait of "Responsibility" and look forward to recognizing our students who demonstrate exemplary skills over the next couple of weeks. We welcomed our new trait at our school wide assembly this week and look forward to providing our students with "Caught Ya's" for demonstrating responsibility throughout the school environment.

Given the colder temperatures approaching this winter season, we recognize the importance of student safety during snow and ice conditions. We continue to monitor the weather conditions and will ensure safety measures are in place within the school surroundings upon entry and exit of the school. We strongly encourage that families listen to the weather forecast to ensure students are dressed appropriately for the cold temperature. Students are reminded to arrive to school no earlier than 8:20 a.m. to ensure supervision by staff. We also would like to remind all of our families that the **parking lot is reserved for entry and exit for staff members only** and is not to be used as a drop off or pick up area for students. The parking lot is out of bounds to students to ensure student safety. We thank you for ensuring our safe schools procedures are being followed to ensure the safety of our students at all times.

On behalf of the team at Helen Detwiler, we wish you & your families all the best in 2018. We look forward to a great start to the New Year to support our students' success & achievement.

Ms. Radojevic & Mrs. McQueen

JANUARY 2018

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Follow us on Twitter! -
twitter.com/HDHurricanes
Ms. Radojevic - Principal
Mrs. McQueen - Vice-Principal

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, January 9th

Character Education Assembly

Wednesday, January 17th

Dundas Valley Conservation
Grades 4A & 3/4

Thursday, January 18th

Henderson Option Sheet
Assembly 1:20 - 2:55 p.m.

Tuesday, January 23rd

*Dundas Valley Conservation
Grades 2/3 & 3A
*School Council Meeting
6:00 p.m. in the Library

Wednesday, January 24th

Pita Pit Lunch

Thursday, January 25th

Bus Safety Presentations a.m.

Friday, January 26th

Professional Activity Day
No School

January 29th, 30th & 31

Vision Works Clinic

Looking Ahead...

Beginning in February

Full Day Kindergarten Registrations
begin!

Thursday, February 1st

Character Education Assembly at
11:15 a.m.

Monday, February 19th

Family Day - No School

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 **Caring**. This month's Character Focus is **Responsibility** where we are sharing its' meaning of having rights and privileges to be responsible and active members in our community.

Monthly Focus

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

Cold Weather and 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 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 wearing 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.

HWDSB follows the City of Hamilton recommendation that individuals stay inside when the temperature is at or below minus 15 degrees Celsius or minus 20 with wind chill.

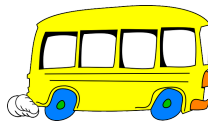


<https://hwdsb.schoolcashonline.com/Home/WhatIsSchoolCashOnline>
Please go on-line and register today!

Middle School Fitness

Our fitness club resumes in February. Any of our middle school students who would like a little extra exercise, are welcome to join us Tuesdays and Thursdays after school from 3:00 p.m. until approximately 3:45 p.m. Be ready to sweat and remember, no pain no gain.

Email Notification For Late Bus Service



If you would like to sign up for email notification of late bus service, visit the website: hamiltonschoolbus.ca. Once on the website, click onto the **Parent's Portal** and follow the instructions on setting up an account. You will need an ID number for your child. All eligible riders in the transportation database receive this number on their busing letter that was mailed in August. However, parents and caregivers can call Hamilton-Wentworth Student Transportation Services (905.523.2318) to receive the ID number as well.



Tired of struggling with your son or daughter over their math homework?

Are you the parent of a student in grades 7-10?

Why not get your child to access a free on-line tutoring service staffed by qualified math teachers?

Go to <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/elearning/homework.html>

To register you will need your child's 9-digit OEN number. This number is found at the top of your report cards.

The service is available Sun-Thurs from 5:30pm-9:00pm

Memory Book

Our middle school's Memory Book is in progress and will be on sale for Grade 8 students starting Wednesday January 17, 2018 and for grade 7 students starting Wednesday January 24, 2018 at the cost of \$25.00. There is a limited number of books so get your copy now before it is too late! It is a great way for grade 7 and grade 8 students to keep the memories of their friends, teachers and their time at Helen Detwiler. Memory book forms and money can be brought to Mrs. Dietrich. If you have your own business and would like to advertise in our memory book, sponsor forms can also be picked up from Mrs. Dietrich. The cost for a business card size advertisement is \$25.00. Thanks for your support!

HWDSB

Winter Weather

Bus cancellations and school closures

How does HWDSB decide on bus cancellations and school closures?

- When bad weather is expected, Hamilton-Wentworth Student Transportation Services (HWSTS) carriers check weather reports, road conditions and road clearing, starting as early as 4 a.m.
- Based on this information, the Director of Education makes the decision in conjunction with Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board.



When do we make decisions?

HWDSB will announce the cancellation of school and board operations by 6 am based on the best information at the time.

The HWDSB Rule:

Inclement weather
+ Bus cancellation
= No school



When HWDSB cancels busing due to inclement weather, we have deemed the roads unsafe and this triggers the closure of schools. Some boards have different procedures.

What's the rule for extreme cold?

In extreme cold, buses may not start or run as expected and HWDSB may need to cancel transportation. But this **does not** automatically mean that schools will close. In 2014, Trustees gave the Director (or designate) the discretion to keep schools open when busing is cancelled due to extreme cold.



Where do I find cancellation information?

We will share this announcement in a variety of ways:

- The HWDSB website www.hwdsb.on.ca
- HWDSB's Twitter account www.twitter.com/HWDSB
- HWSTS website www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca
- Local media outlets:
CBC Hamilton, C10CH TV, CHML, CKPC, Brantford, Hamilton Community News, Hamilton Spectator.



Families always
have a choice

A school cancellation is a tough decision – and some families may disagree with HWDSB's call. Families can always make the choice they feel is best when it comes to sending their child to school.

Hurricane Volleyball Teams

Our Detwiler Volleyball Teams competed in the Mountain West AA Division during the fall season. Players competed in games on a weekly basis through the months of October and November. Three of our teams competed at the Mt. Albion Invitational and played some of their best volleyball of the year, with our Junior Boys winning the bronze medal at the tournament. Team members include:

Senior Girls -Aiya, Amaya, Jaime-lynn, Sierra, Nelly, Rayanne, Zoe, Ella, Ifra, Hayley

Junior Girls - Avery, Eliza, Jasmine, Kieya, Olivia, Taline, Tyshai, Skylar, Maniah

Senior Boys - Mustafa, Rocco, Ryan W., Carson, Ryan H., Zurief, Zohaib, Jacob

Junior Boys - Mirsib, Connor, Brayden C., Brayden T., Owen, Tyler, Brayden T., Evan, Trent

Thank you to our coaches, Ms. McHugh, Ms. Kawamoto, Mr. Ho, Mr. Murray, Mme D'Agostino, and Mr. Wright (parent coach) for taking the time to coach our teams this season!

Mad Science at Helen Detwiler



The Mad Science Program is coming back to Helen Detwiler! It is available for students in kindergarten to grade 6 and will run on Thursdays at 3:00pm-4:00pm from February 8th to April 4th. Registration forms will be coming home during the week of January 15th. If you have any questions, please call Mad Science directly at 519-621-0600 X23 and X28 or email them at hamilton@madscience.on.ca. Spaces may be limited.

Vision Clinic Coming to Helen Detwiler In January



The Vision Clinic 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.

Helen Detwiler Fundraising

1. Fundraising - Popcorn and Pita Pit profits for this month will be supporting our Nutrition Program. Students are offered fresh and nutritious options in their classrooms to enjoy with peers. The Nutrition Bins arrive first thing in the morning to start our students' day off right.
2. Pita Pit for January - Thank you to all the families supporting our school by ordering a healthy Pita Pit lunch. Pita Pit order forms will be coming home this week. Forms and payment are due Wednesday, January 17. Cash On-line closes January 17 too. Pitas will be delivered Wednesday, January 24.
3. New fundraising option for our school with Mabel's Labels. Flyer coming home, if interested in ordering for your family.

Just Give It

THANK YOU!!

On behalf of class 7B and all the students and staff of Helen Detwiler, our sincere thanks to all the generous families who donated to our "Just Give It" drive. We truly made a difference to many families over the holidays and it would not have been possible without you. Over the years it has become abundantly clear that Helen Detwiler can be counted on as a caring, giving school. Once again, thanks from all of us.

Reading Specialists

Every Child Reading By the end of Grade 1

At Helen Detwiler, we're committed to supporting a goal where every child is reading by the end of Grade 1, where developmentally appropriate.

A child who is reading by the end of Grade 1 is set up for positive academic outcomes and future success.

In September 2017, HWDSB celebrated the deployment of 48 Reading Specialists across the district to work directly with students and educators in all Kindergarten and Grade 1 classrooms.

Reading Specialists are working with children within classrooms, alongside classroom educators, to deliver appropriate strategies and/or interventions. They support reading acquisition and respond to student learning needs.

We're pleased to welcome Tracy Malcolmson our Reading Specialist in our school this year.

If you have any questions about the Reading Specialists and their role in your child's class, please contact the school.

New Kiss N' Ride Lane at Helen Detwiler

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 in 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.

Grade 7 and 8 Option Sheet Nights

Option Sheet Information Nights are welcoming and practical sessions that help Grade 8 students and their parents select courses for the 2018-19 school year. We encourage you to view the complete list of high school option sheet nights at <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/elementary/plan-for-school/grade-7-8-information-nights/>

Understand pathways

- Learn about elective courses
- Understand the differences among the types of courses you can take