



Helen Detwiler School



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



From the Principal & Vice-Principal's Desk

We welcome the month of February acknowledging our transition from the first term of the school year into the second. At this time of year we encourage our students to reflect on their successes, achievements and set goals for the second term of the school year. With report cards going home on Tuesday February 13th, students will have an opportunity to reflect on their first term achievements and work with teachers and you at home to set goals for the remainder of the year. We strongly encourage that you sit down with your child and go over the report card to help set reasonable goals for the remainder of the school year. Focusing on celebrating successes and identifying next steps on the feedback page provided with the report card acknowledges the importance of a commitment towards improvement and provides a focus for your child until the end of the year. Please ensure that you send the feedback page back to school with your child to build the home school connection and work collaboratively with your child's teacher to ensure consistency with goal setting and a successful term to follow. We value the impact that you as parents have in supporting your child's success at school and appreciate your efforts to enhance your child's skill development through their academic and learning skills.

February is also Black History Month across Canada. It provides us with an opportunity to honour the legacy of Black Canadians, past and present. But it is also a reminder to us that schools, like our great country, are multicultural communities. At Helen Detwiler, we have a duty to teach students to respect differences, see issues from different points of view, and create inclusive classrooms. Announcements are made to acknowledge the focus for this month and bulletins have been created throughout the school. We also look forward to welcoming the "Brent & Sarah" Magical Performance to Helen Detwiler. The focus of the performances are on building self confidence and Bullying Prevention with 3 performances catered to students in our Primary, Junior and Middle school. Parents, you are welcome to join the performance that has been supported by our Parent Council. We are grateful for their support in bringing the show to Helen Detwiler to make an impact and support our Character Education program.

Our Character Education trait for this month is "Empathy". Our focus will be to help students understand that to be empathetic they understand issues from the viewpoint of others even though they may not agree with them personally and focusing their development of understanding and sharing the feelings of others asking the question of "Can you put yourself in someone else's shoes?"

With Family Day approaching on Monday February 19th, we hope you all enjoy quality time with loved ones over the long weekend.

Sincerely, Ms. Radojevic & Mrs. McQueen

FEBRUARY 2018

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Follow us on Twitter! -
twitter.com/HDHurricanes

Ms. Radojevic - Principal
Mrs. McQueen - Vice-Principal

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, February 5th

Kindergarten Registration Begins

February 7th, 8th, 9th & 12th

Vision Works Clinic

Monday, February 12th

Brent & Sarah Performances - See show times in our Newsletter
"Building Self Confidence & Bullying Prevention" - Parents are welcome!

Tuesday, February 13th

Report Cards Sent Home

Wednesday, February 14th

*Special Event Day - Valentine's Day
Sweet Treats are welcome!
*Oral Health Screening JK, SK, & Gr. 2

Thursday, February 15th

Oral Health Screening JK, SK, & Gr. 2

Monday, February 19th

Family Day - No School

Wednesday, February 22nd

Indoor Track Meet - First Ontario Place

Wednesday February 28th

Checkers Tournament 9:00 - 3:00
Ancaster Fairgrounds

Looking Ahead

Thursday, March 1st

*Character Ed. Assembly, 11:15 a.m.
Parents are welcome!
*Grade 8 Grad Photos

Friday, March 2nd

P A 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 Responsibility. This month's Character Focus is Empathy.

Monthly Focus

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

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) or listen to local media (CHML900/K-Lite/CHCHTV) 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.

Go! Girls & Game On!

The anticipation has finally arrived. Helen Detwiler School is pleased to join together with Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Hamilton to bring separate programs for the girls (Thursdays) and boys (Mondays) in the Grades 4-6 areas to build further self-confidence, friendships and more! Each program runs for 7 sessions.

Creative Writing and Reading Club

Students have expressed an interest in creating their own stories as well as building on their reading. Students in Grades 3, 4 & 5 have been invited to join this club that runs once a week where they can explore, create and imagine.

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten Registration begins on Monday, February 5th. If your child has or will be turning four or five this year, you are welcome to register to our Full Day Kindergarten Program. Our program helps students get off to the best possible start. Your child will be challenged and encouraged to do his or her very best. Our caring educators are with them every step of the way! Please come into the school office any time during school hours to pick up a registration package. Forms and detailed information is also available online at <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/kindergarten>. We look forward to making Helen Detwiler an exciting and engaging learning environment for your child!

Advertising for Kindergarten registration will commence at the beginning of February. Advertisements will appear online at TheSpec.com, Hamilton Community News as well as Facebook.

Before And After School Survey

Kindergarten registration is the start of surveying for before and after-school programs which is a Ministry requirement. As in previous years, we hope to survey all families of children from those registering for 2018-2019 kindergarten to those currently in kindergarten to grade 5 regarding before and after-school needs. We invite you to respond online at https://hwdsb.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8vMdiRxSouwhbUN. Please call the school office if you would like a survey sent home with your child.

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:

<http://bit.ly/HWDSBParentVoice>. Thank you for taking the time for this survey and helping HWDSB with your feedback.

New School Website Coming Soon

Helen Detwiler 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.

Dual Language Books Have Arrived!



Recently, our school was able to purchase a collection of dual language books, printed in both English and in the languages of our school community. The new books will be available for students to check out of the Library Learning Commons and enjoy at home with parents, or for teachers to use during whole-class lessons. The books come in a range of topics, and include both fiction and nonfiction choices. Be sure to check one out! Languages available are: Albanian, Arabic, Chinese, Dari, Farsi, Gujarati, Kurdish, Pashto, Urdu, and Vietnamese.

Special thanks go out to the HWDSB Foundation for the generous donation that made this project possible!

The Brent & Sarah Show

Students and staff are looking forward to the Brent & Sarah show, coming to Helen Detwiler School on Monday, February 12th. Thank you to School Council for arranging for this entertaining magic show that gives a powerful message about bullying prevention and self confidence. Parents are welcome to come. Show times are 9:15 a.m. for Grade 3-5, 11:15 a.m. for K-Grade 2 and 1:30 p.m. for Grade 6-8.



Upcoming Camps

March Break

<https://hamilton.legendonlineservices.ca/enterprise/program/index?CategoryID=216>

Summer

<https://www.hamilton.ca/parks-recreation/recreation/camp>

Free morning and afternoon drop-in activities at City of Hamilton parks throughout July & August.

There is fee support available for families:

<https://www.hamilton.ca/parks-recreation/registered-rec-programs/recreation-fee-assistance-program>

The Recreation Fee Assistance Program provides City of Hamilton residents living with a low income the opportunity to participate in organized sports and recreation ...

For families with children with special needs: If a child would need a support worker, the applications must be **made very early**. Below you will find the link

<https://www.hamilton.ca/parks-recreation/inclusive-recreation-services/special-needs-summer-camps>

Oral Health Screening



A dental team from Public Health Services, Community Dental Program will be visiting the school to carry out the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) Oral Health Survey and Assessment Program in grades JK, SK, and Grade 2 on February 14th, & 15th.

Attendance Reminder

This is a reminder for parents to please call the school at 905-574-2662 to report an absence. If, however, you have not had an opportunity to do so and you receive a call from our automated machine, would you please call the school ASAP so that we may update your child's attendance to reflect the correct reason for the absence and know your child is present at school. Please insure we have your most up-to-date contact information. Thank you on behalf of our office administrative team.