


# BOARD BULLETIN



**Keeping the DREAM alive!**  
Celebrate his life and message  
**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**  
*Together we celebrate equity and non-violence*

**Monday, January 18, 2010**  
Doors open at 11:00 a.m.  
Celebration 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Ticket Requests: Nov. 16 - 19, 2009 - LIMITED SEATING

**Hamilton Place Theatre**  
1 Summers Lane, Hamilton


Celebrate character through the arts!  

- Elementary and Secondary Choirs/ Bands!
- Dancers and Dancers!
- Chamber Orchestras!
- Acted the show!
- Enter the Secondary contests!

 Co-Host @ Assistant Stage Manager

**RSVP:**  
Valerie Elliott 905-527-5092 ext. 2285  
valerie.elliott@hwdsb.on.ca  
*Donations of food or money to support our anti-poverty initiatives will be accepted at the show.*

**www.hwdsb.on.ca**  
STUDENTS ACHIEVING THEIR FULL POTENTIAL!



Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board students will be Keeping the Dream Alive at Hamilton Place on January 18, 2010.

Each year HWDSB celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life and message – equity and non-violence.

**Celebrate Character!**

## Grade 8 to 9 Transition

Do you have a child entering secondary school in the 2010-2011 school year? January is the time they will have to look at option sheets.

Parents will also be receiving information on HWDSB Programs of Choice and Specialist High Skills Majors.

**Programs of Choice** – At HWDSB we know that each student is unique in his or her learning, and we work to ensure our programs help our students reach their full potential. In addition to the programming offered at neighbourhood schools, a number of alternative programs focusing on sports, academics, science, arts and languages have been developed.

Programs of Choice are available in many schools across the district and are open to all students in Hamilton. Join us to learn more about these exciting programs.

## Specialist High Skills Major

What is an SHSM?

A Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) allows you to customize high school to fit with your career interests.

Choose from any of the seven sectors offered as an SHSM so you can get started on the path to your future career.

- Plan now for credits offered in Grade 11 and 12
- Get your certification/training
- Gain work experience and co-op
- Receive a special diploma seal when you graduate

## Coming in January – Kindergarten Registration

Early Learning specialists say parents shouldn't overlook the importance of a child's first two years of school. Kindergarten provides the basis for future school success by engaging children in age-appropriate language, math, science, arts, health and physical activities.

**If you have a child born in 2005 or 2006, it's time to make his or her world a little bigger.**

Junior and senior kindergarten registration for the 2010-2011 school year will begin in January. Check out [www.hwdsb.on.ca](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca) in January for more information.



# Happy New Year 2010 from HWDSB!

## January 2010 Days of Significance

1 <sup>st</sup>	• New Year's Day
5 <sup>th</sup>	• Birth of Guru Gobind Singh (Sikh)
7 <sup>th</sup>	• Christmas (Christian-Coptic/Eastern Orthodox)
18 <sup>th</sup>	• Martin Luther King Jr. Day
20 <sup>th</sup>	• Weedless Wednesday
22 <sup>nd</sup>	• Secondary Exams start
26 <sup>th</sup>	• Chinese, Tibetan (Losar) • Vietnamese (Tet) • Korean New Year (Buddhist)
27 <sup>th</sup>	• Family Literacy Day
28 <sup>th</sup>	• Secondary Exams End
29 <sup>th</sup>	• Elementary/Secondary P.A. Day • Learning Community Session
<b>Alzheimer Awareness Month</b>	

Check out [www.hwdsb.on.ca/Events](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/Events) Calendar for upcoming events.

### From our Safe & Caring Schools Resources

#### What to do if your child is facing suspension

A suspension means that a student cannot enter his or her school and is not allowed to take part in any of his or her school's activities on or off school property. A suspension can last from one day up to a maximum of 20 school days.

If your child is going to be suspended from school there are several things that you can do that may be helpful.

On the day of the suspension the school will contact you to tell you what has happened. They will tell you:

- why the student is being suspended
- how long the suspension will be
- the type of support that will be provided (ie. Homework)
- arrange a time to meet with you and your child before your child returns to school. This is called the re-entry meeting.

#### Review the situation with your child

- listen to his or her account of what happened
- help your child to understand the reason for the suspension if necessary, develop a plan of action, this may include medical or community support
- discuss setting goals for improvement with your child

#### What if I think my child has been unfairly suspended?

If, after meeting with the Principal, you feel that your child has been unfairly suspended, you should request a meeting with your school Superintendent of Education. The Superintendent will review the case with you and look at supports available for your child.

Check out our website at:

[www.hwdsb.on.ca](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca)

**Event Calendar** – highlights events happening in HWDSB schools and communities

Sign up for the **Virtual Blackboard** and receive our monthly newsletter



## Tips for Parents

### Indoor Snow Activity

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow – Anywhere! All that's needed are a few bags of baking flour and some Christmas toys to create a magical winter wonderland. Kids will be absolutely thrilled to run their wee little hands through this faux snow, which encourages hours of imaginative play. The indoor snow activity is a fun and unique addition to kids' parties and is the perfect accompaniment to winter curriculum in the classroom.

#### Supplies needed:

- six bags of white flour
- clear under the bed style plastic container
- cookie cutters
- Miniature figures such as figures meant for holiday villages

#### Directions:

1. Pour the flour into the plastic container. The amount of flour needed depends on the size of the container. The flour should cover the entire bottom of the container and be at least two inches deep.
2. Arrange the figures in the "snow."
3. Voila! The holiday indoor snow is ready for winter play. Let kids run their hands through the "snow" and play with the holiday figures. Kids will also have fun making snow angels with the cookie cutters.

### Indoor Snowball Hunt and Snowball Fight Activity

Whether they're used to a white winter or one that's sunny and bright, kids will flip for this indoor snowball hunt and snowball fight activity. Piles of white, fluffy cotton balls make delightful faux snowballs. Kids will be excited to hunt for these special "snowballs," culminating in a thrilling snowball fight with mom or some of their friends.

### Tip of the Month

Make your New Year Resolution **SMART**

Specific

Measurable

Attainable

Realistic

Timely

**Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board**  
**Students Achieving Their Full Potential!**

### Core Commitments

**Respect**  
**Innovation**  
**Accountability**