



'BACK TO SCHOOL' BOARD BULLETIN

Welcome back from what I hope was a wonderful summer!

I hope that you share my enthusiasm for the great challenges and opportunities that 2010-11 will bring at Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board.

Please let me wish you all the best in the year ahead. I offer you my sincere thanks for supporting HWDSB as we help all students reach their full potential.

Have a great year!

John Malloy
Director of Education



QuickGuide 2010-2011

Watch your child's backpack for this year's **QuickGuide 2010-2011**, a guide to HWDSB's services for parents and guardians.

This handy pocket guide will help parents navigate our system. Find what you are looking for in a snapshot. Each section has a weblink.

HWDSB Strategic Directions
Get Involved!
Focus 4 Family
Programs of Choice / Specialist High Skills Major
Healthy Eating/Nutrition
Equity
Parent Assist
Kindergarten
Partnership & Community Engagement

How to Contact Us
School Year Calendar
Cancellations
Safe & Caring Schools
How to Get Help with a Concern
Public Consultation
Stay Connected
My School's Information
Community Use of Schools

Check your school office or our website for this helpful resource.

HWDSB Media Desk, Events Calendar & Virtual Blackboard.

Follow us on Twitter <http://twitter.com/hwdsb>

Do you need to:

- know more about newsworthy school stories?
- find a spokesperson?
- identify the HWDSB?
- download our [Geographic Region Maps?](#)
-

When you need reliable information fast, we can help. In Corporate Communications, we're dedicated to the needs of our community. Of course, we welcome your comments on ways to make this page useful. The Media Desk is a starting point - a first step in getting to know the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board.

Subscribe today for HWDSB's Virtual Blackboard

Take advantage of our electronic subscription service to get monthly delivery of Hamilton Wentworth District School Board information.

Go to [www.hwdsb.on.ca/Media Desk](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/Media_Desk)

Enter your email address in the space provided and you will automatically receive electronic versions on a regular monthly basis during the school year.

In every edition of the Virtual Blackboard you will receive up-to-date news about HWDSB, read exciting stories of our students, staff and community partners and learn about the diversity of programs and initiatives here to help students do their best. You can also view upcoming events and activities.

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board Social Justice Initiatives, 2010-2011

The Hana's Suitcase Project

As part of the Board's Strategic Direction of Engagement Matters, Hamilton-Wentworth District



School Board is pleased to incorporate opportunities of social justice education to students. The Hana's Suitcase Project performance is coming this October.

Hana's Suitcase is the story of a young Jewish girl growing up in pre WWII Czechoslovakia and the terrible events her family endured during the Holocaust. What makes this story unique is how Hana's life story became known. In March 2000, a suitcase arrived from Auschwitz at the Children's Holocaust Centre in Tokyo. As an educational exercise, children learning at the Centre embarked on a search from Tokyo to Prague to Toronto to uncover Hana's story and her fate at the hands of the Nazis.

This powerful story is a way to create learning environments for our students that allow for student academic success and expand a student's world view.

'Keeping the Dream Alive' – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

On January 10, 2011 HWDSB is excited to present the 6th "Keeping the Dream Alive" Celebration at Hamilton Place. This event showcases the talent and hard work of our elementary and secondary students through music, drama, dance, poetry, visual art and multimedia presentations.

This celebration was recently recognized by the Ministry of Education as a *Successful Practice in Character Development* and focuses on delivering messages related to the importance of equity, non-violence, and social justice, while celebrating a range of cultures through Music & the Arts.

Healthy Eating at HWDSB Just Got Healthier!

HWDSB Nutrition Policy begins September, 2010 and is based on the *Eating Well with Canada's Food Guide* and the *Ministry of Education's nutrition guidelines*.

Here is what you need to know...

About the Policy:

The Nutrition Policy guides schools towards offering healthy food choices. The policy promotes healthy eating based on the recommendations from *Eating Well with Canada's Food Guide* and helps students to make nutritious food and beverage choices.

Food and beverages brought from home, purchased during field trips off school property, sold in schools at non-school or Board events, or sold for fundraising activities that occur off school property are exempt from the Nutrition Policy.

School Nutrition Action Committee

Schools will be forming a School Nutrition Action Committee (SNAC). A SNAC's focus is to encourage healthy eating. HWDSB will also form a central Nutrition Action Steering Committee and work with Public Health's Healthy Eating Action Teams (HEAT).

Food Sold in HWDSB Cafeterias

HWDSB will follow the Nutrition Policy's Sell/Serve Most and Sell/Serve Less program. Foods in the Sell/Serve Most category will be comprised of the healthiest food choices.

At least 80% of all foods offered on school property and at school or board events will be in the Sell/Serve Most category. The Sell/Serve Less category will make up no more than 20% of all food choices.

Foods that contain few or no essential nutrients and/or contain high amounts of fat, sugar, and/or sodium will not be served. This includes beverages of the same nature.

Check with your school to find out how you can get involved with your school SNAC team.

Cancellation of School and Board Operations

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.

In the event of inclement weather, our Transportation Department advises our carriers to drive predetermined routes to assess the condition of the roads. This is done between 4:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. The drivers report back to the carriers and HWDSB begins to receive reports between 5:30 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.

In the meantime, our Transportation Department is verifying the weather forecast through our local media outlets as well as contacting the City of Hamilton Works Department to determine where possible what roads have been cleared or when they are expected to be serviced.

The decision to close our schools is made in conjunction with our colleagues at the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board based on relevant information at that time.

School Boards across Ontario have varying policies about the cancellation of schools. At HWDSB, the cancellation of transportation is linked to the cancellation of School and Board Administrative Operations. The cancellation of transportation immediately triggers the closure of our schools. For more information on the Cancellation of School and Board Administrative Operation, go to: <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/aboutus/policies/>

Please remember, as a parent/guardian you always have the choice on whether or not to send your child to school.

Hotline # 905.521.2535

www.hwdsb.on.ca

September 2010

September 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elem./Sec. PA Day • Parkash (Sikh)
September 2,3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elem./Sec. Board Designated Holiday
September 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paryushana (Jain)
September 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labour Day – Welcome Back • Lailat-ul-Qadr
September 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Back to School
September 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Literacy Day
September 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rosh Hahanah starts (Jewish)
September 9/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eid-ul-Fitr (Muslim)
September 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rosh Hashanah ends (Jewish)
September 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ganesh Chaturthi (Hindu)
September 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yom Kippur
September 19 - 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lifelong Learning Week
September 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Alzheimers Day
September 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Day of Fall
September 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sukkot Day 1 (Jewish) • Ksamavani (Jain)
September 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sukkot Day 2 (Jewish)
September 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terry Fox National School Run Day • Elem. P.A. Day/Learning Community Session
September 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shemini Atzeret (Jewish) • Terry Fox National School Run Day
September is National Arthritis and Ovarian Cancer Month	

Check out www.hwdsb.on.ca / **Events Calendar** to keep current on upcoming events at HWDSB schools & offices

Road Safety / School Bus Safety

Get Ready

Practice your route to school and point out any dangers to your children.

Get Set

Teach your children the Five Steps to safely cross the street.

1. Stop
2. Look both ways
3. Listen for traffic
4. Wait until the street is clear and all traffic has stopped
5. Make eye contact with drivers to make sure they have seen you

And Remember

- Always walk on the sidewalk
- Children under 9 need supervision when they cross the street
- Children should walk to school with a parent, a sibling or a responsible friend

School Bus Safety

- Talk to your children about the school bus rules
- Don't let your children arrive too early – they may wander. Tell them to come straight home when they get off the bus.
- Have a plan if your child misses the bus
- Remind your children to find a seat and stay seated until the driver says they can get off
- When getting off the bus, remind your children to take all their belongings. One backpack is easy to remember
- Teach your children to walk out away from the front of the bus when the red lights are flashing; that way the driver can see them

Crossing Guard Safety

- Always walk to the crossing guard to cross the road.
- Learn what the crossing guard's signals mean and obey them.

Community Resources

- City of Hamilton Public Health Services is pleased to provide the community with a complete listing of Community Health Resources in Hamilton. Check online at: www.inform.city.hamilton.on.ca/ or call 905-528-0104. The directory has information on: Counselling & Support Services, Community Health Bus, Crisis, Food Assistance, Health Services and much more.
- Watch your child's backpack for a community education guide - **Growing Together** – published by Hamilton Health Sciences/McMaster Children's Hospital. The guide is for parents, children and youth and lists courses, groups and workshops available in Hamilton from **September 2010 to January 2011**.

Offered by a variety of local community agencies, the programs and services published in this guide are designed to help individuals learn new skills to better meet the challenges facing today's families. Most courses are free. Please direct any questions about a particular listing to the listing contact.