



Ballard Connections

November 2016

November 4, 2016 is Parent/Guardian Teacher Interview Day

As interviews are upon us, we encourage you to take the opportunity to find out about your child's progress. You are part of the team and having these opportunities to problem solve and share information will make your child's school experience a better one.

Below are some questions and tips that you may find useful for the interview.

Great questions to ask

- What skills does my child need to work on?
- What activities can we do at home to strengthen those skills?
- Does my child complete work assignments efficiently and conscientiously?
- Is my child facing any struggles in class not related to his/her schoolwork?
- Are there learning goals my child is having trouble with?



Interview Tips

- Talk to your child about school before the interview. Ask how they think they are doing and what they think they need to meet their goals
- Ask your child about what their class is working on? What group of expectations is their focus?
- Ask them what learning goals they are working on in class and about the success criteria for their assignments?
- Get an idea of what the curriculum is like and the level your child is working at, and areas in which they are struggling.

Make a list of what you want to know before you go to the interview

- Ask about strengths and weaknesses and possible problems. Finding out about problems before they happen will allow students to get help before they fall behind.
- Find out how often and how much homework is being assigned. Ask if your child is completing homework regularly.

In Remembrance

A Canadian tradition, the poppy is worn by many members of society during the two weeks prior to November 11th. The eleventh hour of the eleventh month marks the signing of the Armistice, on November 11th 1918, to signal the end of World War One. At 11:00 a.m. on November 11th, 1918 the guns of the Western Front fell silent after more than four years continuous warfare.

Remembrance Day is a special day set aside to remember all those men and women who were killed during the two World Wars and other conflicts.

Remembrance Day Assembly will be on November 11th beginning at 9:00 am.

All are welcome to attend. Students who are in any type of Cadet program are encouraged to wear their uniforms.



Principal:

Mrs. Robertson-Heath

Vice-Principal:

Mrs. S. Imbrogno

Superintendent:

Mr. J. Nunn

Trustee:

Mr. R. Mulholland

Important Dates:

- Wed. Nov. 2 - Report Cards Sent Home
- Fri. Nov. 4 - P.A. Day
- Fri. Nov 11 - Remembrance Day
- Thurs. Nov 24 - Parent Council
- Dec 14 & 15 - Grade 7 & 8 Immunizations

**Together We
R.O.C.K.**

Respect

Optimism

Compassion

Kindness

**W.H. BALLARD
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**

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**Home
of the
Bobcats**



WINTER WEATHER UPDATE...



Rapid Phone Messaging for Snow Days!

HWDSB is pleased to announce that it is now able to use an automated phone messaging system (called Synvoice) to contact all parents/guardians in the event of a school cancellation due to inclement weather. HWDSB will continue to make cancellation decisions by 6 a.m. But, starting immediately, the Board now has the ability to quickly call every parent immediately after a cancellation is required.

Below you will find some information related to cold weather, outdoor play and school/board cancellations:

Cold Weather and Outdoor Play

Time spent outdoors is an integral part of the school day. Children need fresh air and exercise and time spent outside affords students an opportunity to break free from the structure of the classroom.

With the Canadian climate, time spent outside could mean anything from applying sunscreen to donning extra mittens and a hat, depending on the season. In the winter, it's important children come to school prepared for the cold. Boots, mittens or gloves and hats should be worn to school and it's a good idea to provide extra mittens, socks, etc. in the event they are needed.

As always, Principals can use their judgment in determining whether or not students remain inside during recess given the weather conditions. However, the City of Hamilton's Public Health and Community Services Department recommends individuals stay indoors when the temperature drops below minus 15 degrees Celsius without wind chill.

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board asks Principals to follow this recommendation and ensure children are not outside when it is that cold. Questions or concerns regarding outdoor activities in the winter should be directed to the school Principal.

Cancellation of School and Board Administrative Operations

Severe Weather Conditions – Severe weather across the District or in any part of the District may result in the cancellation of transportation services to the entire District. If the weather is severe enough, the General Manager of the Hamilton-Wentworth Student Transportation System will advise the Director or Designate of the road conditions and weather conditions. The Director of Education or Designate will then decide whether or not to cancel all school and board administrative operations. If the conditions are determined to be unsafe, The Director of Education or Designate will then inform Corporate Communications and the General Manager of Hamilton-Wentworth Student Transportation System of the cancellation of all school and board administrative operations. Corporate Communications will inform the community by contacting the media, the City of Hamilton, school-based child care providers and by posting cancellation information on the website and on a School Cancellation "Hotline". The Director or Designate will make every effort to cancel all school and board administrative operations by 6:00 a.m.

For more information on the Cancellation of School & Board Operations visit our Policy page at: <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/schools/inclement-weather/>

School Council

As Co-Chairs of the 2016-2017 Ballard School Council, we would like to encourage everyone to join us at council meetings throughout the year. Everyone is welcome at all meetings, it's never too late!

The scheduled school council meeting dates: Thursday November 24, Monday December 19, Thursday January 19, Tuesday February 21, Thursday March 23, Tuesday April 18, Thursday May 18, Monday June 19.

We look forward to seeing and hearing from as many parents/ guardians as possible!