

The Greenleaf Gazette

September 2025 Newsletter (Welcome Back To School)
Volume 25 Issue 1



A Message from Our Principals...

I hope this letter finds you well and rejuvenated after the summer break. Welcome back to another exciting school year. We look forward to seeing all our students, new and returning, next week. We have many new staff at Greenleaf this year.

Please help us welcome:

Ms. Sophie Johnson (K7), Mr. Justin Blanche (K7 DECE),
Ms. Dugdale (K8), Ms. Kaur (DECE)
Ms. Rimsha Makhdoomi (Grade 3/4),
Ms. Kayleigh Ward (Grade 4 and Planning),
Ms. Rosie Spada (Grade 4),
Ms. Jessica Harris (Grade 5),
Ms. Afrin Benevidas (Grade 7/8),
Mr. Brett Sanders (Grade 8),
Ms. Tracy Mahome (Core French),
Ms. Sneha Maria (EA)

and our new Vice Principal, Ms. Marianne Lancaster. We are also finalizing our staffing for some classes. These will be completed by the end of the week and will update you with teacher names when we can. We are still filling positions in a Core French/Planning position.

As the 2025-26 school year quickly approaches, we are excited to welcome students back to class on Tuesday, September 2, 2025. Our first year kindergarten students (JK) and new to Greenleaf second year kindergarten students (SK) will have their scheduled visits on Tuesday with their first full day of school for all kindergarten students being Wednesday, September 3. You should receive a message with your scheduled time in the coming days.

Beginning the new school year can be a time of excitement, nervousness and energy for students, staff and families alike. The start of the school year at Allan A Greenleaf is also a time of new beginnings filled with opportunities for all students to experience a sense of belonging, engage in dynamic learning and reach their full potential. To help AAG families prepare for their child(ren)'s return to the classroom, we would like to share the following information:

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Meeting your Teacher on Tuesday Morning

When you arrive on Tuesday, teachers will be outside with a sign with their class code and name on it. There will also be many staff with class lists to help support you locating your child's teacher. Grades 1-5 will meet at the back of the school on the paved area and grades 6-8 will meet at the front of the school in the side parking lot. For those families that are new to Greenleaf, this is the paved area between Greenleaf and the high school. This meeting area is just for the first day only. During the first day of school, teachers will show their class where they are to line up each morning and which door they will be dismissed from. If you are not able to be with your child on the first day of school, you will have the opportunity to meet your child's teacher on Thursday, October 9 at our Open House.

School Messenger

AAG and all HWDSB schools use [School Messenger](#) to notify families about unexplained absences, as well as other important announcements. Families can use the free School Messenger app or website to choose how they wish to receive these messages. Please contact the school to provide current, or to change, your information.

Student Dress Guidelines

HWDSB has shared updated Student Dress Guidelines to help foster positive and inclusive learning environments. Developed with extensive student input and community consultation, these guidelines focus on equity, dignity, and well-being for every student. They can express themselves freely, without fear of bias or discrimination. Visit [Student Dress Guidelines | Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board \(hwdsb.on.ca\)](#) for more information.

Transportation

HWDSB provides students with safe and secure transportation for eligible students by HWSTS. This may take the form of school buses, school purpose vans or Hamilton Street Railway transit. For more information, visit HWDSB's [Transportation](#) webpage. If your child qualifies for transportation, please remember to re-check information prior to sending your child(ren) to their assigned pickup location on Tuesday, September 2 as changes can occur.



Special Lunch/ Food Days

There are several Special Lunch Days for students to purchase. These days may present volunteer opportunities. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the school and we will connect you with our team from School Council who organize and schedule the volunteers. Our regular/weekly food days are Tuesday (pizza), Wednesday (pasta), and Thursday (subs). More detailed information regarding the lunch/food days will be shared in the coming weeks.

Parking Lot Safety

Our parking lot is very busy in the morning at drop off and at the end of day during dismissal. We have quite a few buses (5 large and 1 small!) dropping off students and the parking lot is becoming quite congested with cars. Please consider walking to school if you are able to. If you are dropping off your student, please use the drop off lane by the side parking lot. This is to be used for students who are independently able to get in and out of the car. If you need to support your child with this, please park your car in the parking lot and walk with your child to their drop off area. No cars are to be left unattended in the drop off zone. Please note that there will not be a teacher on duty at the crosswalk down by the YMCA this year. With our growth in population and increasing number of portables on site, priority is given to these locations for supervision. Please practice walking to school safely, with your child, and review safety protocols when crossing the driveway.



Code of Conduct

HWDSB is committed to making each one of its schools a caring place that is safe for learning. Every student deserves to feel and be safe in a school, on the school grounds, on the school bus and at school events and activities. Visit [HWDSB's Code of Conduct webpage](#) to learn about these changes.

Volunteers

AAG and HWDSB value and appreciate dedicated volunteers who share their time and talents in support of healthy, positive and flourishing school communities. If you are interested in volunteering opportunities, please contact the office. Our first School Council meeting is September 25 at 5:30pm in person in the library or available through a virtual Teams Meeting link that will be shared with you soon. School Council is a great way to get involved with our school community. At AAG, we are committed to partnering with our families to ensure that your child(ren)'s school experience reflects HWDSB's values – dignity, trust, compassion and joy. We are committed to ensuring your child(ren) are celebrated for who they are, experience safe and caring school environments and are supported to achieve their own academic success and positive learning outcomes. Feel free to contact us with any questions, concerns, or ideas. We look forward to working with each of you to make this school year a remarkable one.



Family Communication

Staying connected with your child(ren)'s school, the Board and services matters. HWDSB offers many ways for parents and caregivers to stay connected. To learn how you can access the most up-to-date information, visit [HWDSB's Parent Page](#). We also invite families to keep up with HWDSB by [subscribing to email updates](#) or following HWDSB on social media. You can also stay connected by visiting the school's website. The start-up/verification forms can be found on the parent portal. Please complete those forms as soon as possible. Communication with teachers is encouraged and essential. Grades 1-3 will be using agendas for daily communication and Grades 4-8 will be using a digital platform. Homeroom teachers will communicate with you which platform they are using and how you can connect with them.

