



## The Bellmoore Buzz

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Mrs. P. Mochrie, Principal  
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**December 20,  
2019**

Our library contest winners received their new books in our learning commons today. Congratulations to these excited readers!



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Snow Clearing in HWDSB Schools – Please see the attached info graphic to review the shared responsibility of Board Staff, contractors and the City of Hamilton

At Bellmoore, we will clear an additional pathway along the playground side of the port-a-pak that will be cleared during inclement weather. This will be a footpath for students and families to travel during pick up and drop off.

In the case of inclement weather, an assessment of the playground is made at both nutrition breaks and alternative plans are communicated (e.g. indoor recess, tarvia recess, using assigned pathways to access the field area, etc.)

Student safety is of the utmost importance. With this in mind, we want to share some reminders.

**Kiss and Drop Off Area:** This is an area where students exit the car and parents drive off. We have a staff member and bus patrollers who can support younger students in getting to their entry destination. You may wait until you see the staff member on duty to hand your child to; however, this is NOT an area to park and walk your child to the entry destination. We are patrolling this area for safety and we ask that you work respectfully with the staff and bus patrollers who are working to keep your children safe. If you would like to walk your children to their entry, we ask that you park along one of the side streets adjacent to the school.

**Parking Area:** When children are dropped off at school, we ask that parents do not wait in parking spaces. This will help free up parking spaces for staff members. Once on the playground, supervision is in place.

**Green Doors that Connect between the Parking Lot and Blacktop play area:** For student safety, we ask that you DO NOT come through these doors at any time throughout the day to drop off or pick up your child. You must walk around the exterior of the building to meet your child on the blacktop playground and return to your car. All parents/guardians who enter the building need to be accounted for by coming through the MAIN entrance and checking in with the office. When you sign in, a **visitor sticker** will be given to you and must be worn at all times while inside the school building.

**Morning Entry:** When you arrive between 8:30-8:40am, your child does NOT need a late slip. You can give them a hug and they can go directly to their classroom. After 8:40am, they will come to the main office and have a late slip completed. If you need to be in the school at any time, you MUST sign in at the office to get a VISITOR sticker.

**Visitor Stickers:** All visitors must report to the office to sign in and receive a visitor sticker. For the safety of all of our students, it is important that we are aware of who and where visitors are in the building. This is also essential in case of an emergency such as fire or lock down so that we can account for all people in the school.

# HWDSB

## *Snow-clearing at HWDSB Schools*

A responsibility shared by  
Board staff, contractors  
and the City of Hamilton



### **HWDSB Staff**

*Clear, salt and/or sand...*

- walkways from the city sidewalk to the school
- school steps and portable steps
- walkways to the portables
- ramps to schools and portables
- area outside entrances and Fire Exit Doors
- Fire Exit stairs & ramps



### **HWDSB Contractors**

*After 5cm+ of snow, will...*

- Plow parking lots and sidewalks when HWDSB Facilities staff deem it necessary
- Salt and sand the parking lot before school starts
- If required, Head Caretakers may also salt or sand parts of the parking lot



### **City of Hamilton**

*Responsible for clearing...*

- Snow and ice from sidewalks directly in front of schools, a top priority for the City.
- **Note:** It may take up to 24 hours after a snowfall for sidewalks to be cleared. Report a sidewalk fronting a school in need of clearing at **905-546-CITY (2489)**

## What about playgrounds?

Playgrounds *are not* plowed or cleared. Head Caretakers inspect playgrounds and sand and/or salt areas made slippery by changing temperatures.

Students, take extra caution when walking or playing on school property that may be slippery. Principals concerned about weather or playground conditions may hold indoor recesses and lunch/nutrition breaks.



## Benefits of outdoor play

Time spent outdoors is an integral part of the school day. There are great benefits when children experience **fresh air, exercise and time spent time outside**. Outdoor play is also a break from the structure of the classroom.

## Preparing for the outdoors

It's important that children come to school **prepared for the cold**. This means boots, mittens/gloves, hats and even extra mittens and socks in case they are needed.

## When is it too cold for outdoor play?

Principals decide whether to send students outside for recess. HWDSB asks Principals to follow the City of Hamilton guideline that we stay inside when it's at or **below -15C, or -20C with wind chill**.



## Learn more

Please direct questions or concerns about winter outdoor play to your school Principal.

Parents should check [www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca](http://www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca) for any potential transportation delays.



Please stop in at the Library to take a look at  
the lost and found.

All labelled items will be taken to your child's  
classroom.

**All items not claimed by Thursday January  
23, 2020.**



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## Family Celebrations

As a school we understand the changing dynamic of many families and that specific celebrations may be difficult for some of our students. In the upcoming months our kindergarten teams will be celebrating our parents, caregivers and loved ones in different ways. This could involve any of the following: a Family Day celebration in February, a Mother's Day celebration in May, a Father's Day celebration in June, or family celebration at the end of the year. A decision will be made by each classroom and communicated directly to you through classroom blogs/newsletters.

## A friendly reminder to keep your dog leashed at all times while on school Property.





- Jan 20
- Jan 21  
**Lunch Lady**
- Jan 22
- Jan 23  
**Copy Cat Day**  
**Pizza Day**
- Jan 24  
**P.A. Day—no school**
- Jan 27  
**Family Literacy Day**
- Jan 28  
**Lunch Lady**
- Jan 29
- Jan 30  
**Pizza Day**
- Jan 31  
**Lunch Lady**