

# SEPTEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER



**Bennetto**  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**S**afe **T**rustworthy **R**espectful **O**ptimistic **N**eighbourly **G**racious

## A Message from Mrs. Rowell and Mrs. Macnab

On behalf of the Bennetto staff, Mrs. Rowell and Mrs. Macnab would like to welcome all new and familiar families back to school this September. We hope that you enjoyed a relaxing and fun summer.

We would like to commend the caretaking staff for their hard work and dedication to make sure that the school was cleaned and prepared for our return. We appreciate all their hard work!

This year's start up has been very busy but going very well thanks to the amazing staff we have at Bennetto! Already staff are thinking about how they can support student engagement both in the classroom and through a variety of extra-curricular activities. This is shaping up to be a busy and exciting year!

At Bennetto, we are **STRONG!**



**School Phone Number:** 905-528-6341



**Email:** [bennetto@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:bennetto@hwdsb.on.ca)



**Twitter:** @bennettostrong

## Bennetto Bell Times

**Entry Bell: 8:50**

**1st Nutrition Break: 10:30 - 11:10**

**2nd Nutrition Break: 12:50 - 1:30**

**Dismissal Bell: 3:10**

## **SafeArrival - Reporting Student Absences**

At HWDSB, one of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all students safely arrive at school every day.

SafeArrival, a student absence reporting system, makes it very easy for families to report student absences. It also allows school staff to respond quickly and thoroughly to all unexplained absences. Our goal is to continue to have all absences explained and all student accounted for each day, knowing that they are all safe.

With SafeArrival, families report a child's absence in one of three ways:

1. Use the SafeArrival website, [go.schoolmessenger.ca](http://go.schoolmessenger.ca). The first time you use the website, select Sign Up to create your account. Select Attendance then Report an Absence.
2. Using your mobile device, download and install the **SchoolMessenger app** from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store (or from links at [go.schoolmessenger.ca](http://go.schoolmessenger.ca)). The first time you use the app, select Sign Up to create your account. Select Attendance then Report an Absence.
3. Call the toll-free number **1-844-506-4350** to report an absence using the automated phone system.

These options are available 24 hours/day, seven days a week. You can report a future absence any time.

In addition, we will use the SchoolMessenger Communicate automated notification system to contact parents whose elementary school child is absent when the absence was not reported in advance. The automated notification system will attempt to contact parents multiple times until parents confirm and explain the absence. If this system cannot reach the designated contacts, elementary school office staff will follow up.

If you try to explain an absence using SafeArrival, but are then told that it is past the cut-off time, please contact the school directly.

If you report your child's absence in advance using either the SafeArrival toll-free number, the website or the mobile app, you will NOT receive these notifications.

**Please report absences in advance using SafeArrival instead of sending notes or calling/emailing the school. Office staff will begin using the SafeArrival notifications to let you know if your student is absent (when you haven't reported the absence in advance).**

If you have questions, please speak with your school office or principal.



## September Enrollment and Reorganization

As this community is always growing, there have been many new student registrations at Bennetto over the past weeks with new families moving into the area as well as people moving from the area. The Hamilton Wentworth District School Board watches the student population numbers at each school very carefully and, in order to meet Provincial class size caps in the primary division, schools often have to reorganize at this time of year. We will be submitting our enrollment numbers in the next couple of weeks to the Superintendent to determine if we have to reorganize the school classes and to determine how many classes and students that would affect. If indeed we have to move teaching assignments and classes, we will address that in a separate letter to parents in the days ahead.

## After School Plans and Arrangements

At Bennetto School, student safety is very important. There has been an increase in last minute after-school arrangements being made in the afternoon. The school office is very busy and it can be challenging to relay these messages in a timely manner to staff, teachers and students.

To avoid any safety concerns for students and parents, we ask that you please make arrangements with your child prior to them coming to school by writing a note to the teacher to make them aware of any changes.



## Parent Council

School Council is a great way to learn about all the initiatives happening at the school, to contribute initiatives and offer suggestions to the administration about operations at Bennetto School. We are always looking for new people with new ideas to help make our council a dynamic group that works at enriching the school experience for our students. The first meeting of our School Council will be held on **Thursday September 26th at 6:30 pm in the Staff Room. Elections will take place at the first meeting.** We are looking forward to working together to support our students this year.

## Message from the Phys Ed Department

Due to the ongoing construction in both our gyms, Phys Ed classes will be held outside. Please dress accordingly and check the weather each day before school. We will be heading out each class unless it is pouring rain so it might be a good idea to bring extra clothes and shoes for Phys Ed and to leave them in lockers. Thanks for your help and cooperation.



## Meet the Teacher Night!

**Date: Thursday October 3rd**  
**Time: 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm**

Looking forward to seeing all parents at our "Meet the Teacher" Open House night on Thursday October 3rd from 5:00 – 7:00 pm.



## Picture Day

- ◇ Individual and Class photos will be held on Friday October 18th.
- ◇ Funny classroom and sibling picture day held on Monday November 11th.
- ◇ Picture retake day is scheduled for Tuesday November 19th.

The Terry Fox run will be held on Thursday September 26th from 11:10-12:50 (during 2nd block). Students are asked to bring in a Toonie for Terry to support The Terry Fox Foundation which supports cancer research.



Hello Parents, Guardians and Caregivers!

My name is Christine Bingham and I am your School Board Trustee representative for Wards 1 and 2.

As a school board trustee, my role is to maintain a focus on student achievement, well-being and equity and to participate in making decisions that benefit our board's entire jurisdiction while representing the interest of my constituents. I look forward to visiting our schools and seeing all of the hard work that is taking place by students and staff.

I'd invite you to reach out to me to introduce yourself and share any positive feedback or concerns you might have about the schools in our wards. I can be reached by email at [cbingham@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:cbingham@hwdsb.on.ca) or by phone at **289-339-6902**.

For more information about the Board of Trustees, including the committees that Trustees are part of, please visit: <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/about/trustees/>



- ◆ **PA Day (No School)** - Friday September 20th
- ◆ **Scholastic Book Orders Due** - Thursday September 26th
- ◆ **Terry Fox Run** - Thursday September 26th from 11:10-12:50
- ◆ **Parent Council Meeting** - Thursday September 26th at 6:30 in the Staff Room
- ◆ **Meet the Teacher** - Thursday October 3rd from 5:00-7:00
- ◆ **Scholastic Book Fair** - October 3rd and 4th
- ◆ **Thanksgiving (No School)** - Monday October 14th
- ◆ **Picture Day** - Friday October 18th