



# DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



## Principal's Message

December is here, and our school is full of energy as we head into a month of learning and excitement. This newsletter highlights some important reminders and upcoming events, including our Food Drive, the Holly Jolly Holiday Assembly, and other festive activities that make this season so special for our students. We're also excited for the Kindie concert, a wonderful opportunity for our youngest learners to share their talents and build community.

A big thank you to our School Council for organizing Retro Movie Night on Nov. 27. It was a fantastic way to bring families together, and we appreciate everyone who came out to support the event.

As winter weather settles in, please remind your child that snow stays on the ground during recess (no snowballs). This helps keep everyone safe and ensures recess remains fun for all. We also encourage students to dress warmly and come prepared for outdoor play.

On December 10, we will recognize Human Rights Day, a time to reflect on fairness, dignity, and respect for all. These values guide our work every day and remind us of the importance of creating a welcoming and inclusive school community.



Thank you for your continued support in helping us create a safe, caring, and positive environment for all. Watch for another update in mid-December with more details as we approach the winter break.

## Recess Helpers

As of December 1st, we have introduced a new Recess Helpers Program featuring Grade 5-8 student volunteers.

These student leaders will be outside every day during 1st nutrition break, wearing blue vests and name tags for easy identification on the playground.



Their role is to organize and lead games, as well as actively engage younger students in Grades 1-4 during recess. We appreciate their efforts in creating a fun and inclusive environment for everyone.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec. 1 - 15 - Food Drive
- Dec. 4 - Gr. 5/6 Soccer Tournament
- Dec. 11 - Earth Rangers Presentation, K-5
- Dec. 16 - Kindie Mixer
- Dec. 17 - Holly Jolly Holiday Assembly
- Dec. 18 - Kinder Holiday Concert
- Dec. 18 - School Sing-a-long
- Dec. 19 - PJ day
- **Dec. 20-Jan 2 - Winter Break**

## Gym Reminders

Please ensure your student is coming to school with the proper footwear to be active in the gym.

Crocs, slides, boots, etc. are not acceptable and pose a safety hazard when moving actively during Phys Ed classes.

We also encourage students to come prepared with a water bottle, a change of activewear clothing, and deodorant.

# The Jamesville Community Art Project - Connecting the North End through the Arts

The Art Gallery of Hamilton's artist-educators are busy working with more than 1,000 students at Bennetto and St. Lawrence to create visual and mixed-media art installations that celebrate the past, present, and future of the North End neighbourhood. In the New Year—once the weather cooperates—the artworks will be mounted on the fencing surrounding the James Street development construction site. We look forward to hosting a community art opening to celebrate the art makers, the storytellers, and the neighbourhood.

We also want to ensure that everyone in the North End has an opportunity to participate. The Art Gallery will be offering workshops for adults and seniors at the Bennetto Community Centre in the New Year, with dates and times posted soon.

## Bennetto Food Drive

We are going to be collecting food for The Welcome Inn and Community Cupboard from December 1<sup>st</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Please bring in any non-perishable food item: soups, peanut butter, boxed pasta, etc. NO GLASS CONTAINERS!!!

We are also accepting items for babies: formula, diapers, etc. The class that collects the most donations wins a pizza party in the new calendar year!

# Kindness Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 Give someone a compliment today.	2 Write a note to fill up our classroom bucket	3 Try to share ideas with a new classmate.	4 Say thank you to someone who works at Bennetto.	5 Hold the door open for someone.
8 Listen to another person's ideas even if you don't agree with them.	9 Let someone in your life know they matter to you.	10 Send a kind note to a person at Bennetto or someone at home.	11 Reach out to a new person to see if they want to join a game.	12 Ask your parents to bring in a canned good next week for the food drive.
15 Clean up the room without being asked.	16 Help a classmate who is having a hard time.	17 Sit with someone new for lunch.	18 Smile a little more often today, even if you don't feel like it.	19 Think about 1 good thing you have in your life.

## Reminders

Please ensure all winter clothing is clearly labeled. This helps identify lost items and prevents confusion when multiple students have similar belongings.



## Mental Health & Well Being

Mental health affects us all – and has real impacts on our lives. At HWDSB, we are committed to supporting the mental health and well-being of all students and staff.

We offer various webinars, workshops and treatment groups to students and families over the course of the school year.

[Mental Health and Well-Being](#)