



Buchanan Park Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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The Bees' Business

UPCOMING DATES:

Sept 25 – Terry Fox Run/Roll/Walk Event

Sept 30 – National Truth and Reconciliation Day

Oct 28 – Photo Day

NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION – ORANGE SHIRT DAY

At HWDSB, we respect the longstanding relationships with the neighbouring and host nations, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the Six Nations of the Grand River. We also acknowledge the vibrant and diverse urban Indigenous community in Hamilton.

Tuesday, September 30 is Orange Shirt Day, which is also known as National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Please take steps to proceed with compassion and respect, as this day can hold different meanings amongst Indigenous students, staff and families.

We encourage HWDSB students and staff to **wear orange to school and work on Tuesday, September 30** to honour survivors of Residential Schools and to centre the importance of intergenerational healing and wellness. Students and staff can also participate by wearing one of the Orange Shirt Day stickers sent to all schools.

If you are unfamiliar with the story of Phyllis Webstad, Indian Residential School Survivor of St. Joseph Mission (SJM) Residential School in British Columbia, and why we wear orange shirts, [please click here](#).

The five Pillars of the [Indigenous Education Circle Strategic Action Plan \(IECSAP\)](#) – Revitalize, Reclaim, Renew, Restore and Celebrate – create the opportunity to have collective voices raised to honour education, commemoration and healing/wellness. Our

NEW [Indigenous Education Policy](#) encourages relational accountability and shared responsibilities towards [Reinforcing Indigenous Educational Wellness and Reconciliation](#).

Orange Shirt Day is a chance for us to become more familiar with residential schools as one form of cultural genocide that displaced many from ancestral homelands and deprived them of their first language and knowledge systems. We have a responsibility to learn, engage and participate. The burden of this day, and of Reconciliation in general, should not be carried by members of local Indigenous communities.

The HWDSB community is encouraged to think about the meaning of Truth and Reconciliation and how we are implicated in enacting meaningful change in a restorative education system. A wide range of learning and resources can also be accessed [through the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#).

In the greater Hamilton community on September 27 and 28, we highlight the [3rd Annual Truth and Reconciliation Gathering, E Yeti ya da nohs da:t Ogowak sa dah, "Lifting Up Our Children"](#) planned by the Hamilton Regional Indian Centre (HRIC) at the Gage Park Bandshell.

We encourage you to get involved in Reconciliation events happening near you, and, to deepen your own learning so that you may take action toward Reconciliation. Please see the list of resources below to find ways you can get engaged and involved this Orange Shirt Day and beyond.

In friendship,

Jolene John, Indigenous Education Lead and Sheryl Robinson Petrazzini, Director of Education

Orange Shirt Day Resources for Students and Families

Access student and family resources on the HWDSB website, which include:

- [Indigenous Education Circle Strategic Action Plan \(IECSAP\)](#)
- [Indigenous Education Policy](#)
- [Reinforcing Indigenous Educational Wellness and Reconciliation: HWDSB Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#)
- [Orange Shirt Day website](#)

- [Orange Shirt Day resource](#) created by HWDSB's Indigenous Education Team, which has more details including a video from Sherlene Bomberly, a Residential School Survivor.
 - [Woodland Cultural Centre](#) – learn more about the Mohawk Institute Residential School, established in 1828 near Brantford. One of the oldest Residential Schools in Canada.
 - [Legacy of Hope](#) – national Indigenous charitable organization with the mandate to educate and create awareness and understanding about the Residential School System.
 - [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada](#)
 - [Calls to Action Accountability: A 2023 Status Update on Reconciliation, Yellowhead Institute](#)
 - [The Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF](#)
 - [Indigenous Education Policy](#)
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Well-Being Resources and Supports

- National Indian Residential School Crisis Line available 24 hours a day: 1-866-925-4419
- [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- [The Missing Children Project](#)
- [Tip Sheet for Adults Supporting Challenging Conversations](#)
- [Community Supports and Mental Health Resources for Students and Families](#)

LATES AND FRONT DOOR EXPECTATION

Being on-time for school is important for consistency, morning routines, and the learning flow of the day. **Please endeavour to be on-time for the morning bell at 8:40 am. Please be reminded playground supervision begins at 8:25 a.m., students may be dropped off on the playground from 8:25 a.m. to bell time.** Students are expected to meet their classroom teacher on the playground lines or Kindergarten playground. Students are not to use the entrance off the staff parking lot door unless they arrive to school after morning entry. **The end of the day expectation is students go directly home at the end of the day bell at 3 p.m.** Playground supervision ends at 3:15 p.m.

NUT-FREE ZONE

Please be aware we are a nut-free school. Please do not send nut or nut products into school as we have students with anaphylaxis reactions to nuts and nut products.

PARKING LOT AND DROP OFF

Just a reminder to parents and non-staff to please not use the parking lot for pick-up and drop off before or after school. We do not have available supervision for this area and we only have enough spots for staff parking in the lot.

PIZZA DAYS

Stay tuned – Information coming soon!

SCHOOLCASH SIGN UP

School Cash Online is an online parent portal that offers a secure, fast and convenient way to pay for school activities, trips, and fundraisers. Schoolcash allows parents to add students, make payments, check payment history, print or view receipts, and receive notifications about upcoming events.

We want to offer parents a more convenient way to pay for school activities. With School Cash Online, you can pay with the click of a button.

Feel free to drop by the school office if you are having difficulty registering and Ms. Bonnie will be happy to help.

Registering to use School Cash Online is simple.

1. First, visit <https://hwdsb.schoolcashonline.com> and click "Register."
2. Fill in the required details and confirm your email. Check your inbox for the email confirmation from School Cash Online and click the confirmation link inside the email.
3. Click "Add Student" and fill in the required fields with your child's details

SCHOOL MESSENGER

Buchanan Park 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 your child(ren)'s school to provide current - or to change - your information.

SPEEDING AND STOP SIGNS IN SCHOOL ZONES

To ensure student safety please ensure you are driving at the posted speed limit and coming to a complete stop at all stop signs. We appreciate your cooperation in helping to keep our students safe.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Buchanan Park School and HWDSB values and appreciates dedicated volunteers who share their time and talents in support of healthy, positive and flourishing school communities. If you are interested in exploring volunteer opportunities connect with Miss Bonnie in the office. Please see HWDSB's [Volunteers in Schools](#) page for more information.

Please go to: <https://hamiltonpolice.on.ca/how-to/get-background-check> to complete a **VULNERABLE SECTOR CHECK**. Once you have the completed VSS (vulnerable sector screen), please forward to the main office and we will proceed to the next step in our volunteer procedures. Thank you in advance for volunteering your time.

HWDSB VALUES

At Buchanan Park School, 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.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out 905 387-5212 or at buchananpark@hwdsb.on.ca