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## Week of December 1, 2025

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**From** Buchanan Park Administrator <buchananpark@hwdsb.on.ca>

**Date** Fri 2025-11-28 3:22 PM

**To** Bonnie Shapardanis [Staff] <bshapard@hwdsb.on.ca>

### **Before/After School and Weekend Activities**

The City of Hamilton Recreation Division is a HIGH FIVE® Accredited Organization and as such serves as the benchmark for excellence in children's recreation and sport programming, focused on healthy child development and offering the highest recognized levels of quality and safety. The City of Hamilton Recreation Centers offer programs for all ages from infant/toddler to adults 55+ Winter programs will be available for review on November 24, 2025. Registration starts at 8am on December 17 to 19. The City of Hamilton offers cost-effective programs and even offers a program called "The Recreation Assistance Program" this program provides City of Hamilton residents living with a low income the opportunity to participate in organized sports and recreation programs. For more information please click on the following link: [Registered Programs | City of Hamilton](#)

### **BEEZAR DONATIONS - ACCEPTED DEC 1 - 5**

We are as excited as you are to host and participate in our annual Beezar event to help your child buy items during our Winter Market. Our Winter Market provides an opportunity for students to shop in a market using real money and picking items to purchase. This helps build confidence using math skills and enhances personal autonomy, giving students full control over their decisions, pace, and preferences – this feeling of autonomy can be empowering, as it allows students to explore and make choices without external influence or pressure. Please send donations into the school from Dec 1 - Dec 5 Special thanks to SC Mom Kristie G for organizing this educational event. If you can volunteer for this event, it would be greatly appreciated. Many hands make light work! Please see the attached flyer for more details. Special thanks to SC Mom Stephanie M for always creating such beautiful flyers for our events!

### **GIVING TREE**

WOW! What a fantastic night of community teaching our littles the importance of giving to those less fortunate! Thank you for your donations of non-perishable goods for Neighbour to Neighbour. Thank you to Grumps Catering for the donation of the cookies! They were absolutely delicious! Thank you to our performers - Callie G, Ella P, Hannah M, and Margot S. These students collaborated together creating a wonderful winter song and rocked it out in their performance! Way to go!

### **READ A THON**

Special thanks to Dylan Z, Michael S, Eva S, and Gracie K for creating our wonderful display of books showcasing the beauty and fun of reading! These creative geniuses created a beautiful display of books and colourful posters displaying how exciting reading can be! Way to go Buchanan Bees! Together we read for over 38 000 minutes! Seriously though, we want to create sustainable habits for

reading, so how many minutes per day should students read? Did you know reading for 20 minutes per day has been shown to have many positive benefits. Fun fact...children who read 20 minutes a day only 5 days a week are exposed to 1.8 million words in one school year! 20 minutes too long? If your child reads 5 minutes per day they will be exposed to 282 000 words per school year! Keep those pages turning!

## **DIRECTOR VISIT**

Special thanks to our Ambassadors, Steve M, Simao F, Rupert B-V, Nimo R, Macrae Y, and Aisha T who met with the Director of Education and showcased what a great place Buchanan Park is to BEE!!!

Special thanks to Callie G, Ella P, Hannah M, and Margot S who performed their winter song for the Director! By the way, the Director loved her visit with all classes and loved talking to students. Way to represent Buchanan students!

## **COLD WEATHER AND OUTDOOR PLAY PLUS - FUN SNOW GAMES FOR FAMILIES**

Snow! It's basically winter's sand. You can roll in it. You can build with it. And you don't want it in your home. Kids love to play in fresh snow. Do they want to build a snowman? Of course they do! But there are so many other snow games and activities your kids can do to have fun and keep moving once winter comes along. From sledding to snowballs, catching snowflakes and making snow angels, wintertime gives the whole family so many options and so much fun.

Playing outside in winter is a great way to get some fresh air, move our bodies, and have fun. However, it's important to dress properly and protect our bodies from the colder conditions. During winter, it's important that children come to school prepared for the cold. Students should wear boots, mittens/gloves and hats and it's a good idea to pack extra mittens, socks, etc. in case they are needed. It is also important that students come prepared with indoor running shoes, students cannot participate in physical education without the proper footwear and it is too uncomfortable and hot for students to wear winter boots indoor all day.

Have you ever tried snow baking? How about snowball targets? The following ideas are some ways to break up the hum drum of winter and they work for all ages. Wrap your kids up warmly and get them outdoors to play in the snow. They'll be active, they'll get fresh air, and they may never again want to trade snow in for a video game. By the way parents and caregivers, these games are fun for everyone!

### **Buried (in snow) treasure hunt**

Unleash your child's inner pirate and send them off to find hidden loot. Hide a number of items in an area of snow (large or small depending on the age of your child) and let your kids know what you've buried (5 toy cars, 3 plastic dinosaurs, etc.). They'll love digging to find the treasure.

### **Snow baking**

Pack hard snow onto a cookie sheet and use different shapes of cookie cutters to create snow cookies. Move the "cookies" onto a second cookie pan and pretend-bake for as long as your child's imagination feels it should take to make the perfect treat. Decorate the cookies with bits of twigs, berries, or any other items kids discover near their baking area. This fun activity is a crowd-pleaser among many different age groups. Just don't eat them!

### **Throw the buttons on the snowman**

Find some old buttons either in your sewing kit or the dollar store. Build a snowman and take turns throwing buttons to "button up his coat." Make sure everyone's standing back so no one gets buttoned up!

### **Snow obstacle course**

The combinations of this activity are endless! Have kids jump over hurdles made of snow, run around, do three jumping jacks, roll five snowballs, throw those snowballs into a bucket at a certain distance away, twist a hula hoop around themselves, and crawl through the snow to the finish line.

Stay tuned for more ideas of fun in the snow next week!

### **ACTIVE SCHOOL TRAVEL**

On the walk to school, parents/caregivers have a winter scavenger hunt with your child(ren)! You can look for icicles, snowmen, holiday lights on people's houses, a pet wearing a winter coat, a shovel, animal tracks in snow, a squirrel, a pine cone, a certain colour of a hat. Children love to find each item and it makes walking to school even more fun and interactive!

### **IDEAS CONCERNS OR ACCOLADES**

Please contact Ms. Bonnie at [bshapard@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:bshapard@hwdsb.on.ca) or [buchananpark@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:buchananpark@hwdsb.on.ca) and your idea, concern and/or accolade will be sent to the appropriate staff person.

see the attached flyer about our upcoming Beezar below:

[Bee-zaar.pdf](#)

### **UPCOMING DATES**

DECEMBER 1 - 5 - Donations accepted for Beezar

DECEMBER 9 - JK/SK & GR. 2 DENTAL SCREENING

DECEMBER 10 - BEEZAR

DECEMBER 15 - WINTER FESTIVE MUSIC WEEK - STUDENTS ONLY

DECEMBER 16 - WINTER FESTIVE MUSIC WEEK - STUDENTS ONLY

DECEMBER 17 - Winter Concert 11:15 a.m. - PARENTS/GUARDIANS INVITED

DECEMBER 18 - WINTER FESTIVE MUSIC WEEK - STUDENTS ONLY

DECEMBER 19 - WINTER FESTIVE MUSIC WEEK - STUDENTS ONLY

JANUARY 27 - Virtual Snuggle up and Read Night - link will be sent closer to date

JANUARY 28 - Family Literacy Night 5:15-6:30 p.m. in the gym

APRIL 2 - Mathnasium Event - during the school day - parents invited - more info to follow closer to date

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