
Wk of November 17 2025 *edited

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

Date Fri 2025-11-14 1:58 PM

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

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEW INFORMATION

Teachers and parents who work together with mutual respect, caring and support will enable children to achieve more at school. Parent-teacher interviews are short face-to-face sessions between you and your child's teacher, often 10 minutes long. **Parents are encouraged to bring your child to the parent/teacher interview.** Specific hours and days are set aside for these interviews, but you are welcome to arrange a meeting with your child's teacher at any time during the school year. This is an opportunity to find out how your child is learning in the classroom and socializing with peers in the classroom and on the playground; it is also the teacher's chance to learn more about your child and discuss your child's progress with you.

If you are not available at the times put aside for the interviews, talk to your child's teacher (or call the office) so that other arrangements can be made. It is helpful if you are on time and keep to your allotted time so that others can meet at their scheduled time. If you need more time to discuss a concern, a further meeting can be scheduled. Teachers, principals, or special education personnel may also ask to meet at different times during the year depending on what is needed to best support your child.

Parent-teacher interviews are important because simply by attending the interview, you show your child that you value and are interested in his/her learning and school experience. Interviews provide parents with an opportunity to identify additional ways the school can support your child effectively. Teachers in elementary schools will often bring sample work and grades for individual assignments.

Parents, it is really helpful to prepare by spending time in advance thinking about what you want to know about your child's performance at school. Writing your questions down will help you get the most out of your interview. Talk to your child before the interview. Find out what he or she enjoys most about school and if your child has any worries or concerns to address with the teacher. Does your child seem happy about school? What is their favourite part of the day? What is the best thing that happened to them? What makes them sad? These are open-ended questions that will allow your child to answer more than yes or no. Consider what special things you would like the teacher to know about your child. Does your child have any special interests or hobbies? This may be helpful for the teacher to know when trying to spark your child's interest. Has anything important happened that may be useful for the teacher to know about? This information will remain confidential. Families have insight that will help the school better support learning. If you need a translator to fully communicate, please arrange this with the school ahead of time.

During the interview: Use your list of questions to make sure you haven't left anything out. Don't hesitate to make notes while the teacher is talking so that you will remember what he or she said once

you get home. Listen and be open, you both want the best for your child. Ask the teacher about the classroom rules, homework, and student expectations. Ask about your child's work habits, behaviour, participation, and learning style. Most children are aware of these interviews and may be anxious about them – After the interview, talk to your child about what was discussed.

Sample Questions for parents: How is your child getting along with other children? Is there anything the teacher feels your child needs extra help or practice with at home? Are you concerned about any area of learning for my child? What are your expectations for homework? Has my child missed any assignments? How are my child's work habits? Does my child read at the level you would expect for this grade? Is my child able to do the math you would expect for a student in this grade? Does my child come prepared for class (e.g., arrives with pencil, paper/notebook, etc)? Does my child get along well with the other students in the class? What is his/her attitude towards school, peers and adults? What can I do at home to help my child be more successful at school?

Please note...don't be fooled by protests from your child that, "Nobody's parents go to Parent Teacher Interviews!" In fact, most parents do attend - and students are pleased that their parents are interested, even if they'll never admit it."

If you have yet to schedule your parent/teacher interview, please click on this link to book:
<https://outlook.office.com/book/BuchananParkCaregiverTeacherInterviews@hwdsb.on.ca/?ismsaljsauthenabled>

PICTURE ORDERS

Capture your memories before the holidays with the perfect gift! Place your school photo order by DECEMBER 8 to receive it before winter break. **LIMITED TIME OFFER:** Get 50% off digital holiday cards with coupon code: **HOLLY**. Add the product to your cart then enter the coupon code before checkout. Visit edgeimaging.ca/order and enter your portrait codes to get started. Lost codes? Check out our online look-up form edgeimaging.ca/lookup or call the Edge Customer Care team at 1-888-416-3343.

ACTIVE SCHOOL TRAVEL

Special thanks to SC Mom, Joseline P for launching this important program! Buchanan Bees is now part of the AST program! The Active School Travel program promotes healthy travel options for our students. The AST program includes walking, manual wheeled transport to school (bikes, scooters) to get to school. Families, together we can help reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality in our community!

To kick off the AST program - NOVEMBER IS BRIGHT, BOLD, AND VISIBLE BUCHANAN BEES!

Parents and Guardians can model active school travel in a variety of ways, one way is to park a block away from the school and walk with your students the rest of the way! While walking play "Spot the safe walker" - First person to spot 3 things wins that round! Students and parents names things such as a biker wearing a helmet, a person using the crosswalk, someone wearing bright colours!

As the days get shorter, it's important for students and families to stay safe while walking, biking, or rolling to school. Encourage your child to wear bright or reflective clothing , especially in the mornings and late afternoons. Even small touches such as a bright backpack, reflective stickers, or glow bands can help drivers see children more easily. Let's all work together to keep our students safe and visible

this season! For more information please visit: <https://www.hamilton.ca/home-neighbourhood/getting-around/smart-commute/active-and-sustainable-school-travel>

READ-A-THON

Read at home every day. **Fill out your ballots by using the QR below** to make every minute count. The class that reads the most **per capita** will claim the **first-ever Literacy Cup!**  But that's not all—**every student is automatically entered into DAILY prize draws**. Equal Chances = Equals Fun! So grab your favorite book, cozy up, and **start reading today!**  **Event**

Dates: November 17–28, 2025 - Scan the QR Code below to record your reading minutes:



WINTER LIGHTS COUNTDOWN - NOVEMBER 26TH 5 - 6 PM

You are invited to our Winter Glow Celebration on Wednesday November 26th from 5 to 6 pm. To celebrate the season of giving, each person attending celebrate the season of giving by bringing a non-perishable donation for Neighbour 2 Neighbour. Order hot chocolate, apple cider \$2 each, and cookies \$1 on schoolcash online! If purchasing at the event, hot chocolate, apple cider \$3 each and cookies \$2 each. Special thanks to SC Mom Stephanie M for organizing this community event to promote the learning and importance of giving to those less fortunate. Proceeds to the Student Advancement Fund. Thank you for your continued support!

BEEZAR IS COMING!!!

And, we are as excited as you are to host and participate in our annual Beezar event to help your child buy presents for the season of giving. Please do not send donations into the school until Dec 1 - Dec 5 as SC is focused on our Giving Tree Event. Special thanks to SC Mom Kristie G for organizing.

HOT LUNCH AND SUB DAYS NOW AVAILABLE ON SCHOOLCASH

Order your students a HOT LUNCH - Mondays are Pasta Days \$6.50, Marina, Alfredo, and Butter options available. The students are saying the hot pasta lunches are delicious!

Tuesdays are sub days \$7 Veggie, \$8.50 Meatball and Chicken - tons of yummy topping options!

Fridays are pizza days - \$2.50/slice - and always delicious!

all food is delivered at 2nd Nutrition Break. Thank you to SC Mom, Yumi H and Tess G for volunteering every week to hand out nutritious ordered lunches! If you have 20 minutes and a vulnerable sector screen on file,

Available for purchase on schoolcash. HWDSB's preferred method of payment is schoolcash. Please find the link to sign up here: [SchoolCashOnline.com: Welcome](https://www.schoolcashonline.com/welcome) If you have difficulty signing up or signing in please contact Ms. Bonnie in the school office at bshapard@hwdsb.on.ca Payments on schoolcash can be made with your debit card or a credit card. If there is an unique circumstance where you need to purchase items with cash, please send your student to the office to receive a paper order form, please send in the completed form and money to the school office. All purchases are due ONE week before food day. No late orders will be accepted.

IDEAS CONCERNS OR ACCOLADES

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

NUTRITION PROGRAM

Here at Buchanan Park School we offer a daily nutrition program. We welcome food donations that are in compliance with our Nutrition Policy (nut-free). In addition to food donations, if you would like to donate a gift card for us to use for nutrition or for a family in need, we welcome these donations.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you would like to volunteer for reading buddies, math buddies, our hot lunch programs, volunteer for class trips/adventures, become a volunteer driver for teams_and clubs. Please complete your

Vulnerable Sector Screening found here: [Get a Background Check | Hamilton Police Service.](https://www.hps.on.ca/BackgroundCheck)

Please only select Vulnerable Sector_Check. Please note: ALL VOLUNTEERS MUST GO THROUGH THE OFFICE TO CONFIRM ANY VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES. Thank you to Nathan B, Susanne B-V, Philip B, Heather B, Nathan C, Melissa C, Jenna D, Helen D, Miriam G, Kathryn G, Tess G, Caitlin G, Amanda G, Kristie G, Stephanie H, Yumi H, Shannon K-Z, Ashleigh L, Stephanie M, Jolene M, Byron M, Janet M, Melissa M, Katherine M, Angela N, Jade N, Tavia N, Ben P, Joseline P-Q, Hailey R and Jody S for volunteering to make Buchanan Bees' the place to BEE! If you have yet to hand in your OD, please do so asap!

UPCOMING DATES

NOVEMBER 17 - 28 - READ-A-THON (at home)

NOVEMBER 20 - PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

NOVEMBER 21 - PD day - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

NOVEMBER 25 - Photo Retake Day

NOVEMBER 26 - Giving Tree Event

NOVEMBER 28 - Achievement Assembly 2:20 p.m.

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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