
Early Edition Week of November 24 2025

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

Date Wed 2025-11-19 2:25 PM

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

REMINDER - THIS FRIDAY NOVEMBER 21ST IS A PD DAY - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO PARTICIPATE AS A CLASS OR A SCHOOL DIVISION IN WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

Elementary assemblies serve as powerful moments where students experience collective belonging beyond the classroom experience. It helps students create memorable shared experiences and builds trust while performing together. Whole school assemblies are a place for celebrating on a large scale in the spotlight of the gathered school community versus during class time where pupils are given praise mostly individually. Whole school assemblies teach how to be a good audience, teamwork while presenting together as a whole, and foster community, nurturing whole school connections, whole school relationships, and a sense of belonging among all grades.

WHY DO WE CELEBRATE A WINTER BREAK AND/OR CONCERT VERSUS CHRISTMAS AS A PUBLIC SCHOOL

Winter break concerts help us to celebrate and include every student from every background while gathered in the same room. Winter break assemblies help each student feel represented and understand that they all belong because belonging is everything. Children walk into school carrying a world of experiences, different cultures, different traditions, different family structures, different holidays and sometimes none at all. When assemblies or concerts highlight only one group or one tradition, even unintentionally, we send the message that some students are "in" and "others are not as important." Inclusion isn't about erasing traditions, it's about widening the circle so every child sees a place for themselves. Winter concerts make every student feel seen and valued. Winter concerts (seasonal songs versus holiday songs) teaches empathy by showing kids that the world is wonderfully diverse. Our winter concert builds a stronger, kinder school community and encourages participation from students who might not participate because they don't celebrate that particular holiday. When students see their culture, their talents, or their voices recognized - confidence grows. Students learn that their voice matters.

Winter break means something different to families. Some celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Yule, Diwali, to name a few, some use the break as a time to rest, reconnect and enjoy being together. Some families don't celebrate at all and go about their day to day routines. When we use the term winter break it helps ensure our language reflects the diversity of the students sitting in front of us. We are teaching hospitality by creating a space that no family/student feels left out. When we say winter break we are reminding our students and families that their traditions are welcome, their identity has a place here, and they are included in our celebration no matter if they celebrate or not. This shift in

language isn't about being "politically correct" it's about respecting and being kind to one another. Winter Break is about acknowledging our community is more diverse than any single tradition.

Beyond teaching writing, math and teamwork, inclusion is a life skill. When students and schools embrace diversity we learn how to respect others whose life experiences differ, we learn to listen to different perspectives and we learn how to participate with community that has differing world views. These are the building blocks of empathy, leadership and citizenship.

When our assemblies and celebrations mirror openness, we give students a gift far bigger than any holiday tradition, we give students the gift of belonging. Inclusion doesn't dim any holiday, it brightens all of them.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND BIRTHDAY SWEETS INTO CLASSROOMS

Food matters, from exclusion to obesity to food allergies and learning disruption. The Ministry of Education collaborating with educators want to build healthier habits in our students. We welcome non-food birthday treats such as fun pencils, erasers, book marks, cute sticky notes, stickers, mini rubik cubes, puzzles, classroom games, or a book that can be read to the class. This birthday procedure is in place because all schools in Ontario are required to follow the Ministry of Education's nutrition policy. If you would like to learn more about the Ministry of Education's Nutrition Policy, please see this link: [Policy/Program Memorandum 150 | Education in Ontario: policy and program direction | ontario.ca](#)

ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLIES

Congratulations for excellence in JSA - Elliott G, Joan M, Luna G, and Raina S. JSB - Hiba M, Nathan M, Cameron M, Melina C, 1A - Isabel R, Majito B, Ronin S, Kayla L, 12A - Brianna G, Emily, Violet, Sheen P, and Madden M, 2A - Chloe H, Aiden H, Amaira A, Rodrigo C, 34A - Saxton G, Amari M, Tyler S, Patrick N, Margot S, 34B - Liliana M, Kylo S, Mackenzie L, Beth W, Lorilei BV, Heidi S, 45A - Dollie B, Owen P, Laju A, Carter H, Caleb H, Hudson C, Fox L, Ethen S, Lauren B, Meadow B, Ximena A, 56A - Steve M, Leland A, Sydney G, Alex H. Rupert B-V, Mave M-W, LRT - Hannah L, Macrae Y, Alex H, Lilith D.

PICTURE ORDERS

*Retake Day: November 25th. 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

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, Miriam G, 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](#). **Please only select Vulnerable Sector_Check. Please note: ALL VOLUNTEERS MUST GO THROUGH THE OFFICE TO CONFIRM ANY VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES.**

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 Bazaar

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

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board would like to continue connecting with you via email. If you prefer to be removed from our list, please contact Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board directly. To stop receiving all email messages distributed through our SchoolMessenger service, follow this link and confirm: [Unsubscribe](#)

SchoolMessenger is a notification service used by the nation's leading school systems to connect with parents, students and staff through voice, SMS text, email, and social media.