

---

## Week of February 2, 2026

---

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

**Date** Fri 1/30/2026 2:07 PM

**To** Buchanan Park Elementary School <buchananpark@hwdsb.on.ca>

### **LITERACY WEEK**

What a success! Thank you for participating in all of the fun literacy events; from READO (Bingo), Virtual Snuggle Up & Read, and the Amazing Literacy Race! We thank you for supporting literacy in your home! Here are a few tips to help your reader continue to read!

Boost elementary literacy by reading together daily for 15 minutes, allowing children to choose their own books to increase engagement. Use expressive voices, ask open-ended questions to improve comprehension, and encourage re-reading familiar books to build fluency. Make reading an interactive experience, such as acting out stories or exploring non-fiction.

- **Read Together Daily:** Make reading a consistent part of the day, such as a bedtime routine, to build a lasting habit.
- **Let Kids Choose:** Encourage children to select books based on their interests to increase motivation and engagement.
- **Active Reading & Questioning:** Pause to ask questions about the plot, characters, and their feelings to deepen understanding. Ask questions like "What do you think will happen next?", "What do you think about the character (insert name of character), "What is your most favourite part of the book, what is your least favourite part, and why?"
- **Read Together Aloud:** Take turns reading, particularly with longer books or chapters, to help them with challenging vocabulary.
- **Improve Fluency:** Encourage re-reading favorite books, which helps children become faster, more accurate readers.
- **Show Passion:** Read with expression, using different voices for characters and emotions to keep them engaged.
- **Model Reading Behavior:** Let children see you reading for pleasure to set an example.
- **Use Diverse Materials:** Explore different formats, including graphic novels, magazines, and newspapers.
- **Visit the Library:** Take regular trips to the local library to explore new genres and topics.
- **Make it Fun:** Keep reading enjoyable by acting out scenes or playing, rather than turning it into a chore.
- **Discuss New Words:** When encountering unfamiliar words to your child, stop to discuss their meaning and encourage using in a sentence.
- **Make Connections:** Ask children to relate stories to their own lives, other books, or movies.
- **Word Games:** Play games that focus on rhymes, alliteration, and sounds (alliteration is repetition of the consonant (ex. Peter Piper Picked a Pepper), which help build phonemic awareness of

(Phonemic awareness is the ability to notice, think about, and work with the individual sounds of speech,

- Word Detective: Point out words in everyday life, such as on food packages or road signs.
- Create Stories: Encourage children to make up their own stories or predict what happens next based on illustrations.
- Accessible Books: Keep books in easily accessible places, such as on shelves, side tables, or in baskets.
- Create a Reading Nook: Designate a quiet, comfortable, and well-lit space specifically for reading.
- Limit Screen Time: Set boundaries on, or prioritize reading over, television and electronic devices.
- Incorporate Reading into Daily Life: Encourage reading grocery lists, recipes, instructions, or signs on the street, but most of all, HAVE FUN!

### **MAD SCIENCE - FEB 5 TO APR 2 Grade 1 to 6 THURSDAYS NB2**

Click on the attachment to sign up: [MAD SCIENCE SIGN UP.pdf](#)

### **PARENT WORKSHOP - SAVE THE DATE - FEBRUARY 25TH 4:15 TO 5:15 PM**

Join us for a workshop inspiring resilience through social-emotional skills! Grounded in Social Emotional Learning (SEL) this parent workshop offers insights, practical tools, and meaningful conversations to help you support your child's friendships, empathy, and confidence. To hear some examples of our workshop topic click here: [Podcasts – Brave Education](#)

### **MOVE-A-THON**

Our annual Move-a-thon is approaching quickly! A sponsorship form is sent home in the agendas today! The opportunity to purchase Fun Bags (\$5) and Glow-Wands (\$2) are available on School Cash! If possible, purchase early, so we know how many to buy! Our Move-a-thon is more successful the more money we raise! If we raise over \$1500, we will be celebrating with ice cream for the entire school - more info to come!

### **Move-a-thon Sponsorship Information**

Are you, your family or friends interested in sponsoring your child for this year's Valentine's Day Move-a-thon? This year our Move-a-thon donations are being put towards the Student Advancement Fund! All children participate in the Move-a-thon regardless of sponsorship!

Sponsorship money can be donated through school cash online, if you would like a tax receipt, all donations over \$20 made to HWDSB Foundation will receive a charitable tax receipt. All funds will be used at Buchanan Park. A sponsorship form for tracking is in agendas today!

Thank you for raising money for Buchanan Park Elementary School. Instructions for school cash online:

Total funds can be submitted as one lump payment; contact Ms. Bonnie in the school office [bshapard@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:bshapard@hwdsb.on.ca) so she can create your item in the amount of the lump sum, please include your child's name.

## **Instructions for charitable tax receipts**

To receive a charitable donation receipt your donation must be over \$20 and if requiring a receipt the donation must go through the Foundation. The funds automatically are redirected to Buchanan Park. HWDSB Foundation provides the donor with a donation tax receipt directly. Below, please find the ways donors can donate directly to HWDSB Foundation.

**Donate by phone** To make a donation by phone please call us at 905-527-5092 ext 2436. We can process a secure gift by credit card and mail a tax receipt.

**Donate by mail** To make a donation by mail, please send a cheque payable to: Hamilton Foundation for Student Success 20 Education Court Hamilton, ON L8N 3L1 Note "Buchanan Park Moveathon" in the Memo line or include a note with the cheque.

**Donate Online By credit card** via HWDSB website <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/foundation/donate/> and noting that the donation designation Buchanan Park Moveathon in the additional comments section. Once the Foundation receives the money, they will issue the individual a charitable tax receipt.

## **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.

## **LEARNING OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS**

### **READING ON THE GO OR AT HOME - TUMBLEBOOKS**

The Hamilton Public Library has a Platinum subscription to TumbleBook Library which includes access for your student. Here is the info. Please check it out!

[www.tumblebooklibrary.com](http://www.tumblebooklibrary.com)

username: hpl

password: hwdsb

direct link to Tumblebooks: [https://www.tumblebooklibrary.com/auto\\_login.aspx?u=hpl&p=hwdsb](https://www.tumblebooklibrary.com/auto_login.aspx?u=hpl&p=hwdsb)

## **LEARNING OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS**

**Start2Finish**, a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing **education equity** and **inclusive learning opportunities** for all children.

Our mission is to help students thrive by strengthening:

- **Reading Literacy**, building confidence through accessible and engaging reading experiences;
- **Health Literacy**, promoting active living and overall well-being through fun, inclusive fitness activities;

- **Cultural Literacy**, nurturing empathy and belonging by exploring diverse stories ( Mirrors and Windows concept) and perspectives that reflect every child's identity and community.

At Start2Finish, we believe every child—regardless of background, ability, or location—should have access to quality learning experiences. To that end, we are pleased to invite students from your school community to participate in one of our **free virtual afterschool programs**:

- **Brainworx** for students in grades 1-6 Facebook
- **Junior Coach** program for students in grades 7 & 8. Facebook

Each program is designed by educators and wellness experts, combining literacy development, social-emotional learning, and physical activity in a welcoming, inclusive virtual environment.

This program is **completely free** for families and led by **trained, vetted volunteers** who are committed to creating safe and supportive learning spaces

### **PEDICULOSIS/HEAD LICE**

If you discover head lice or nits, it is important to apply treatment and remove nits to prevent spreading to others. Public Health does not require reporting of a head lice infestation. However, if you do find that your child has head lice, please inform the school. You can also consult with a health professional to find the treatment most suitable. Treatment products will kill the lice, but not all of the nits, therefore nits must be removed by hand.

Please also note that treatment for head lice is covered by OHIP+ for children and youth under 25. To obtain covered products visit your family doctor or walk-in clinic for a prescription.

Additional information can be obtained from the Caring for Kids website at <https://caringforkids.cps.ca/handouts/healthconditions-and-treatments/head>

### **COLD WEATHER AND OUTDOOR PLAY**

Time spent outdoors is an important part of the school day. There are great benefits when children experience fresh air, exercise and time spent time outside. Outdoor play is also a break from the structure of the classroom.

Depending on the season, preparing for outdoor play in Canada can mean anything from applying sunscreen to wearing mittens, hat, and layers to stay warm. 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.

HWDSB asks Principals to follow the City of Hamilton guideline that people stay inside when it's at or below -15C, or -20C with the wind chill.

### **SNOW CLEARING**

Snow-clearing at HWDSB schools is a responsibility shared by Board staff, contractors and the City of Hamilton.

- **HWDSB staff** clear, salt and/or sand walkways from the city sidewalk to the school, school and portable steps, walkways to portables, ramps to schools and portables, areas outside entrances and fire exit doors, fire exit stairs and ramps.
- **HWDSB contractors** after 5+ cm of snow will plow parking lots and sidewalks when HWDSB Facilities staff deem it necessary, salt and sand the parking lot before school starts, and if required, Head Caretakers may also salt or sand parts of the parking lot.
- **The City of Hamilton** is responsible for clearing snow and ice from sidewalks directly in front of schools, a top priority for the City. Note that it may take up to 24 hours after a snowfall for sidewalks to be cleared. Report a sidewalk fronting a school in need of clearing at 905-546-CITY (2489).

Contractors will plow or clear up to half of the asphalt play area at schools. Head Caretakers also inspect playgrounds and spot sand and/or salt areas made slippery by changing temperatures.

Students should take extra caution when walking or playing on school property that may be slippery. Principals concerned about weather or playground conditions may hold indoor recesses and lunch/nutrition breaks.

### **INCLEMENT WEATHER SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS**

During severe winter weather, the difficult decision to remain open or to close is always made with the safety and security of our students and staff in mind.

A school cancellation is a tough decision – and some families may disagree with HWDSB’s call. Families can always make the choice they feel is best when it comes to sending their child to school. Here are some guidelines to remember:

- When bad weather is expected, Hamilton-Wentworth Student Transportation Services (HWSTS) carriers check weather reports, road conditions and road clearing, starting as early as 4 a.m.
- School boards have varied policies on cancellations. The HWDSB Rule is: Severe weather + Bus cancellation = Schools and Administrative Buildings are closed. When HWDSB cancels busing due to inclement weather, we have deemed the roads unsafe and this triggers the closure of schools and administrative buildings.
- HWDSB will announce the cancellation of school and board operations by 6 a.m. Families will receive an email communication by this time if there is a closure.

### **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+. 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](#)

### **UPCOMING DATES:**

FEBRUARY 13 - REPORT CARDS GO HOME

FEBRUARY 13 - MOVEATHON - STUDENTS ONLY - MIDDLE BLOCK

FEBRUARY 16 - FAMILY DAY - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

FEBRUARY 25 - CHECKERS TOURNAMENT - STUDENTS ONLY

FEBRUARY 25 - 4:15 to 5:15 pm - PARENT WORKSHOP

FEBRUARY 25 - SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING IN THE LIBRARY 5:30-6:30 PM

FEBRUARY 27 - ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY - 2:20 PM - PARENTS ARE WELCOME

MARCH 6 - PD DAY - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

MARCH 16 TO 20 - SPRING BREAK - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

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

APRIL 7 & 8 - KID'S PAINT PARTY - STUDENTS ONLY

MARCH 13 - MOVIE DAY 11 AM

JUNE 10 - FUN FAIR - RAIN DATE: JUNE 17 - MORE INFO TO COME

---

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.