



Central Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

75 Hunter Street West
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 1P9
Phone: 905.522.9690
Fax: 905.522.9801

EMAIL: central@hwdsb.on.ca
PRINCIPAL: T. Hamill
www.hwdsb.on.ca/central

November, 2016 Newsletter

I can't believe it is already November! We have several weeks behind us, and rules/routines are settling in very nicely.

I would like to extend a congratulations to our Cross Country Team who represented us very well at the HWDSB Meet. We received a wonderful compliment about how well behaved and polite our students were. Thank you so much! I would also like to thank our Parent Volunteers for helping us on that day, and to our teachers – Mrs. Bower, Ms. Fothergill and Mr. Ordowich for all their hard work with this team!



SAFETY REMINDERS:

No Nuts or Nut Products Please: We still have some students bringing in items that have nuts or nut products and/or oils. We have several children who have life threatening allergies. Please check all foods and food packages to be sure they do not contain any nut products, or nut oils. Thank you.

Absences/Lates: Attendance and punctuality is critical for your child's learning, achievement and well-being. If your child is going to be absent or late, please contact the school at 905-522-9690, and provide the following information:

- Child's name
- Reason for absence/late (and timelines)
- Child's grade
- Child's teacher

Any student arriving late must check into the office upon their arrival. Our start time is 8:45 a.m., and many of our classes start with Literacy, while the students are most alert. That being said, all of the classes are important to your child's education, and if your child is late regularly, he/she will be missing a significant portion of these important lessons.

Pick-up Time: 3:05 p.m.

Checking in at the Office: When visiting Central School, please ring the buzzer, and upon entry, go directly to the office to check in. If you are dropping off something for your child, please leave it at the office, and we will deliver it to your child. Thank you.

Visitors/Volunteers: If you are visiting or volunteering at Central, please sign-in on the appropriate sign-in list in the office. This is very important, as if we have an emergency in the building, we need to know that everyone in the building is accounted for, and safe. Thank you very much for this.

Clothing Swap – by Central School Council

The very successful Clothing Swap returns on Tuesday **November 15, 2016 from 2:30-3:30pm**. Please drop off your clean used clothing during the week. Items welcome: winter coats, snow suits, snow pants, hats, scarves, mittens, warm clothing for children and adults, lightly used boots and toys. These items will be offered at the swap for free. You do not have to donate to take clothing. You do not have to pay for items. There is no limit to the amount of clothes you may take from the swap. This is a great way for our community to share the things we and our children have grown out of and it has been very successful in the past. We look forward to helping all our Central families get some great new to them clothes for the winter season!"



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Strollers: Unfortunately, we **cannot allow** strollers into our school, as it **does not meet with Fire Regulations**. We are sorry for this inconvenience. As an alternative, you may wish to lock your stroller to the fence outside (you would have to provide the lock yourself). Also, we cannot be responsible for lost or stolen items. I apologize for the inconvenience, and thank you for following this rule.

Cold Weather

As the cold weather approaches, please be sure your child(ren) is/are dressed appropriately for the weather. Students will be waiting outside before and after school, and they will be going out for recess each day – weather permitting.

On rainy, or extremely cold weather days, students will be brought into the gym, in the morning. Please say good-bye to your child(ren) at the door as we do not have enough room in the gym to accommodate parents and children.

Also, please do not congregate in the vestibule at the entry door. Crowding in this area is a safety concern. Thank you.

SCHOOL CLOSURES: “The decision to cancel School and Board Administrative Operations is often a difficult call to make. Please be assured that the decision to remain open or to close is always made with the safety and security of our students and staff in mind. In order to determine whether or not schools will be closed, please refer to the HWDSB Website at www.hwdsb.on.ca or listen to the following stations:” (HWDSB)

- KLITE FM 102.9
- FM CJXY-Y108
- FM 107.9 FM
- CHAM 820 AM
- CHML 900 AM
- Oldies 1150 AM
- CHKX-KX94.7.FM
- 94.7 FM CKPC
- Brantford 1380 AM
- 92.1 FM
- CHCHTV Hamilton

No students are permitted in the school before and after school hours (unless they are enrolled in the YWCA Before/After School Program). This is very important. We have had students running in our halls, jumping down stairs, and vandalizing our bathrooms. This is of course a great safety concern. We cannot be responsible for students in our building before and after school hours. Thank you very much for helping with this matter.

IMPORTANT DATES: Please see the attached **calendar** for the important dates for this November.

Parents As Partners: Understanding Your Child’s IEP, Information Session on November 29, 2016. Please see the link on our school website for details. (parents-as-partners-information-session-on-november-29-2016)

Website Information: Please note, any notices, or news items that come up in between our monthly newsletters, will be posted on our school website (usually these would be found in the “News” section of the website, on the Home Page. Also, a reminder that all Newsletters and School Calendars will be posted in the “Newsletter” section of the website.

Kindergarten Observations: These observations will be happening over the month of November. Your child’s teacher will contact you with the details and available dates for these. Please note, these observations take the place of the Progress Reports for Kindergarten.

PHOTO RETAKES: Photo retake day is on **November 18th**. The **class photos** will also be taken on this day.



Nutrition Program: We will be starting our Nutrition Program sometime this month. Snacks will be provided to students upon entry after the outdoor portion of the morning Recess Break, usually twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We are **looking for a volunteer**,

who would be able to set up and distribute the snacks to students as they enter, and then put any left overs away



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again/clean-up. This shouldn't take any longer than an hour (from approximately 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. If you are willing/able to help in this area, but are not available on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays, we would consider alternative dates. If you are interested in volunteering for this program, **please contact Mrs. Reid** at 905-522-9690. Thank you.

Halloween Day: The students and teachers/staff looked amazing in their costumes. Thank you to all who helped to make this day a success!

Photos: If you have taken photos that include students who are not your own children, please remember the confidentiality around this, and do not publish any photos of students (who are not your own) on the internet or anywhere else. Thank you.

Reminder of Emergency Drills

The Hamilton District School Board has a primary responsibility to ensure the safety of students and staff inside Board buildings and on Board property. The "Emergency Lockdown Procedure" is initiated, should a high risk incident occur. The chances are rare, but we must be prepared. High risk situations can be anything involving weapons, hazardous spills, severe weather warnings, student/stranger intrusion, rabid animals loose in the yard/school, circumstances at another school facility or in the immediate area that could endanger the safety of students and/or staff. In order for all students and staff to continue to become familiar with the expectations during a lockdown, our school will be practising the emergency lockdown procedures. We will be holding our first **lockdown drill prior to the Winter Holidays**. During these drills, the doors will be locked and no one will be allowed into the school. This is the same procedure that will be followed in a real situation.

We use the following terminology across the board for the various Emergency Procedures:

Lockdown:	Potentially violent situation at the school
Hold and Secure:	Safety situation in the neighbourhood external to the school
Shelter in Place:	Potentially environmental hazard outside the school

As previously stated, we will be holding drills for the various procedures throughout the school year. We had our first three fire drills, and so far they have all been successful – thank you to everyone for following the appropriate procedures. Please contact your child's teacher should you have any questions about any of these drills/procedures.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our first School Council Meeting was held on October 6. Thank you to all who attended, and are supporting Central School in this way. All of the elected positions were acclaimed and are as follows:

Co-Chairs:	Dr. Abeir Abd El-Gawwaddeifall Mrs. Katherine Graham
Parent Representatives:	Ms. Brook Stones Miss Brittany Wallace Ms. Leanne Palmerston

The **next meeting** will be held on December 1, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.