



Central Elementary School

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PRINCIPAL: Mrs. T. Hamill

September, 2017, Newsletter

Welcome to Central School! We are looking forward to a wonderful New Year, and hope that you had a great summer! I am looking forward to meeting all of the students and their families as the year progresses.

I would like to take a moment to thank our Caretaking Staff, and our Office Administrator (Ms. Reid) for their work and dedication during the summer to get Central School ready for the year. I would also like to thank all of the staff who have come in during the summer to prepare their rooms for our students!!!

I would like to welcome the following new teachers and staff to Central School: Mrs. Beam, Miss Serkus, Ms. Coleman, Mrs. Cometto, Miss Witten, and Ms. Knapp. I would also like to welcome back Miss Raveendran and Miss McMenemy. For a complete list of staff, please refer to our website: www.schools.hwdsb.on.ca/central.

As always, we are committed to the safety and well-being of your children, as they learn and grow at Central School. This Newsletter will provide some general information that will help you throughout the school year. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us directly, or you can refer to our school website. All of our Newsletters will be posted on this website.

School Safety – Checking in the Office

All caregivers are required to check in at the Main Office upon entry into the school. Please drop off your child(ren) in the morning between 8:30 a.m. and 8:45; and pick them up at 3:05 p.m. **when our playground is supervised**. If you need to drop off or pick up after 8:45 a.m. or before 3:05 p.m., **please come to the Main Office** and we will escort/send your child(ren) to the classroom for you. Thank you in advance for this. As you can appreciate, safety in this matter is of the utmost importance.



We are a NUT Sensitive School

Products containing nuts are NOT allowed at school. Please pack lunches and snacks that are NUT-FREE. This **includes all types of nuts**, such as peanuts, cashews, pecans, almonds, Nutella, etc.

Thank you for your co-operation in keeping our students safe.

Anaphylaxis and Other Emergency Plans

If your child requires an Epi-pen, or has other Emergency/Medical Needs, please be sure the appropriate Emergency Forms are submitted to the Office. These forms can be picked up in the Main Office, or sent home through your classroom teacher. Please note, these forms/plans **must be completed every year**. If you require any further information in regards to this, please contact the school.



Strollers: When visiting Central School, please leave your **strollers outside**. Having strollers in the halls **does NOT meet the Fire Safety Code**, and therefore, we cannot allow them in. You may lock them to the chain link fence outside, if you like. (We cannot take responsibility for lost or stolen items.) Please do not leave any children unattended in the stroller. Sorry for any inconvenience, and thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Bell Schedule

Student Drop Off:	8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.
Entry Bell:	8:45 a.m.
First Nutrition Break and Recess:	10:25 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.
Second Nutrition Break and Recess:	12:45 p.m. – 1:25 p.m.
Dismissal Bell:	3:05 p.m.
Student Pick Up:	3:05 p.m.

Please **Do NOT drop your child(ren) off outside of the Drop Off times**, as there will be **no Supervisors on duty outside of that time**.

Thank you in advance.

Attendance and Arrival Check

Regular attendance and punctuality is critical to the success of students. Research indicates that there is a correlation between students who attend school regularly and on time, and school achievement. However, if your child(ren) will be absent from school, “parents are to inform the school if a pupil is late or absent. In the event that the school has not received notice of lateness or absenteeism, the school will attempt to contact the parent, or person(s) whose name has been provided to the school as a person to contact in an emergency situation.” “Parents/guardians/caregivers are responsible for providing the school with complete and current emergency/safety arrival contact information.” (HWDSB, Arrival Check Directive). Please call Central School (905-522-9690) at any time and leave a message stating your child’s name, teacher, grade and the reason for his/her absence. Thank you.

Parking Lot:

- Please monitor and walk **with** your child(ren) as you walk around or enter the parking lot.
- When driving in the parking lot, please **follow the directional arrows** in the parking lot. Thank you.
- Also, please do not stop in the travel areas of the parking lot. If you must stop, please do so in a parking spot.
- Please do not leave your vehicle unattended unless you are parked in a defined parking spot.
- Please be **patient**. The parking lot usually clears in about 10 minutes. If you must drive, **please be ready to wait**.

Thank you.

Agendas

Central students in Grades 1 to 5 will be given an agenda to use throughout the school year. These agendas are a great tool for students to use to record their homework and various activities. In addition to this, teachers and parents can use it to communicate to one another. Students are to bring their agendas to and from school each day.

Volunteers

Volunteers play an invaluable role in supporting our students. We welcome and value your participation. If you are interested in volunteering, please refer to the Volunteering section on our School Website (<http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/central/>) and/or contact your classroom teacher. Please note that all volunteers in HWDSB schools **MUST** provide a new *Vulnerable Sector Screening* every three years. Volunteers must also sign a current *offence declaration* each year, in between Vulnerable Sector Screening updates. We want everyone at HWDSB to be safe in our buildings and the updated Vulnerable Sector Screening is one way we can protect our students.

Meet the Teacher Event

Our Meet the Teacher Event will be held on October 5, 2017 this year. It will also include:

- Meeting your child's teacher
- Cheese pizza
- Volunteer meeting

Important Dates

Please refer to the 2 Calendars that are attached to this Newsletter: The first one is the HWDSB School Year Calendar for 2017/2018 which covers important dates for the year at a glance; the second is the Central Calendar for September.

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 emergency lockdown procedures as we normally do with fire drills. 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:

Lockdown:	Potentially violent situation at the school
Hold and Secure:	Safety situation in the neighbourhood external to the school
Shelter in Place:	Potential environmental hazard outside the school
Bomb Threat:	An evacuation procedure in the event that the school receives a bomb threat.

We will be holding two lockdown practice drills during the school year, along with one Hold and Secure, one Shelter in Place, and one Bomb Threat drill. In addition to this, we will be holding 6 Fire Drills throughout the year. The first one will be announced to staff and students, and the remaining 5 will be surprises. Please contact your child's teacher should you have any questions about any of these drills/procedures.

Keep Valuables at Home

Please do not bring toys, video games, cards, jewellery, or any other items that you value to school. They are safest at home. Central School cannot take any responsibility for items that have been lost, stolen or damaged/broken at school. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

Reorganization

Each September, all schools' classroom numbers are reviewed to verify class sizes. With this review, a need for re-organization is always a possibility. We will keep you informed should any changes affect your child directly. Thank you for your patience in advance, should any changes be required.

Media Consent

We have enclosed a "Media Consent Agreement" form. Please read, complete and sign this Agreement and return to the school by Monday, September 18, 2016. Thank you. (For more information about this, please refer to the school website.)

Future Newsletter Distribution

In an effort to be more environmentally friendly, I would like to make a transition to an electronic newsletter. Prior to making the change to having the Central Newsletter only on our website, I would like to offer the following choices for future distribution:

- I will view the Central School Newsletter on the school website only, (please do not send me a hard copy).
- Please send me a hard copy of the newsletter home with my child. Hard copies will go home with the oldest child.

Please **choose one of the above choices**, and return the cut-off portion of this page to the school by **September 18, 2016**. Thank you.

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____
Child's Name: _____, Grade: _____
Teacher's Name: _____

School Council Information

Parents, guardians and caregivers who have a child enrolled at Central School are welcome to attend School Council meetings. "As a school council member, you can help your council discover new and exciting ways to contribute to the education of students in your school. Education is a partnership involving parents, students, teachers, principals, school boards, government, and the community. Your involvement in the council gives you the opportunity to strengthen that partnership, and to be part of a dedicated team working to support a high quality of education and an accountable education system for the children of Ontario. Your participation can make a difference!"

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/council/>

The Ministry of Education requires that all schools in Ontario have School Councils. The regulations surrounding School Councils specify that they hold an advisory role, wherein they can make recommendations to the principal and staff pertaining to the School Improvement Plan.

School Council will consist of the following membership:

- The Chair or Co-chair must be a parent
- Parent Representatives (A majority of parents)
- The principal
- One teacher
- One non-teaching staff member
- One or more community representatives appointed by the elected council

The first School Council Meeting date will be held on September 28, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. in the Main Office.

Nomination Form Receipt

I wish to nominate _____ for the elected position of _____ for School Council. (Note, you may nominate yourself).

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone Number: _____

Cell Number: _____

Other Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

I am the parent/guardian of: _____, who is currently registered at Central School.

The person I have nominated is an employee of the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board?

Yes

No

Nominator's Signature

Date

Note: All nomination forms must be **submitted** to the Central School Office by **September 27, 2016 at 3:15 p.m.**