



Central Elementary NEWS!

March 2025 Edition

Central Elementary School
PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT
SCHOOL BOARD

Principal: T. Nelson

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/central>



75 Hunter Street West
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 1P9

Phone: 905-522-9690

Fax: 905-522-9801

Email: central@hwdsb.on.ca

From the principals desk:

Dear Central Community,

We have had a busy month, this past February. We enjoyed celebrating Valentines Day, and having some fun heart pumping activities demonstrated by our Joy Factory Team! We had active Walk to School Day and Pink Shirt Day. We are continuing to promote our Healthy Schools action plan and will also be supporting the "Great Big Crunch" event by eating apples for the initiative Food4Kids.

We are also continuing to embrace the HWDSB Multi Year Strategic Plan and the tag line "BE YOU. BE EXCELLENT." You can read more about the school boards Multi Year strategic plan at <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/about/multi-year-strategic-plan/>

Here is a quick overview:

The Boards **Vision** for the next five years at HWDSB is: **Growing Together.**



The Boards Multi-Year Strategic Plan is rooted in a powerful new mission:

To ensure every student experiences a sense of belonging and engages in dynamic learning to reach their potential and build their own future.

The plan's Mission is underpinned by HWDSB's new guiding values: **Compassion, Dignity, Trust and Joy.**

The five new strategic directions:

- 1. Upholding Human Rights, Safety & Well-Being**
- 2. Providing Equitable Quality Education**
- 3. Collaborating with Students, Families & Communities,**
- 4. Building a Sustainable Education System**
- 5. Reinforcing Indigenous Educational Wellness & Reconciliation**

I would also like to continue to remind families to ensure their child(ren) are on time for school to set their learning day on the path to success. If your child(ren) are going to be late or absent, please continue to use the parent portal to report this absence.

We look forward to seeing what this month brings, we hope you all have a wonderful March Break and we will see everyone back on March 17th, 2025.

Kind regards,

T. Nelson

Mrs. Nelson – Principal

1 or 2 days a week doesn't seem like much but...

If your child misses...	That equals...	Which is...	And over 13 years of schooling that's...
1 day every 2 weeks	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 1/2 years
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2 1/2 years of school
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years

How about 10 minutes late a day? Surely that won't affect my child?

He/she is only missing just...	That equals...	Which is...	And over 13 years of schooling that's...
10 mins per day	50 mins per week	Nearly 1 1/2 weeks per year	Nearly 1 1/2 years
20 mins per day	1 hr, 40 mins per week	Over 2 1/2 weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
30 mins per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 1/2 years
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2 1/2 years

EVERY DAY COUNTS

If you want your child to be successful at school then, YES, attendance does matter!

Dates to Remember

March is Persian Heritage Month

Feb 28-Mar 29– Ramadan

Mar 6– The Great Big Crunch

Mar 8 – International Women's Day

Mar 10-14– March Break– No School

Mar 17-First day back from March Break

Mar 17-St. Patrick's Day

Mar 21– World Down Syndrome Day

Mar 23– School Crossing Guard Appreciation Day

Pizza Day

Pizza Days:

- March 5th
- March 19th
- March 26th

All orders due through School Cash Online.

Reminder that as pizza is ordered in advance we do not give refunds for absent students.

We also cannot hold pizza to give out the next day.

POPCORN DAYS:



- March 3rd
- March 17th
- March 24th

Cash event, please bring in the **exact** amount as we will not provide change.

FROZEN YOGURT TUBE DAYS:

- March 3rd
- March 17th
- March 24th



Cash event, please bring in the **exact** amount as we will not provide change.

2025 Great Big Crunch

The Great Big Crunch returns to Hamilton schools on March 6th, 2025!

The Great Big Crunch, is a special day of food education and community engagement.

Since 2008, students and community members across Hamilton have participated in a synchronized apple “crunch” while learning about healthy eating and local food. Schools prepare by stocking up on local apples, gathering students in classrooms, gymnasiums, or hallways, and counting down to a collective “crunch.” This simple yet impactful event celebrates healthy, local food and fosters community spirit.

Apples are generously funded by FirstOntario Credit Union, and provided by Drummond Farms.



NEW **MUNCHING MONDAYS!**

On Mondays we MUNCH at Central!

We will be selling Frozen Yogurt Tubes starting in February for students to purchase.

WHEN : Every Monday starting in February.

How Much? \$1 per frozen yogurt tube—this will be a cash event—send your child with their cash on Mondays !

We will have an assortment of flavours to choose from.



Interested in volunteering ?

We are always looking for volunteers to help with school trips, classroom events, fundraising, etc. Community support is so very important and crucial in order to host events and raise funds to keep our school successful and thriving! Volunteers will require a Vulnerable Sector Screening from the Hamilton-Wentworth Police Department. The Vulnerable Sector check is valid for 3 years, with a yearly Declaration to be completed by volunteer. If you are unsure whether a previous Sector check is still valid, need to fill out the yearly declaration or are a new volunteer looking to apply, please contact the school office.



Activities at Central

- **Art Club** will be continuing on day 5 for grade 3.
- **Cards Club** will be continuing on day 3 for grades 4 & 5.



Recycling Crew

Ms. Grosso works with the grade 5's to organize the Recycling Crew. The students collect recycling from the school classrooms on Tuesdays and Thursdays during break. We really appreciate

Recess guardians

Some interested grade 5's have begun their new role as Recess Guardians. Once per week they will be facilitating fun games with the primary students and modeling positive social behaviour. We are excited for these students to take on this leadership role in our school.



Choir

On Day 2 during First Nutrition Break, grade 3, 4 and 5 students are raising their voices together in the gym singing together Mr. Beattie and Ms. Pettit (and other guest staff from the Central community!) All are welcome as we explore the power of making music together with our voices.



Is your child at risk of school suspension due to missing vaccine records?

Hamilton Public Health Services is reviewing student vaccine records. The Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) is a law in Ontario that requires children attending school to be immunized against specific diseases. Vaccines required include diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, poliomyelitis, measles, mumps, rubella, and meningococcal diseases. Failure to receive these vaccines can result in future school suspensions.

You are recommended to consult with a health care provider for more details about the requirements, and to review your child's vaccination status. Public Health Services might not have your child's updated vaccine records because parents/guardians need to report them to Public Health Services. Health care providers do not report these automatically.

You can report your vaccine(s) to Hamilton Public Health Services using one of these options:

1. Online: <https://hph.icon.ehealthontario.ca/#!/welcome> (log in with Health Card Number)

2. FAX: 905-546-4841

3. Phone: 905-540-5250 (expect delays due to large call volumes)

4. Mail: City of Hamilton, Public Health Services,

Vaccine Program,

P.O. Box 897, Hamilton, Ontario,

L8N 3P6

When reporting, please include the following: Full Name, Address, Date of Birth, Phone Number, Health Card Number, Copy of the Vaccine Record

If your child requires a vaccine(s), the following options are available to you:

Family Doctor: Connect with your family doctor to ensure your child's vaccines are up to date.

Walk-in Clinic: if you do not have a family doctor but you have a health card or Public Health Community Clinic: book an appointment at [Hamilton.ca/awaiting](https://hamilton.ca/awaiting) For more information visit School Screening and Suspensions. Page translation available.

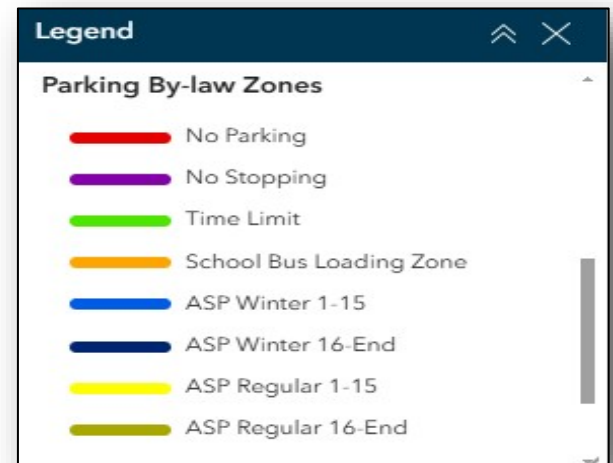
Unsafe drop off for our children

Central Elementary School can be safer for students, if there are less cars coming to the school. We can make it safer by not stopping in the parking lot or in front of the school. There is something simple we can do, it is called **'Drive to Five.'**

Try to park a block away from the school and walk with your child the rest of the way. With no cars at the school, the kids will be safer, more active, and the air around the school will be cleaner. The map below shows in **Green** the streets that are safe and legal to park on:

- Bold Street
- Park Street
- Duke Street

We all need to keep children safe. Let's work together and keep our neighbourhood safe! For more information, check out ActiveSchoolTravelHamilton.ca or email ActiveSchoolTravel@Hamilton.ca.



SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING DATES:

- December 9th
- February 3rd
- April 7th
- June 2nd

School Council Chair: Christine Sandor

We are always looking for Extra Help! How to Get Involved: If you are interested in attending our monthly School Council meetings, are able to lend a hand, or have any questions or ideas please email: **CentralSC@hwdsb**



REMINDER:

This is a reminder to all families that indoor shoes are needed for all students.



Running shoes (with your child's name on them) are important for when your child has Physed in the Gym.

For safety reasons winter boots are not recommended for Physed.

PEANUT-FREE AREA



NO PEANUTS OR
PRODUCTS
CONTAINING
PEANUTS
ALLOWED.

THANK YOU.

PEANUT AND NUT SAFE SCHOOL

This year we have students with life threatening allergies to peanuts or nuts.

Please do not send your child with any nut products for lunch or snacks.

Working together we can help ensure the safety of all our children.

Birthdays/Celebrations

Due to allergies we will not be permitting food to be brought in for celebrations.

Students may choose to bring in something for themselves or you can bring non-perishable items for the class.



(Don't Forget to hit Subscribe to our Webpage and turn ON Notifications for School Cash Online!)

www.hwdsb.on.ca/central *Updates

SCHOOL BEGINS AT 8:45 a.m. and ENDS AT 3:05

Students can be dropped off on the back school ground as early as 8:35 a.m. This is when a duty teacher/supervisor will be present.

If your child is late for school, please ring the door bell and the office will ensure they are supported in getting to their classroom.

If you know your child will be late or absent for the day please ensure that you put this into School Messenger.



Student Drop Off	8:35 am
Period 1	8:45-9:25 am
Period 2	9:25-10:25 am
Nutrition Break 1	10:25-11:05 am
Period 3	11:05-11:55 am
Period 4	11:55-12:45 pm
Nutrition Break 2	12:45-1:25 pm
Period 5	1:25-2:25 pm
Period 6	2:25-3:05 pm
Dismissal	3:05 pm

A reminder that smoking and vaping is not permitted anywhere on school board property at anytime!



Also, a friendly reminder to parents to please remain off school property during school hours unless necessary. Should you need anything please ring the doorbell or contact the office at 289-522-9690 and we will help.

ADDRESSING A CONCERN

Students and families with classroom concerns are encouraged to contact their student's classroom teacher as the first method of communication regarding the concern. It is with hope that this will rectify the situation before further escalation.

Early Pick-Up

It is important that your child remains at school until the final bell at 3:05 p.m. Please keep in mind, as a courtesy to teachers, the learning of students, and the office, which can be a very busy place, that early dismissals do cause interruptions to class. If you need to pick up your child from school early, due to an appointment, we remind you to please allow some extra time for your child to arrive at the office. Students will be called down once you are here and it can take a few minutes for your child(ren) to gather their things and get to the office area. Please let your child(ren)s classroom teacher know, ahead of time, if you will be picking up early and the time so they can ensure that your child is ready.

ATTENDANCE



Phone
(Home, cell or both)



Email



Text



SchoolMessenger
App/Website

Safety is our number one priority! At Central we have many safety procedures in place to ensure your child(ren)'s safety. Attendance is taken twice a day, once in the morning and again after second break. It is crucial that this is completed in a timely, accurate fashion. To ensure accuracy and safety, absences must be reported to the School Messenger App before school. These reported absences ensure that all students are accounted for and safe. [SchoolMessenger | Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board \(hwdsb.on.ca\)](https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/schoolmessenger/) * should you have any issues with the app, please call the school at: 289.522.9690 to report an absence.