



Central Elementary NEWS!

January 2026 Edition



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Central Elementary School

**PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT
SCHOOL BOARD**

Principal: T. Nelson

From the principal's desk:

Dear Central Elementary Community,

Happy New Year! Wishing everyone a joyful and healthy start to 2026. It is wonderful to be back at school, refreshed and ready for another exciting year of learning and growth. It is a pleasure to welcome and be working alongside Ms. McQueen who will be here in the afternoons as I begin my return.

Over the break, the new gates were completed and installed around the school grounds to enhance safety. Please remember to close the gates securely behind you when entering or leaving the school site. This small action helps keep our students safe throughout the day.

A gentle reminder about the importance of punctuality: school hours are from 8:45 a.m. to 3:05 p.m. Arriving on time ensures that students do not miss valuable morning instruction and helps them start the day ready to learn. Consistent attendance and timeliness make a big difference in academic progress and social interactions.

When visiting the school, please use only the available parking spaces in the lot. Avoid blocking driveways or parking in undesignated areas to ensure a smooth and safe flow of traffic for everyone.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping our students and families safe and for being such an important part of the Central Elementary community. Together, we make our school a welcoming and secure place for all.

Warm regards,

Mrs. Nelson

Principal, Central Elementary School

Student Safety Reminders For PARENTS / VISITORS

To help us maintain a safe environment for all students and staff, we ask families to follow these important procedures:

- If your child arrives late, they must not go directly to their portable or to the kindergarten playground. Instead, they need to be signed in at the main office or with Ms. Kelly at the main door.
- If you are visiting the school for any reason, please go to the main door and use the buzzer for assistance.
- Even if a door is open, please do not enter the building without buzzing at the office first, as this can cause alarm for staff and students who are unaware of who is entering.
- Families must not go directly to a portable and knock on the door without office staff being informed of your presence on the school grounds.
- Parents must not approach students if students are outside during NB unless office is aware of you being on school property.
- Thank you for your cooperation in helping us keep our school safe and secure.

Dates to Remember

Jan 1– New Year’s Day

Jan 5-Back from break

Jan 23– P.A. Day

Feb 14– Valentine’s Day

Feb 16– Family Day

PIZZA DAYS:

- January 14th
- January 21st
- January 28th



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:

- January 12th
- January 19th
- January 26th



Popcorn will be **\$2** a bag

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

Activities:

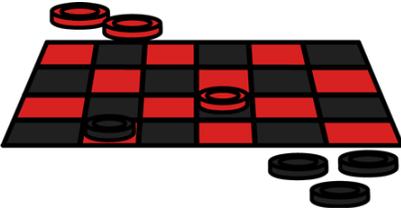
Crochet Club:

Crochet Club is currently running for the Grade 5's.



Checkers Club:

Checkers Club is currently running for Grades 3-5.



Reminders:

Water bottles:



We kindly ask that all students bring a refillable water bottle to school each day. This helps ensure that your child stays hydrated throughout the day and reduces the need for disposable cups.

Thank you for your support in helping us create a healthier, more sustainable school environment!

Lost & Found:

Please ask your child to check the lost and found.

All items that remain at the end of the month will be donated.



SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING DATES:

- October 6th
- More dates to follow

School Council Chair: To be determined



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.on.ca

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 would like to volunteer this school year please contact the office and fill out the volunteer forms for the 2025-2026 year.



- Students can be dropped off on the back school ground at 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



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

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.



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.

If you have larger concerns regarding the school or neighbourhood you can also reach out to the superintendent: **Nicole Lee** or Trustee: **Sabreina Dahab**

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.

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) * should you have any issues with the app, please call the school at: 289.522.9690 to report an absence.

HWDSB

SafeArrival

what elementary school families need to know

With **SafeArrival**, families report a student absence in one of three ways:

1. Use the SafeArrival website, go.schoolmessenger.ca. The first time you use the website, select **Sign Up** to create your account. Select **Attendance** then **Report an Absence**.
2. Using your mobile device, download and install the **SchoolMessenger app** from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store (or from links at go.schoolmessenger.ca). The first time you use the app, select **Sign Up** to create your account. Select **Attendance** then **Report an Absence**.
3. Call toll-free 1-844-506-4350 to report an absence using the automated phone system. Using this method does not require setting up an account.

These options are available 24 hours/day, seven days a week. You can report a future absence any time.



What's unique for families of elementary school students?

Notice – Elementary school families will be notified by the automated notification system when their child is absent without an explanation.

Explain – The system will attempt to contact families multiple times until parents confirm and explain the absence. If a designated contact can't be reached, school staff will follow up.

Report – As always, parents are expected to report absences as soon as possible – and then you will not receive notification about unexplained absences.

Questions – If you have questions, please speak with your school office or principal. Find more resources on SafeArrival at bit.ly/safearrivalHWDSB and on your school's website.

For safety and efficiency reasons, HWDSB would like to reduce the amount of cash and checks received by our schools. Please join the thousands of parents who have already registered and are enjoying the convenience of paying online. It takes less than five minutes to register. Please follow these step-by-step instructions to begin receiving email notifications regarding upcoming events involving your child(ren).

NOTE: If you require assistance, select the "SUPPORT" option at the bottom right hand corner of the screen. Language preference can be selected at the bottom left hand corner of the screen.

Step 1: Register

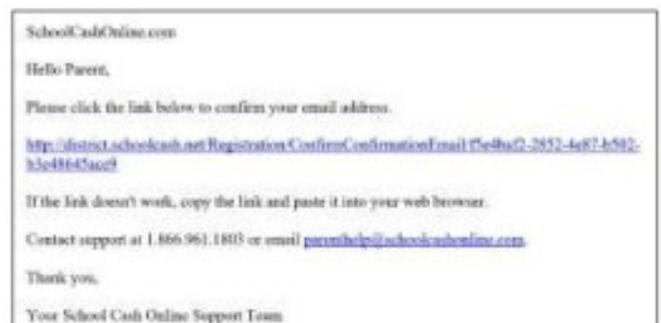
- If you have not registered, please go to the School Cash Online home page <https://hwdsb.schoolcashonline.com> and select the "Get Started Today" option.
- Complete each of the three Registration Steps
**For security reasons your password requires eight characters, one uppercase letter, one lowercase letter and one number.*



Step 2: Confirmation Email

A registration confirmation email will be forwarded to you. Click on the link provided inside the email to confirm your email and School Cash Online account.

The confirmation link will open the School Cash Online site prompting you to sign into your account. Use your email address and password just created with your account.



Step 3: Find Student

This step will connect your children to your account.

- Verify the School Board Name.
- Select the School Name.
- Enter Your Child's First Name, Last Name and Date of Birth.
- Select "Continue".
- On the next page confirm that you are related to the child, check in the Agree box and select "Continue".
- Your child has been added to your account.

Find Student

School Information

School Board Name: School Board 1575
Looking for a student in a different school board?

School Name: Eagle High School

Student Information

First Name:

Last Name:

Birth Date: MM/DD/YYYY
Date format: mm/dd/yyyy

(No students? [Click here](#))

Step 4: View Items or Add Another Student

If you have more children, select "Add Another Student" and repeat the steps above. Eight children can be added to one parent account. If you do not wish to add additional children, select "View Items For Students" option. A listing of available items for purchase will be displayed.

Payment Methods: Two Online Options

Option 1:



eCheque

An electronic version of a paper cheque used to make payments online.

Anyone with a chequing or savings account can pay by eCheque through School Cash Online.

To pay with an eCheque, simply enter your routing and account number on the payment screen and click Submit.

This option is best suited to families who do not incur bank transaction fees for each cheque withdrawal.

Option 2:



Credit Cards

Due to parent demand, we now accept payment by Visa or Mastercard.



School Cash Online

School Cash Online's top priority is keeping your personal information safe. School Cash Online adheres to the highest industry standards of security. School Cash Online will never contact you to obtain confidential information by phone, email or mail.

Need Assistance?

If at any time during the registration process you need help, the Parent Help Desk is available to solve any puzzles that parents may have when using School Cash Online, or to answer questions regarding online security. Our friendly staff are available 24/7 (365 days). They can assist parents with:

- Registering
- Password recoveries
- Finding their children in the system, or
- Any checkout or payment issues.

Please contact (toll-free): [Parent Help Desk: 1-866-961-1803](tel:1-866-961-1803) or email: parenthelp@schoolcashionline.com

Parent Portal Instructions-Click here: [Parent Portal Support | Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board](#)



[Parent Portal Support - Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board](#)

In Parent Portal, you can connect to your child's school online, anytime, anywhere. Available in the following languages: English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Urdu, Punjabi, Simplified Chinese, and Serbian. Each parent registered as a child's contact in our student information system had a Parent ...

www.hwdsb.on.ca

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

www.hwdsb.on.ca/central *Updates Posted Regularly*