



COLLEGIATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

49 Collegiate Avenue Stoney Creek, ON L8G 3L5

Tel: (905) 662-2990 Fax: (905) 662-8210

January 2023

Principal: L. Barzetti



January 2023

BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE!

January 2023

WELCOME BACK AND HAPPY 2023!



January not only brings in the New Year, but the bitter cold wintery weather as well. It is time to get prepared. During cold and snowy weather, please remember that students are to be at school no earlier than 8:40 a.m. When the weather is extremely cold, students should arrive at school as close to the entry time (8:45 a.m.) as possible. Listen to your local radio or television station for school closures and starting immediately, the automated phone messaging system will contact all parents/guardians in the event of a school cancellation due to inclement weather.

Report Cards will be going home on February 17th

It is important for all students to keep up with their homework, assignments, and tests to be successful. Last minute catch-ups do not always work.

As educators and education workers, we know the trust you extend to us with your children each day; we take responsibility for school safety very seriously. A reminder that any visitors/parents are not to enter the school. Please use the video/intercom located at the front entrance doors to reach the main office. Please note that all doors are locked during the school day.

FOOD DRIVE

During the month of December, our student council organized a Food Drive at Collegiate School. All non-perishable food items were donated to our local Food Bank. We donated just over 1,100 cans of non-perishable food.

Mr. Reynolds class won a pizza party for donating the most can goods!



GRADE 8 GRADUATION

• Graduation Pictures - Tuesday, March 7th

• Graduation Ceremony - Monday, June 26th



SAFETY PRECAUTIONS DURING WINTER RECESS



A reminder to everyone coming back from holidays about some safety precautions during winter recess:

- No throwing snow! It can cause injury, as it may have ice
- Beware of ice patches when running or playing because it is easy to slip and injure yourself
- Avoid water - getting wet in the cold can cause hypothermia
- Dress appropriately with hats, boots, scarves, mitts, snow pants, etc.
- Always remember to send an extra pair of indoor shoes to school so we can keep the school hallways, classrooms, and carpets clean

Follow these safety tips during winter recess to have a fun and safe time!

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING



The first School Council meeting of 2023 will be held on Monday, January 23rd at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join us!

CAMP MUSKOKA OUTDOOR EDUCATION TRIP

Information Night

Grade 7 & 8

Parents & Students should attend

Date: Tuesday, January 24th, 2023

Time: 6:00 p.m. (sharp!)

at Collegiate Elementary School Library.



HWDSB

Snow-clearing at HWDSB Schools

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 steps and portable steps
- walkways to the portables
- ramps to schools and portables
- area outside entrances and Fire Exit Doors
- Fire Exit stairs & ramps



HWDSB Contractors

After 5cm+ of snow, will...

- Plow parking lots and sidewalks when HWDSB Facilities staff deem it necessary
- Salt and sand the parking lot before school starts
- If required, Head Caretakers may also salt or sand parts of the parking lot



City of Hamilton

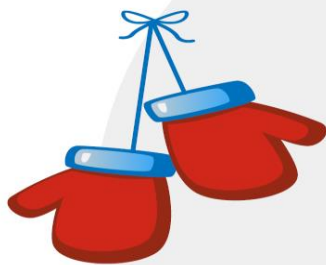
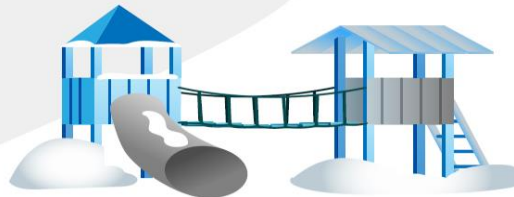
Responsible for clearing...

- Snow and ice from sidewalks directly in front of schools, a top priority for the City.
- **Note:** 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)**

What about playgrounds?

Playgrounds **are not** plowed or cleared. Head Caretakers inspect playgrounds and sand and/or salt areas made slippery by changing temperatures.

Students, 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.



Benefits of outdoor play

Time spent outdoors is an integral 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.

Preparing for the outdoors

It's important that children come to school **prepared for the cold**. This means boots, mittens/gloves, hats and even extra mittens and socks in case they are needed.

When is it too cold for outdoor play?

Principals decide whether to send students outside for recess. HWDSB asks Principals to follow the City of Hamilton guideline that we stay inside when it's at or **below -15C, or -20C with wind chill**.



below -15C,
or -20C with
wind chill

Learn more

Please direct questions or concerns about winter outdoor play to your school Principal.

Parents should check www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca for any potential transportation delays.

December 2022



Welcome to The PIC Connection, the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)
Newsletter for School Councils.

A Message from Mike:

Welcome to our December edition of the PIC connection. In this issue you will find an update from Amanda, my partner on the PIC executive. Along with a message from our Director Sheryl Robinson Petrazzini, updates from our Communications and Community Engagement department and information about the Parent Reaching Out Grant (Pro Grant). From the members of PIC and my family I would like to wish you all a wonderful Holiday Season filled with love, joy and most importantly family and friends. May the new year be kind to you all.

Please feel free to reach out to Amanda or me anytime. pic@hwdsb.on.ca.

Mike Palma Chair of the Parent Involvement Committee

A Message from Amanda:

Hi my name is Amanda Lloyd. I have 3 active girls in HWDSB. This is my 7th year as a member of PIC and 2nd year as Vice-Chair.

PIC Connects met for the first of our 5 sessions at Waterdown High School. Trustee Graeme Noble joined us and brought his own questions. The energy in the room was contagious. The main topic of discussion was parent engagement. We discussed how to manage a large parent council but creating sub-committees. We discussed barriers such as new caregivers not knowing about school council,

missing the first elections meeting. We discussed possibly sending home information about school council at the kindergarten orientation in May, sending home a School Council information guide to everyone home, posting information to the school website and also through School Messenger. After not being able to meet in person it was such an exciting start to connecting again with School Council. Out next PIC Connects is January 17, 2023 at AM Cunningham at 6:30-8:30.

I hope you have a wonderful and restful holiday season. I am looking forward to what 2023 will bring.

Happy Holidays!

See you in the new year.

Amanda Lloyd Vice Chair of the Parent Involvement Committee

A Message from Sheryl Robinson Petrazzini:

Joining HWDSB has been an incredible experience.

Since August, I've had the privilege and pleasure to meet students, staff, families, and community members. I'm getting to know the amazingness that is HWDSB!

As School Council members, you take time out of your busy schedules to give back to students. You're connecting families in your neighbourhoods and building stronger communities for everyone!

Thank you for your leadership on School Councils and Home and School Associations.

I'm mindful of how families are feeling at this time because it doesn't feel like a typical December. We're still navigating through a pandemic, parents are concerned about the health concerns, and the cost of living is difficult for families as we approach the holidays.

*I hope that we can move from surviving to thriving. That is why I encourage you to find the **joy** in the every day.*

So, I ask you: What brings you joy? Share your joy story at www.engagehwdsb.on.ca!

As we get ready to start the winter break, I send appreciation to you for being part of the HWDSB family and for welcoming me into this role. I hope that you find time throughout the holidays to reflect and renew for the year ahead.

Wishing you and your family all the best this holiday season. See you in 2023!

Sheryl, Director HWDSB

Communications & Community Engagement Update:

PIC Meeting Highlights

For the first time in several years due to the pandemic, PIC was able to hold its annual joint meeting with SEAC (Special Education Advisory Committee). The evening is held in December and a festive meal is provided. Greetings was shared by Director of Education, Sheryl Robinson Petrazzini and Superintendent of Specialized Services, Peggy Blair.



A presentation on Foundations in Universal Design for Learning (UDL) was delivered by Trish Woehrle and Meredith Strongman, Specialized Services Learning Consultants.

Naming of Schools Policy

HWDSB's policies are reviewed every few years and when HWDSB wants to make changes to a policy, staff bring it back to you for input. HWDSB invites you to share your thoughts on a policy that directs how we decide on names for schools.

Staff have proposed changes to HWDSB's Naming of Schools Policy that reflects our goal of equal outcomes for all people. The Board is also proposing that schools should no longer be named after people.

Share your thoughts on the proposed changes here: <https://www.engagehwdsb.ca/school-naming-policy>

Trustee Update

Trustees Dawn Danko and Amanda Fehrman joined PIC to share an update at Board. Inaugural Board Meeting and Trustees orientation. As well, information was shared about the Temporary Universal Masking Requirement.

Board Highlights

- Board Meeting and Standing Committee – December 19, 2022, 6:30 p.m.
- Policy Committee – January 11, 2023, 5:30 p.m.

PIC CONNECTS

Mike Palma, Chair of PIC, Amanda Lloyd, Vice-Chair of PIC and Shawn McKillop, Manager of Communications and Community Engagement, are hosting [PIC Connects!](#)

The first session was held earlier this month at Waterdown District High School. The next session is on January 17, 2023 starting at 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at A.M. Cunningham Elementary School.

We will reach out to surrounding communities/school council members directly, but anyone is welcome to attend any of the sessions available from now until May.

The format is casual, and we will have a brief agenda to guide our time. Items to share and discuss are School Council Support, Communication Standards, and general Board inquiries from you.

Our main priority is to offer these sessions to connect with a variety of parents, guardians, and caregivers who are volunteering their time to support the work and leadership of School Council. There is no RSVP required.

Topics discussed at the session at Waterdown High School included:

- Bylaws/Constitution best practices
- Fundraising ideas and successes
- Engaging events and how to attract volunteers
- Communication with families and between School Council Chair/School Principal
- Advocacy (School Council can advocate through Principal and to the Parent Involvement Committee; the Parent Involvement Committee can advocate to the Board of Trustees)



COMMUNICATION STANDARDS

- Effective communication builds positive relationships with parents, guardians, and caregivers. We want families to be well informed and know what to expect. We want staff to know how, what and when to communicate. ***This is our communications commitment to families!***
- Visit [Communications Standards](#)
- **Do you have feedback? Let us know. Email communications@hwdsb.on.ca**



Engage HWDSB

Engaging and consulting requires effort on everyone's part. It also means that we should never take feedback or our relationships with our communities for granted.

To assist in this, HWDSB launched a new and interactive platform to deliver on its commitment to community participation, collaboration and involvement in support of student success and well-being.

The logo for Engage HWDSB features the word "ENGAGE" in white, uppercase letters inside a blue speech bubble shape. Below it, the letters "HWDSB" are written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

[Engage HWDSB](https://www.engagehwdsb.ca/) is an online place where students, families, staff and communities can learn more about work at HWDSB, share their voice, and engage throughout a project. Visitors to www.engagehwdsb.ca/ will see an expanding list of projects, policies and initiatives in the weeks ahead.

***Check out The PIC CONNECTION Newsletters and other support for School Council members at <https://hwdsb.info/SchoolCouncil>**

Sharing the knowledge: *Parent Reaching Out Grant (Pro Grant)*

The Parents Reaching Out Grants (Pro Grant) program provides funding to school boards to provide opportunities for School Councils, the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) and the school community to lead projects that support parent/guardian/caregiver engagement and align with at least one of the following objectives:

- Addressing social inclusion and racism specifically anti-Asian, anti-Black, and anti-Indigenous racism and other prejudices toward racialized and marginalized groups
- Creating a safe and welcoming environment
- Demonstrating respect for parents as valued partners within the education system regarding decisions about their child's education
- Enhancing communication with teachers
- Informing parents about the expectations of the Ontario Curriculum and supporting resources.

Applications that meet the criteria are eligible for a maximum amount of \$1,000. Schools may develop applications individually, or with another school. **If schools choose to collaborate on an event, they can submit one application and combine funding.** Individuals from the school

community who have ideas for projects or initiatives that they would like considered, are encouraged to connect with their School Council or Principal.

Project Guidelines and Activities

- o Activities must follow all Public Health measures and HWDSB procedures. Should conditions change and revisions to applications be requested, please contact PIC@hwdsb.on.ca
- o Activities will support School Council initiatives or initiatives in partnership with community organizations
- o Activities will identify and address local barriers to parent engagement and may include but are not limited to:
 - Development of parent resources (e.g. leadership resource for parents, resources addressing well-being, mental health, and anti-racism for students and families, etc.)

Please see the included application package for information regarding the PRO Grant application process for the 2022-2023 school year.

Information should be shared with School Councils as soon as possible to encourage discussion and consideration for projects related to supporting parent/guardian/caregiver engagement.

The maximum funding per school is \$1000 and the due date for applications is January 27th, 2023. The application must have the signature of both the School Council Chair and the Principal.

Timelines

- Delivery of parent information sessions (e.g. how to support children and families at home, how to understand curriculum, etc.)
- Delivery of parent engagement sessions (e.g. parent networking sessions)
- Innovative activities that enable enhanced and diversified parent engagement.

- o **November – January: School Councils provide input to the Principal regarding the focus and scope of the activities**
- o **January 27, 2023 – PRO Grant applications due, please send completed applications to PIC@hwdsb.on.ca**
- o **February 24, 2023 – follow up communication with schools**
- o **June 30, 2023 – projects must be completed and funding spent**

Up and Coming:

- **PIC Connects** Tuesday, January 17, 2023 A.M. Cunningham Elementary School 100 Wexford Avenue South, Hamilton 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. An information evening for all school council members.
- Next month The PIC Connection will share Fundraising Ideas.
- Our next PIC meeting will be on Tuesday 10, January 2023 at the Education Centre 6:30 – 8:30.

All PIC meetings are open to the public and held in a Hybrid Format.

In closing, thank you for reading the newsletter created by parents for parents.

Don't see something you would like to read in the newsletter,
drop us a line and let us know. Email pic@hwdsb.on.ca.

*We firmly believe working together we can make HWDSB an even better place to work, learn, play
and grow as staff, parents, guardians, caregivers and students.*