



Dundas Central School News
Education is "Central"

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From the Principal's Desk... *"Good things happening at Central."*

Hello Dundas Central Family,

Thank you to those who have already welcomed me into this wonderful school. I have met so many amazing children and look forward to meeting all of them in the upcoming weeks.

Please make sure you check the school calendar on our website and your child's agenda for December as activities for students and families continue to be added.

I would like to take this time to thank staff, students and families of Dundas Central for their commitment to teaching, learning and building a wonderful school community.

My wish for each and every one of you is a joyous, safe and relaxing holiday spent with family and friends.

J. Bradley



For an electronic version of this newsletter (and to keep up to date with current DC Public news) please go to the website and click on subscribe.

◆ **Cold Weather:** As we enter the winter months, we will continue to play outdoors at different times throughout the day. Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. Boots, mitts or gloves, hats and winter outerwear are necessary for students to be able to enjoy their time outdoors. It is also a good idea to send extra socks and mittens in an event that they are needed. As always, Principals use Board guidelines and their professional judgement to determine whether students remain inside for the Nutrition Breaks.

◆ **Nutrition Program:** We are all stocked up and ready to begin our nutrition/snack program for students. We will continue to use the same system as last year. On Tuesdays & Thursdays each primary class will receive a bin with snacks in the morning (before 1st nutrition break) and bins will be collected in the afternoon after 2nd nutrition break. There will also be snack bins available for students in the upstairs classes in Mrs. DiDonato's room on Tuesdays and Thursdays. For students who need extra food during the week, there is a bin in the office as well as extra food in the staff room. A HUGE thank you to all the Dundas Central staff who help prepare and deliver the bins every week! A special thanks to Mrs. Groves for her leadership in this program.



Severe Weather at HWDSB

During severe winter weather, the difficult decision to remain open or to close is always made with the safety and security of our students and staff in mind. Here are some guidelines to remember:

Weather Cancellations: When bad weather is expected, Hamilton-Wentworth Student Transportation Services (HWSTS) carriers check weather reports, road conditions and road clearing, starting as early as 4 a.m. Based on this information, the Director of Education makes the decision in conjunction with Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board. HWDSB will announce the cancellation of school and board operations by 6 a.m. based on the best information at the time. We share this announcement on the HWDSB website, HWDSB's Twitter account and on the HWSTS website. We also contact local media outlets including CHCH TV, CHML and the Hamilton Spectator.



No School: School boards have varied policies on cancellations. The HWDSB rule is - **Severe weather + Bus cancellation = No school**. When HWDSB cancels busing due to inclement weather, we have deemed the roads unsafe and this triggers the closure of schools.

Extreme Weather: In extreme cold, buses may not start or run as expected and HWDSB may need to cancel transportation. But this does not automatically mean that schools will close. The Director (or designate) has discretion to keep schools open when busing is cancelled due to extreme cold. A school cancellation is a tough decision – and some families may disagree with HWDSB's call. Families can always make the choice they feel is best when it comes to sending their child to school.

HWDSB will NOT post a weather alert on its website to signal that schools are open

Snow clearing: HWDSB staff clear salt and/or sand walkways from the city sidewalk to the school, steps, walkways to portables, ramps to schools and portables, areas outside entrances and fire exit doors, fire exit stairs and ramps. HWDSB contractors after 5+ cm of snow will plow parking lots and sidewalks when HWDSB Facilities staff deem it necessary, salt & sand the parking lot before school starts and if required. Head Caretakers may also salt or sand parts of the parking lot. The City of Hamilton is responsible for clearing snow and ice from sidewalks directly in front of schools, a top priority for the City. Note that 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 905-546-2489.

Dates to Remember

- ◆ **Wednesday December 12th:** The Strings Winter Concert @ Nora Henderson SS - 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Thursday December 20th:** Dundas Central Holiday Concert @ 1:30 p.m. in school gym
- ◆ **Friday December 21st:** Spirit Day - Bring a toonie and/or non-perishable food item and remember to wear your jammies! Grade 6 to 8 will be holding a dance in the afternoon.
- ◆ **Monday January 7th:** We welcome Heidi Siwak back to our school, teaching Grade 7A. We would like to give a big thank you to Ms. Boeckh for filling in for Mrs. Siwak for the last 4 months, she is an amazing teacher and we will miss her!
- ◆ **Wednesday January 16th:** Grade 8 option sheet night @ Dundas Valley Secondary School - 6:30 p.m.

News from Dundas Central Home & School

We are closing in on the end of the year! I can't believe December is already upon us. Luckily it is full of some of my favourite fundraisers! Hopefully you were all able to get your poinsettias and wreaths ordered. These are available for pick up on Wednesday December 5th between 2:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. on the stage. We are also working with your child's teacher to prepare our Holiday Baskets for the upcoming holidays. Look in your child's school bag for their class theme this year & if you are able please contribute a \$5 item consistent with that theme. The funds we raise go to local families in need during the Holiday Season.

Finally, the last Home and School Meeting of the year will take place on Wednesday December 12th @ 7:00 p.m. in the Staff Room. This is a great chance to contribute to the school to make it the best we can!

Happy Holidays everyone from the Dundas Central Home and School Association.



Dundas Central Staff

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS