

Monday January 5, **2026**

GRADE 12 WEEKLY LETTER 1

- **University application deadline!**
- **College application deadline!**
- **A note on accepting offers – read!**
- **One Contest and Graduation Awards**

Hi there Grade12s!

Still thinking about applying to university?

You have 10 days!!!

DEADLINE:

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 15TH

Once you have applied, make sure you check your information on OUAC:

- Ensure your marks are correct and complete (double check that your eLearning course marks are there)
- Confirm that your courses listed for Sem 2/eLearning are correct

Come to Guidance and speak with Mrs. Indelicato or Ms. Keenan if you see anything that needs correcting.

Thinking about applying to college?

DEADLINE (FOR EQUAL CONSIDERATION):

FEBRUARY 1ST

ACCEPTING OFFERS:

Note: you must accept your offer to college or university through OUAC or OCAS.

IMPORTANT:

When you receive an offer, **READ THE OFFER CAREFULLY!** The offer will contain important information about:

- Their deadline for acceptance
- Their process for requesting housing (residence)
- Their deadline for a deposit

Every year, students miss these deadlines and especially lose out on residence. Please read your offers and write down all the deadlines. 😊

OPTIMIST CLUB CONTESTS: DEADLINES ARE JANUARY 31ST!

If you are interested, come to Guidance for the application!

Essay Contests and Oratorical Competitions

Essay Contest

The topic for our 2024/2025 Optimist Essay Competition is: **"How Optimism Has Paved My Road to Success"** Please note all entrants must be under 19 years of age (as of October 1, 2024) and have not yet **graduated from high school in west Hamilton**. The contest is designed to give young people an opportunity to express their own opinions regarding the world in which they live. In addition to developing skills for critical thinking and written expression, participants also have the opportunity to win a scholarship. Entries should be between 700 and 800 words in the format specified in the contest rules. **The deadline for essay entries is January 31, 2025.** Please download the application form completed and please submit it with your essay to baccadia@bell.net.

Optimist Club of Hamilton will be awarding First Place \$300, Second Place \$200.00 and Third Place \$100.00.

Competition begins at the local Optimist Club level, and continues through the Zone, District, Regional, and finally International levels, with cash prizes and scholarships along the way.

Oratorical Competition

The Optimist Club of Hamilton is pleased to host an annual Oratorical Competition. The topic for the 2024/2025 Oratorical Contest will be **"How Optimism has guided me through trying times"**.

The competition provides youth with the opportunity to express themselves and gain confidence in their abilities to express themselves and has been a focus for the Optimist Club since its inception. Optimist Clubs have hosted Oratorical Contests since 1928.

Starting in 2016, Optimist International has partnered with St. Louis University to conduct the Optimist Oratorical World Championships, which gives students the opportunity to receive further scholarships. Competition begins at the local Optimist Club level, and continues through the Zone, District, Regional, and finally International levels, with cash prizes and scholarships awarded at most levels. The winner of the International Competition will accumulate scholarships totalling \$22,500.00! **The deadline to submit an Oratorical Contest [application](#) to the Optimist Club of Hamilton will be January 31, 2025.**

Please note all entrants **must be under 19 years of age (as of October 1, 2024) and have not yet graduated from high school.**

Community Awards:

HWDSB posts community awards on this website:

[Awards | Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board](#)

Check often!

We have DVSS Graduation Awards for...

- **Community involvement**
- **Leadership**
- **Participation in DVSS extracurriculars**

Paper copies of the Self-Nomination form are available in the Guidance Office, or use the digital copy attached to the email from December 1, 2025.

Due date for first round of awards is **February 2nd, 2026**.

Secondary Course Selection

myBlueprint

March 2-27, 2026

Grade 9, 10, 11, and returning grade 12's and Not-returning Grade 12's



Have a wonderful week!

Your guidance team

Ms. Warren, Mr. O'Connor, Ms. Keenan, and Mrs. Indelicato