

The Panabaker Chronicle

February 2025 Edition



Dates to Remember:

- Feb 1 – Black History Month
- Feb 4 – Pizza Day
- Feb 7 – Kindergarten Registration begins
- Feb 7 – Sweater Day
- Feb 11 – Pizza Day
- Feb 14 – Valentine's Day / Bake Sale / Dance
- Feb 17 – Family Day (no school)
- Feb 18 – Pizza Day
- Feb 20 – Hold & Secure Drill
- Feb 20 – Term 1 Reports Sent Home
- Feb 25 – Pizza Day
- Feb 25 – Grade 8 Commencement Pictures
- Feb 26 – Pink Shirt Day
- Feb 28 – PD Day

Exciting News! Introducing...Recess Guardians!

We're thrilled to announce the launch of our brand-new Recess Guardians program! This exciting initiative is designed to make recess more fun, active, and inclusive for our Grade 1-4 students – all with the leadership and guidance of our incredible Grade 5-8 student volunteers!

Twice a week, our Recess Guardians will be out on the playground, encouraging teamwork, and ensuring that everyone has a chance to join in the fun. Not only does this program help keep kids active and engaged, but it also builds social skills, promotes leadership, and reduces conflicts during nutrition break.

To support this fantastic program, we've purchased new equipment to bring even more excitement to the playground! With a variety of activities and enthusiastic student leaders, Recess Guardians is all about playing together, making new friends, and creating a positive recess experience for everyone.

We're so proud of the many students who have stepped up to participate, and we can't wait to see the impact this program has on our school community. Let's get moving, have fun, and make recess the best part of the day!

A great big thank you to Mrs. White who has taken the lead to organize this great initiative!

2025 Black History Month Poster: Ada

#AfrofuturismWho was Ada?

ETFO's 2025 Black History Month poster honours trailblazer Ada Kelly Whitney of Windsor and her little-known history as the first Black woman to be hired to teach in a publicly funded school in Ontario, in 1913. The subtle strength and dignity conveyed by the mask in the image channel Ada's courage, determination, and wisdom.

After excelling as a student, Ada was identified by her principal as having the necessary skills and resilience to return to her school as an educator. As a teacher, Ada provided students with something many schools and boards are still trying to achieve: a learning environment where the educator reflects the lived experiences of their students.

An activist hero through and through, Ada and her husband, Joseph, went on to publish the *Canadian Observer* from 1914-1919, a newspaper that gave voice to Black Canadians and challenged discrimination.

Concept

The poster's stunning visuals reflect the brilliance and resourcefulness of African Canadians.

Inspired by West African wooden mask making traditions, Ghanaian Canadian artist Ekow Nimako used approximately 6,500 pieces of LEGO to create the futuristic mask at the centre of the image. Nimako's surprising use of the popular educational medium to blend modern textures and angular forms with an age-old practice is a testament to Black ingenuity and creativity.

The backdrop of stars is a nod to Afrofuturism and signifies how vast and endless the possibilities are for Black youth in Ontario and beyond.

The overall effect is a powerful, visually arresting celebration of Black culture that acknowledges tradition while looking ever forward to a better future.

MOIS DE L'HISTOIRE DES NOIRS 2025: ADA



#AFROFUTURISME

ETFO



FEEO



Winter Weather

Bus cancellations and school closures

How does HWDSB decide on bus cancellations and school closures?

- 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.
- For clear communication, HWDSB **does not** announce when schools are open – we only announce when schools are closed.



When do we make decisions?

HWDSB will announce the cancellation of school and board operations by 6 a.m. based on the best information at the time.

The HWDSB Rule:

Inclement 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. Some boards have different procedures.



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...

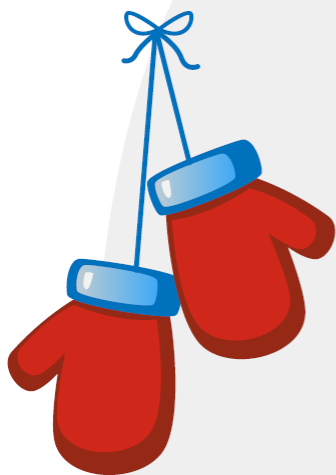
- Snow and ice from sidewalks directly in front of schools, a top priority for the City.
- **Note:** It may take up to 24 hours after a snowfall for sidewalks to be cleared. Report a sidewalk fronting a school in need of clearing at **905-546-CITY (2489)**

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.

Register for Kindergarten



Kindergarten registration begins on **Friday, February 7, 2025** for the 2025-26 school year. All Kindergarten documents can be found on the HWDSB Kindergarten website <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/kindergarten/>

Only parents or legal guardians can register their children for school. The following documents are required:

- Proof of age (child's birth certificate or passport);
- Proof of address (lease agreement, current utility bill) – Please note: Drivers Licence is NO LONGER acceptable.
- Proof of immunization – to public health
- Verification of date of arrival/immigration documents and citizenship status (if the child was not born in Canada).
- Completed Student Registration Form - available at the school or online at www.hwdsb.on.ca/kindergarten

Grade 8 Information

Continuing Education's Summer Reach Ahead Program - Families can find information on their website [here](#). Here is a [help video](#) on how to use myBlueprint to register for the Reach Ahead programs.

Additionally, these resources are [available on our website here](#).



Cold Weather and Outdoor Play

Time spent outdoors is an integral part of the school day. Children need fresh air and exercise and time spent outside affords students an opportunity to break free from the structure of the classroom. It is important that children come to school prepared for the cold. Boots, mittens or gloves, snow pants and hats should be worn to school and it's a good idea to provide extra mittens, socks, etc. in the event they are needed. The City of Hamilton's Public Health and Community Services Department recommends individuals stay indoors when the temperature drops below minus 15 degrees Celsius without wind chill.

This is the approach we will take at Frank Panabaker School.



MEDICAL ALERT

Just a reminder that Frank Panabaker is a NUT FREE School. We have both staff and students with severe life-threatening allergies to peanuts and tree nuts. Do not send any nut products to school with your child. Thank you!



Eco School News



With another season of candy exchange around the corner we wanted to remind families that our TerraCycle boxes are still available for candy wrapper recycling. The boxes can be found in the front foyer of both the North and South site. Please bring in any empty wrappers you collect and keep them out of our landfills. Boxes will be available until the end of February.

Celebrate Pink Shirt Day on Feb. 26

In response to a new Grade 9 student being bullied for wearing a pink shirt, two Nova Scotia high school students took a stand against bullying by distributing pink shirts to all the boys in their school to wear. This act of kindness has grown into a symbol against bullying in schools across the globe.

On Wednesday, Feb. 26, wear a pink shirt to help spread kindness and a sense of belonging!





Grade 4 CCAT Results


The results of the Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test (CCAT7) have arrived. Parents of students who qualify for further gifted screening will be notified.

Gage Park Greenhouse Exhibit during February



 Created by Frank Panabaker Gr.3/4C and
5T Puma Artists

 Students used watercolour application
and pen work to re-create a village under the
starry sky, inspired by artist Vincent Van

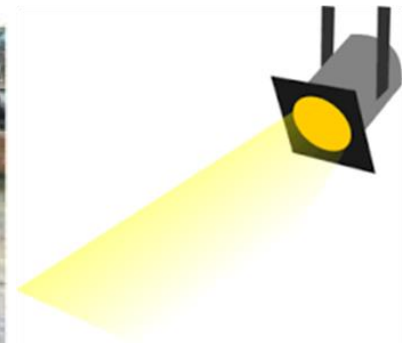
Gogh, mountain ranges inspired by artist, Jen Aranyi and snowmen! 



Frank Panabaker Student Spotlight

Welcome to room 115! Our classroom supports students with Autism, which can affect many areas of their daily lives. It can often impact their mode of communication, their learning profile, and how they connect with others. While it can impact 'how' they connect with others, they love to build connections with others and enjoy close relationships with friends and family. Through the Panabaker Chronicle, we wanted to introduce you to our classmates so that you can learn more about them, and hopefully learn ways that can help you connect with them through common interests.

This month, meet Desmond (Dezzy)!



How many zoos have you been to? I have only been to three, but Dezzy has been to the Toronto Zoo, Jungle Cat World, Granby Zoo (Quebec), Parc Omega (Quebec), Killman Zoo, Twin Valley Zoo (Brantford), African Lion Safari, Safari Niagara, Buffalo Zoo, Seneca Park Zoo (Rochester, NY), Rosamond Giffard Zoo (Syracuse, NY), Detroit Zoo, Cleveland Zoo, Columbus Zoo, Cincinnati Zoo. He hopes to add the Bronx Zoo, Miami Zoo, Disney Animal Kingdom, and the San Diego Zoo to his list soon. Dezzy has a special way of connecting to animals and enjoys learning all about them. He also loves to help out with the animals at Triple C Farm, including his adopted Alpaca, Callie and adopted goat, Latte. It's always a fun time watching animal videos and looking up animal facts with Dezzy. If you have any pictures of your pets or visits to the zoo, Dezzy would love to see them!

Kindergarten News

Inquiry-based learning is a student-centered teaching method that encourages students to ask questions and investigate real-world problems.

In this type of learning environment, students are actively engaged in the learning process and are given the opportunity to explore their natural curiosities.

This type of learning is often hands-on and allows students to connect what they learn in the classroom and the real world. Inquiry-based learning has been shown to improve critical thinking skills, problem-solving skills, and creativity. (Splashlearn.com)

Math - measuring our bodies to make a rocket ship, comparing sizes of the planets

Literacy - reading and writing outer space words. Many books about outer space in the room

Gross motor - meteor throwing, alien tag and rockets and meteors in gym

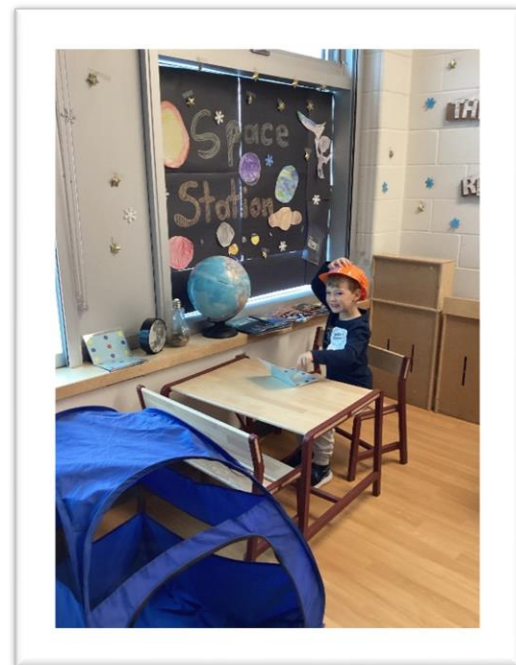
Fine motor - picking up marble planets with a pinching grip

Creativity - making northern lights, rockets and the solar system

Sensory - marbles in the sandbox, rockets and planets made of playdough

Science - volcanos and storms made to look like they are happening on the planets

Dramatic play - the space station in our classroom made with ideas and art from the students



Home and School News

Attention Families.....Start Baking!!!!

The annual Valentine's Day Treat Draw will be held on Friday, February 14, 2025. All students get a FREE ticket to put in the draw for a chance to win a valentine's day treat. Additional tickets will be available for purchase from classroom teachers!



Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board Code of Conduct

Members of the school community will:

- Treat each other with kindness and respect
- Support learning and keep distractions out of class
- Help others when they are in need

Members of the school community will not:

- Bully, cyberbully, or encourage others to do so
- Harm others, including harm with the motivation of hate or discrimination
- Use a personal mobile device during class unless permitted by an educator
- Use, share or sell vape, cannabis, nicotine and/or tobacco products on school property

Speak with a staff member if you or someone else needs help.

Visit hwdsb.info/school-rules to learn about the HWDSB Code of Conduct and Provincial Code of Conduct.



hwdsb.info/school-rules

HWDSB

Ontario 