

The Panabaker Chronicle

Dear Families,

As we approach the end of 2025, it's truly inspiring to reflect on the incredible journey we've shared this year. Our school community has been defined by resilience, growth, and kindness, and we couldn't be prouder of what we've accomplished together.

We want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our amazing students for the joy and enthusiasm they bring to school each day. A special thank you to our dedicated teachers, DECEs, educational assistants, CYCPs, office staff, custodians, and parent community for your unwavering support and commitment. You are the heart of Frank Panabaker!

As the holiday season approaches, please remember that our school will be closed from December 22, 2025, to January 2, 2026. We hope this time brings you rest, laughter, and cherished moments with loved ones near and far.

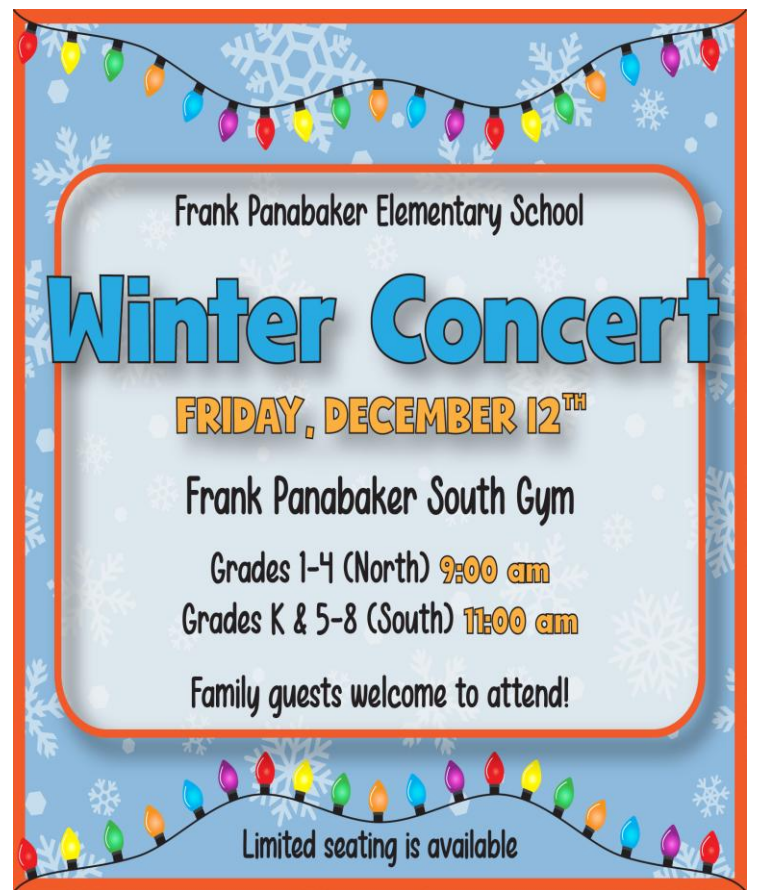
Let's carry this positive momentum into the New Year! We look forward to continuing our learning and growth together in 2026 as a strong and caring Frank Panabaker family.

Wishing you a joyful holiday season filled with peace and happiness!

Warm regards,

Mr. D. Fede & Mrs. Baggio

Upcoming EVENTS



Frank Panabaker Elementary School

Winter Concert

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12TH

Frank Panabaker South Gym

Grades 1-4 (North) **9:00 am**
Grades K & 5-8 (South) **11:00 am**

Family guests welcome to attend!

Limited seating is available



MEDICAL ALERT

Just a reminder that Frank Panabaker School 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!



ATTENTION!! Parent Parking / Drop Off / Pick Up

Just a friendly reminder that when you are dropping off or picking up your child at dismissal, please do not block the bus loading zone. We want to ensure the safety of all our students as they are being transported to and from Frank Panabaker School.

In addition, when dropping off or picking up your child, parents please be aware of children opening car doors to the parking lot access. As a safety reminder, students should enter and exit cars from the sidewalk and never from the parking lot. We strongly encourage parents to have these safety discussions at home with their children so that we can ensure that all our students remain safe.

Speed Limit and Stop Signs

For everyone's safety, please remember that the speed limit in our parking lot is 5 km/h. We also have two stop signs in place, please come to a complete stop at each one.

In addition, parents should **not pass other cars illegally in the parking lot**. We understand it can be a busy place, but it's important to remain patient and respectful of our community members. Unsafe driving puts students, families, and staff at risk.

Your care and attention help keep our school a safe and welcoming place for everyone. Thank you for doing your part to ensure everyone's safety!



progress reports

Progress Reports were sent home on November 18th! This is a great opportunity for you and your child to celebrate their accomplishments and review some next steps and to set some goals.



Bus Information

The HWDSB Transportation service is responsible for the carriers that bring our students to and from school. At times, school busses may run late and the delay time could take up to 60 minutes. We strongly encourage all families to check the status of their child's bus on a daily basis. This could be done using the following link:

<https://www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca/>

Here you will find a posting of all the delays.

You can also phone transportation directly at (905) 523-2318 or 1-800-691-6402 with any questions you may have, as our school office closes at 3:15 PM.



Secure School Information

Every year, school communities are required to engage in a number of Secure Schools drills to ensure all students and staff understand how to participate in the case of an emergency situation. These drills include: 6 fire drills (3 in the fall, 3 in the spring), 1 hold and secure drill, 1 shelter in place drill, 2 lockdown drills and 1 bomb threat drill.

The dates of future drills will be posted on the school website at least one day prior to our scheduled drill. If weather conditions do not allow for a safe drill, the drill would be pushed to the next available school day.

Please do not be alarmed if your child tells you that the alarm went off at school. This is all part of our Emergency Plan of Action.

To learn more about HWDSB's approach to secure schools, please go to:

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/secondary/supports/secure-schools/>

On **Remembrance Day**, our Frank Panabaker community came together to honor and reflect on the courage and sacrifice of those who have served—and continue to serve—during times of war, conflict, and peace. Through meaningful presentations, we paid tribute to these heroes and expressed our gratitude for their dedication.

A heartfelt thank you to all the students for their thoughtful participation and to Mrs. Bishop for her incredible effort in organizing such a memorable and respectful event.





Math Matters at Frank Panabaker!

Math is a primary focus in our School Improvement Plan because we know that when students enjoy math, they do better. Building confidence and sparking curiosity are key to success, and we're committed to making math engaging and fun for every learner.

We're excited to introduce our new interactive Math Boggle Board! This creative bulletin board gives students the opportunity to solve math problems on the go, whether they're walking through the hallway or waiting for class to start. It's a quick, playful way to practice skills, challenge their thinking, and celebrate problem-solving.

Why Boggle Boards?

They encourage critical thinking and mental math in a low-pressure environment.

Students can work individually or collaborate with friends.

Problems can be refreshed regularly to keep the challenge exciting.

They turn everyday spaces into learning opportunities.

This is just one example of how we're sparking joy in math and creating a culture where math is seen as fun, interactive, and rewarding!

Thank you to Ms. Jansen for organizing this great idea!

PANABAKER'S ANNUAL WINTER ECOMARKET

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2025

On Monday, Dec. 15, the day before the event, students in Grades 1-4 are asked to bring 3-6 new or gently used items from home, only if available.

Classes will "sell" these items to other FPN students using play money provided.



AS PART OF OUR
FINANCIAL LITERACY
LEARNING IN
MATHEMATICS, ALL
GR 1-4 STUDENTS
WILL BE GIVEN PLAY
CANADIAN BILLS TO
USE. NO REAL
MONEY IS INVOLVED.

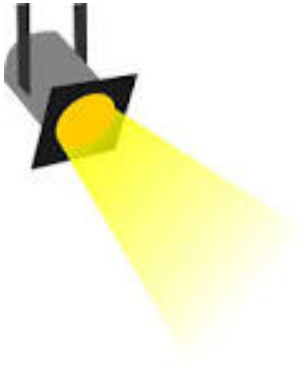


DONATIONS OF
GENTLY USED
GIFT BAGS
AND
WRAPPING
PAPER SCRAPS
ARE
APPRECIATED.



Students will "purchase" gifts for family members (e.g., parents, siblings, cousins, grandparents). Please consider sending items suitable for a variety of ages as students will shop for others, not themselves.

THIS IS A PANABAKER ECO-SCHOOL INITIATIVE



The latest art exhibit at the Gage Park Tropical Greenhouse features the beautiful work of **Ms. Ortwein's grade 5 students at Frank Panabaker (Mrs. Jack and Ms. Baileys classes)**. Their fall landscape of birch trees was inspired by Gustav Klimt and created using watercolours, where they explored the elements of colour, space, texture, and form. Take a trip to Gage Park to appreciate the beauty of the trees both outside and inside the greenhouse!



WINTER WEDNESDAY TREAT.

\$2



Snowman
Cookie

GET YOURS!
DEC. 10TH &
17TH





FRANK PANABAKER SCHOOL'S



ANNUAL HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE



DECEMBER 1 TO 5 5 DAYS ONLY!

IN SUPPORT OF



**SPECIAL THANKS TO ACS VOLUNTEERS FOR
PICKING UP OUR DONATIONS ON FRIDAY!**



THANK YOU FOR SHARING NON-
PERISHABLE ITEMS IF YOU ARE ABLE TO
AT THIS TIME. SEE ATTACHED FOR
REQUESTD ITEMS..
FOR THOSE IN NEED, PLEASE CALL
ACS DIRECTLY AT
905-648-6675 FOR SUPPORT.





FRANK PANABAKER
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

In support of...



ANCASTER COMMUNITY SERVICES
home of the **Ancaster Food Bank**

SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR DONATION:

- SCHOOL SNACKS
- OATMEAL
- CEREAL
- CANNED FRUIT
- CANNED VEGETABLES
- PANCAKE MIX (WITH WATER)
- SYRUP
- JAM
- CLEANING PRODUCTS
- HYGIENE PRODUCTS

Give Where You Live

Ancaster Community Services
300 Wilson Street East, Ancaster ON, L9G 2B9 | 905-648-6675
ancastercommunityservices.ca

Winter Clothing

Collection
date:
December
1-10

Drop off
Location:
Homeroom
Class

Drive

You can donate
new or gently
used coats, hats,
snow pants,
gloves, scarfs
and boots.

In support of
Hamilton
Communities,
the Frank
Panabaker
community is
collecting
winter gear
for people in
need.



Hygiene Drive

In support of
Hamilton
Communities, the
Frank Panabaker
community is
collecting hygiene
products for people in
need.



Collection
Date: Dec.
1-10

Drop off
Location:
Homeroom
Class

You can donate:
deodorant, cotton
pads, q tips shampoo,
body wash, lotion face
wash, toothbrushes,
toothpaste and more



PIC•COLLAGE

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.



6:00 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.

HWDSB makes a decision by 6 a.m.

School and Administrative Building Closures

School boards have varied policies on cancellations. **The HWDSB Rule is: Severe weather + Bus cancellation = Schools and Administrative Buildings are closed.** When HWDSB cancels busing due to inclement weather, we have deemed the roads unsafe and this triggers the closure of schools and administrative buildings.

Severe Weather



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.

Closing a school and administrative buildings 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.

Resources:

HWDSB's website - Severe Weather Information: www.hwdsb.on.ca/about/severe-weather

Inclement Weather and Board Cancellations Policy: www.hwdsb.on.ca/about/policies

Inclement Weather information video: <https://youtu.be/WMkROsXELfY>

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?

Contractors will plow or clear up to half of the asphalt play area at schools. Head Caretakers also inspect playgrounds and spot 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**.

