

The Panabaker Chronicle

February 2026 Edition



Dates to Remember:

- Feb – Black History Month
- Feb 2 – Kindergarten Registration begins
- Feb 3 – Pizza Day
- Feb 5 – Sweater Day
- Feb 10 – Pizza Day
- Feb 13 – Valentine's Day / Bake Sale / Dance
- Feb 13 – Term 1 Report Cards sent home
- Feb 16 – Family Day (no school)
- Feb 17 – Pizza Day
- Feb 24 – Pizza Day
- Feb 25 – Pink Shirt Day
- Feb 26 – Grade 8 Commencement Pictures

February Update to Families

February brings continued winter weather and opportunities for outdoor play, while also allowing us to begin looking ahead to the promise of spring. Please continue to ensure students are dressed warmly for the cold conditions.

This month, we proudly recognize **Black History Month**, providing opportunities for students to learn about the achievements, contributions, and lived experiences of Black Canadians and Black communities. Through learning and discussion, we continue to promote respect, understanding, and inclusion.

February is also a **Month of Kindness** at our school. Students are encouraged to show empathy, respect, and care for others through everyday actions that help strengthen our school community.

Our school priorities remain focused on **mathematics learning** and **mental health and well-being**. Students are developing confidence in math through problem solving and clear thinking, while also learning skills that support emotional well-being, resilience, and positive relationships.

TVO Mathify – Free Online Math Support

Families are reminded about **TVO Mathify**, a **free online 1:1 math tutoring service** provided by **Ontario Certified Teachers**. Mathify supports students in **Grades 4–12** and is available **7 days a week**, helping students build confidence and understanding in mathematics.

Learn more or access the service at:

<https://mathify.tvolearn.com>



Pizza Days Are Back for Term 2!

Great news, families—**Pizza Days are returning for Term 2!**

Ordering is now open on **School Cash Online** and will remain available **until February 20th**, so be sure to place your orders before the deadline.

The new pizza term will begin after March Break and continue right through to the end of the school year, giving students lots to look forward to on pizza days!

Thank you for your support—pizza days are always a favourite and help make lunchtime extra fun! Thank you to our School Council and parent volunteers who organize all of our Pizza days!

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!



Office News

A friendly reminder to all families that our school day runs from **8:15 AM to 2:35 PM** each day.

- **Morning Arrival:** Students should arrive **by 8:15 AM** to ensure they are settled and ready for learning when classes begin.
- **Afternoon Dismissal:** Dismissal takes place at **2:35 PM**. Please make arrangements for your child to be picked up promptly.

Thank you for helping us maintain smooth, safe transitions at the start and end of each day. Your cooperation helps create a positive learning environment for all students!

Dismissal Changes – Important Reminder for Parents

If your child requires a change to their regular dismissal routine, please ensure the information is communicated directly to the school.

Families can notify us in either of the following ways:

SchoolMessenger:

Please enter any dismissal changes in SchoolMessenger so we receive them promptly.

Call the School:

If you prefer, you may call the school and leave a message with your child's name, teacher, and the specific dismissal instructions. Our voicemail is checked periodically throughout the day.

Clear communication helps us ensure that every student gets to the correct place safely at the end of the day.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation!

Celebrate Pink Shirt Day on February 25th!

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, February 25th, wear a pink shirt to help spread kindness and a sense of belonging!

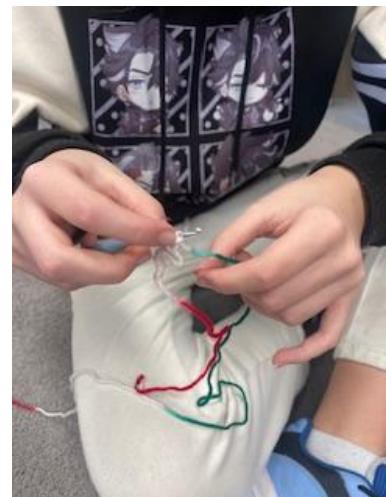
**Be
kind.**


**PiNK SHiRT DAY 20
FEB 25²⁶**

Craft Club Update

In Term 1, Craft Club students created pixel art and turned their designs into beaded loom projects, showing patience and precision. This term, the club has moved on to crochet! Students are learning basic stitches, trying more advanced techniques, and supporting one another as they build new skills. Craft Club continues to be a creative and collaborative space. 🧶

Thank you to Mrs. Zalter who runs our Craft Club during nutrition breaks.



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.



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.



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.



Continuing Education is pleased to offer a variety of summer programs to help keep your whole family learning this summer!

As summer inches closer, consider registering for one of HWDSB's fun summer programs! With a wide variety of summer programs, students can continue their learning journeys! From activity-based literacy and math programs, learning another language, taking summer credit courses, preparing for secondary school, there is something for everyone!

Click [HERE](#) to see what is being offered.



HWDSB

Kindergarten

Registration is now open!

★ hwdsb.on.ca/kindergarten/



BE YOU. BE EXCELLENT.

**FRANK
PANABAKER
PRESENTS..**



February 25th & March 4th March 11th & March 18th



Orders Due Feb 18th

Orders Due 4th



All proceeds go towards
Grade 8 Commencement

Home and School News

Friday Feb 13th

Valentine's Day Treat Giveaway

* For Both North and South Schools *

DONATIONS FROM FAMILIES NEEDED!

We are looking for **NUT-FREE** baked or store-purchased items (cakes, cupcakes, cookies, bars, candy, etc.).

Please bring to the **North Site Gym**

Feb 13th in the morning between 7:30 – 8:30 am.

Provide disposable containers that you are okay parting with.

Each student will be given 3 **FREE** tickets for a chance to win a Valentine's treat. **No purchase necessary.**

All prizes will be sent home that day.

Location: Frank Panabaker North Gym

Brought to you by the **Home and School Association**

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 