



# George L. Armstrong Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

460 Concession Street  
Hamilton, Ontario L9A 1C3  
Phone: 905.385.5337  
Fax: 905.385.8996

EMAIL: [georgelarmstrong@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:georgelarmstrong@hwdsb.on.ca)  
PRINCIPAL: J. Hall  
VICE-PRINCIPAL: J. Hayes  
[www.hwdsb.on.ca/georgelarmstrong](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/georgelarmstrong)

---

September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

Dear GLA families,

Greetings to all members of the GLA community,

It brings us immense joy to extend a warm welcome as we embark on the journey of the 2023 – 2024 school year at George L. Armstrong. We trust that your summer was filled with cherished moments spent alongside loved ones.

A friendly reminder that classes will resume on Wednesday, September 6th, 2023.

**Promoting a Positive Return to School** - Foundational to fostering both academic success and well-being, the culture and environment within classrooms hold paramount significance. Our ongoing initiative, Reimagining Wellness, which debuted in September 2021, remains dedicated to cultivating inclusive and positive atmospheres across all classrooms and even virtual learning spaces. These endeavours ensure that students experience a sense of belonging and security, nurturing conditions in which they can thrive to their fullest potential. The upcoming Reimagining 3.0, set for introduction this September, further advances our pursuit by fostering robust, wholesome relationships and universal well-being, with a focused commitment to the prevention of bullying.

**Continuing Our Progress** - This school year, we're building upon the successes of the past, with a continued focus on what makes Armstrong a remarkable school for students, staff, and the wider community. Our focal points, both in the social and academic domains, encompass kindness, community engagement, effective problem-solving, and unwavering perseverance. We're excited to announce that Eddie the Eagle, our beloved school mascot, will once again present the Golden Feather trophy to classes exhibiting these commendable attributes consistently throughout the academic year.



# George L. Armstrong Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

460 Concession Street  
Hamilton, Ontario L9A 1C3  
Phone: 905.385.5337  
Fax: 905.385.8996

EMAIL: [georgelarmstrong@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:georgelarmstrong@hwdsb.on.ca)  
PRINCIPAL: J. Hall  
VICE-PRINCIPAL: J. Hayes  
[www.hwdsb.on.ca/georgelarmstrong](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/georgelarmstrong)

---

**Transportation Notes** - We've been collaborating closely with HWSTS, our local transportation consortium. Families eligible for transportation services, please follow the provided steps to access your children's information via the online portal. Keep in mind that last-minute changes can occur, and it's crucial to reconfirm the details before your children head to their designated pickup point on September 6th, 2023.

School buses will load and unload on East 18th.

Please note: HWSTS does not contact families with regards to their bus route information. Families can access their information by going to Hamilton Wentworth Student Transportation Services [HWSTS Transportation Services](#)

**Courtesy Transportation** – There is no courtesy transportation for the first month of school. Each year courtesy seats may be granted if there is space on an existing bus run. They are administered through an application process. Requests for courtesy transportation must be submitted to the school, by the parent/guardian each year using the Courtesy Transportation Request Form. You can pick up a form at the school or access it through this link: [Microsoft Word - HWCDSB EMPTY SEAT STUDENT TRANSPORTATION REQUEST FORM \(002\) \(hamiltonschoolbus.ca\)](#). Requests are assessed in October, once all eligible students are assigned and operational issues are resolved.

**Commencement of Kindergarten** - An especially warm welcome awaits our new kindergarten students and their caregivers. Scheduled for Wednesday, September 6th, all newcomers have been invited for a brief visit, enabling them to familiarize themselves with our environment. Kindergarten classes will officially commence on Thursday, September 7th.

**Addressing Concerns** - For any classroom-related concerns, we encourage students and families to reach out to their respective classroom teachers. School-wide matters can be directed to the principal's office.



# George L. Armstrong Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

460 Concession Street  
Hamilton, Ontario L9A 1C3  
Phone: 905.385.5337  
Fax: 905.385.8996

EMAIL: [georgelarmstrong@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:georgelarmstrong@hwdsb.on.ca)  
PRINCIPAL: J. Hall  
VICE-PRINCIPAL: J. Hayes  
[www.hwdsb.on.ca/georgelarmstrong](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/georgelarmstrong)

---

**Balancing Work and Life** - Recognizing the significance of maintaining a healthy work-life equilibrium, HWDSB has established a Right to Disconnect Procedure. This ensures that educators, administrators, and other staff members can disconnect from work during non-working hours, contributing to their overall well-being. While urgent communications will persist after hours, please anticipate a delay in responses to non-urgent inquiries sent to educators and administrators.

**Parental Involvement** - We wholeheartedly welcome volunteers in our classrooms, during nutrition breaks, and on educational excursions. If you're interested in contributing as a volunteer, kindly contact the office for volunteer forms and information about police check requirements.

**Visiting the School** - Should you need to visit the school premises, we kindly ask that you use the buzzer located at the East 19th entrance across from Shopper's Drug Mart.

**Effective Communication** - Agendas will soon arrive, serving as a valuable means of communication between home and school.

**Encouraging Active Transportation** - We highly encourage walking and biking as active transportation methods, minimizing traffic congestion during drop-off and pick-up times. Parents who choose to drive are encouraged to drop off students near the school, abiding by parking regulations, as the school parking lot is reserved for staff.

**Student Entry and Exit** - Upon arrival, students are to proceed directly to the designated pavement area, as staff supervision is concentrated there. The park and field are unsupervised areas. For morning entry, students on the first and third floor will line up, while students on the second floor will use a gradual entry when the bell goes at 8:40 a.m. Students must leave the school premises promptly after dismissal, as supervision on the pavement area is available only



# George L. Armstrong Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

460 Concession Street  
Hamilton, Ontario L9A 1C3  
Phone: 905.385.5337  
Fax: 905.385.8996

EMAIL: [georgelarmstrong@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:georgelarmstrong@hwdsb.on.ca)  
PRINCIPAL: J. Hall  
VICE-PRINCIPAL: J. Hayes  
[www.hwdsb.on.ca/georgelarmstrong](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/georgelarmstrong)

---

from 3:00 to 3:15 pm. Specific grade levels have designated entry points and procedures.

**Kindergarten Arrangements** - Kindergarten students will be directed to designated outdoor class locations on East 19th for arrival and dismissal. Parents are kindly requested to wait outside the fenced area.

**Late Arrival Protocol** - Students arriving late should ring the buzzer at the East 19th door for entry and proceed directly to the office for check-in.

**Managing Student Belongings** - Lockers, hooks, and cubbies, as determined by teachers, will be utilized. We recommend labeling clothing items. A lost and found area is available outside the office. Personal toys should remain at home, as the school cannot be held responsible for lost or misplaced items.

**Nutrition Breaks** - Students will consume meals within their classrooms at designated workspace areas. Due to allergy concerns, sharing of food and beverages is not permitted. We encourage minimal waste and ask that students take leftover food home. Students on the first and third floor will eat first and then go outside. Students on the second floor will go outside first and then eat.

**Hydration** - While water fountains are accessible, we recommend students bring labeled water bottles and use the Hydration Station for refills. Sending filled water bottles in the morning helps avoid congestion.

**Nutrition Programs** - All nutrition programs follow a 'Grab and Go' model, with pre-packaged foods distributed by staff and student helpers to classrooms.

**Personal Items** - Students should limit items brought from home to essentials like lunches, water bottles, school supplies, and medical necessities. Stuffed animals and personal cards should remain at home.



# George L. Armstrong Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

460 Concession Street  
Hamilton, Ontario L9A 1C3  
Phone: 905.385.5337  
Fax: 905.385.8996

EMAIL: [georgelarmstrong@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:georgelarmstrong@hwdsb.on.ca)  
PRINCIPAL: J. Hall  
VICE-PRINCIPAL: J. Hayes  
[www.hwdsb.on.ca/georgelarmstrong](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/georgelarmstrong)

---

**Electronic Devices** - Guidelines for personal electronic devices vary by grade level, with stricter regulations on the first and third floors. A "cell-phone hotel" is available for device storage during instructional hours. Students on the first and third floor must keep any personal electronic devices in their lockers for the duration of the day as they are not required. Students on the second floor are able to bring personal electronic devices, however, they must be checked into the cell-phone hotel at the start of the day and are not to be used during instructional time, unless directed by the teacher for educational purposes only. Personal devices during Nutrition Break are permitted, however, the HWDSB electronic device policy must be followed at all times. There are to be no electronic devices in the washrooms.

**Upcoming Handbook** - We are in the process of creating a comprehensive GLA Student and Parent Handbook, which will be available soon.

We eagerly anticipate the beginning of the school year and look forward to greeting everyone on Wednesday with enthusiasm for the year ahead.

Warm regards,

Joanne Hall  
Principal