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## February 2020 Newsletter

*From the Desk of Mrs. Constable*

*I would like to wish you all a very **Happy Family Day Holiday**. Take time to enjoy the long weekend spending time with friends and family.*

*During the month of February, we celebrate Black History Month. Teachers and students will be doing a variety of lessons and activities that honor the legacy of Black Canadians both past and present.*

*Thanks so much*

*Mrs. S. Constable*

### **Coronavirus**

The health and well-being of our students and staff is a top priority. HWDSB, as well as other education partners and health care sectors are working together with the Ministry of Health to ensure the continued well-being of our students and staff.

HWDSB has posted information that is intended to support our community on HWDSB's website. This information has been shared with the support of the City of Hamilton's public health.

I have attached the two links for your reference. Updates will be provided to families as necessary and I encourage you to monitor the website regularly to ensure that you have our latest updates.

· <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/blog/wuhan-novel-coronavirus/> · (Ministry of Education) Ontario Protecting Students from Emerging Issue of the Wuhan Novel Coronavirus

We appreciate and share your concern and reassure you that HWDSB is working closely with Public Health. HWDSB will take direction from the Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health and would only enforce restrictions on our school communities if directed to do so by them or our local public health unit.

Prevention: As always, during this peak flu season, you can help us reinforce messaging of healthy practices:

- get a yearly influenza vaccination, available from clinics and pharmacies (for flu only);
- wash your hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer;

- cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze;
- if you don't have a tissue, sneeze or cough into your sleeve or arm; and
- if you or your family members are ill, stay home.

Heightened Concern: Events like this can cause feelings of uncertainty and anxiety.

- Be patient with yourself and those close to you.
- Take care of yourself.
- Eat healthy, drink plenty of water, and get enough rest.
- If you are feeling overwhelmed, consider taking a break from the news and social media.
- Provide children with age-appropriate factual information.
- Please reach out to the school if support is needed.

#### **Masks:**

- As a school board, we depend on the expertise of Hamilton Public Health Services who do not recommend that staff and students wear masks.
- Wearing masks may in fact increase risk of infection to the child or to others, heighten anxiety and pose greater risk to the health and safety of our school communities.
- People often use masks incorrectly, or contaminate themselves when putting masks on and taking them off, which could actually increase the risk of infection. Therefore, the wearing of masks at school is not permitted by students and staff.
- If a child is ill, we're asking parents to keep them home.

#### **ELEMENTARY TERM 1 REPORT CARDS**

**HWDSB IS UNABLE TO PROVIDE TERM ONE ELEMENTARY REPORT CARDS THIS YEAR. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS TO COMMUNICATE ABOUT STUDENT PROGRESS AND THIS CONVERSATION WILL CONTINUE. PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL TO INQUIRE ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S GRADES. PLEASE CONTACT YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER(S) IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS ABOUT THEIR PROGRESS.**

Extra-Curricular Activities remain cancelled until Further Notice

Due to the current job action with ETFO, all extra-curricular activities, field trips and Pizza Days remain cancelled at this time.

The grade 7 trip to Muskoka Woods is tentatively re-scheduled for Wednesday March 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> if the ETFO job action has ended. A full refund of payments made by parents will be refunded if the job action continues and the trip must be cancelled.

The grade 8 trip to Ottawa is currently on hold. No payments or form are to be submitted at this time.

## The Balanced School Day for September 2020

I would like to inform you of a change we will be undertaking to our school schedule beginning in September 2020.

Glen Brae will be moving from our current Traditional School Day to a Balanced School Day. The Traditional School Day that we currently operate under sees our students have a single one-hour lunch period, where students are provided 20 minutes to eat their lunch and then are outside for active play for 40 minutes.

The Balanced School Day that we are moving to will see the students have two forty-minute nutrition breaks in the day – one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Students will eat for 20 minutes and then have active outdoor play for 20 minutes.

Many schools within HWDSB operate under a Balanced School Day and this change in our school schedule will help to support the future consolidation of schools, including Glen Brae, Glen Echo and Sir Isaac Brock once the new elementary school is built on the Glen campus.

The positive results of this type of school day are:

**Improved concentration:** Because students are eating later in the day, they are less likely to run out of energy by the end of the school day. This means they are better able to focus and concentrate on their school work for the full day.

**More time to eat:** Instead of rushing to consume snacks at recess, students have more time to just sit and eat. Students that are nutritionally satisfied are more likely to learn better throughout the day.

**More time for learning:** A Balanced School Day schedule provides for blocks of focused learning time and less interruptions throughout the day.

Moving to a Balanced Day Schedule will also impact our bell times.

Currently, the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) and the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board (HWCDSB) are jointly undertaking a review of all school bell times through the Hamilton-Wentworth Student Transportation System (HWSTS) for the 2020-21 school year. The bell time study report is expected to be shared with the HWSTS governance committee. The final report, outlining the recommend school bell times will be shared with both HWDSB and HWCDSB at their meetings early in the new year. We will communicate any changes to our bell times early so that parents, guardians and caregivers will have time to plan for childcare in September.

To help further explain this change and to answer any questions parents, guardians or caregivers may have, we will be hosting a parent information session on **Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, at 5 p.m.** here at Glen Brae. Please look for further communication about the parent information session as we get closer to February.

If you have any questions about our move to a Balanced School Day before our parent information session, please feel free to call the school office.

### Cell Phones

**At Glen Brae, students are not permitted to use their cell phones during instructional time unless a teacher has given them permission to do so. Cell phones must be turned off in classes. There have been a number of issues lately with inappropriate use of cell phones. Please do not call or text your child during instructional day. If you need to reach your child please call the school at 905 560 6732.**

**If a student is consistently using their cell phone without adult permission, it may be confiscated until the end of the school day.**

**We thank you for your support in this matter.**

### Cold Weather and our Traditional School Day

**Although it's been a very mild winter so far, there is bound to be some extremely cold days this month. Please remember that your child is outside for a forty-minute lunch break. Please ensure they are dressed properly for the weather. Schools will bring children in from cold when the weather dips below -15 without the wind chill factor.**

# FEBRUARY 2020 CALENDAR

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> W.H Ballard Open House 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Happy Valentine's Day
<b>17</b> Family Day Holiday	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> School Council Meeting – 5:00 p.m. Balanced Day Presentation	<b>21</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>