



# Gordon Price Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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## Weekly Update for February 3, 2020

***Gordon Price is a diverse school community filled with kindness, acceptance, potential and hope. Learning Together. We help using our kind words, helpful hands and caring hearts to make a difference.***

This week, students received **HWDSB Helps** magnet. HWDSB Helps is an anonymous way for students to find help for themselves or one another. Each day, we shared a Wellness Tip with our students. With our daily brain breaks following recess, we promote student mental health and well-being. Ask your child to share some of the different ways, they practice mindfulness.

Check out Ontario Special Needs (<https://twitter.com/ONTSpecialNeeds>) Twitter account for practical and helpful ideas to support your child on many different topics.

This week, they posted **"7 Ways to Respond to Your Child's Negative Self-Talk"**

1. **Acknowledge the feeling, not the words.**
2. **Use humour to help them see things differently.**
3. **Use specific praise to show your child how great they're doing.**
4. **Talk openly about negative self-talk.**
5. **Talk about having a growth mindset.**
6. **Discuss your "best failures".**
7. **Create an affectionate, welcoming home.**

**Labour Updates:** Please visit this website, <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/about/labour-update/>, for more information regarding Labour Updates. In the latest update, there is information about Extra-Curricular activities, Report Cards and IEPs for Elementary Schools.

**Wuhan Novel Coronavirus:** At HWDSB, an internal working group that has been identified and will be meeting to discuss and review relevant procedures related to the Wuhan Novel Coronavirus response. Public health will be a support for this committee.

· Communication and collaboration between different levels of government and agencies is ongoing and we will continue to provide updates as they become available.

· We've created a website for parents to learn more about the information provided by the Ministry of Health: <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/blog/wuhan-novel-coronavirus/>

**Kindergarten Registration** begins Monday February 3. Come to the office for an information and registration package!

**Out of Catchment:** Gordon Price is closed to out-of-catchment students for the upcoming school year. Click here for more information, <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/find/#tabs-112> .



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**Mad Science:** Flyers were sent home for Kindergarten to Grade 6 students for upcoming Mad Science Programs at Gordon Price. The program runs February 5- April 1, 2020.

Upcoming Events:

February 5: Pizza Day

February 5: Mad Science After School Program

February 11: Grade 8 Grad Photo Orders are due.

February 14: Non-nutrition day



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**Cold Weather and 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 outside. Outdoor play is also a break from the structure of the classroom.

Depending on the season, preparing for outdoor play in Canada can mean anything from applying sunscreen to wear mittens and a hat. During winter, it's important that children come to school prepared for the cold. Students should wear boots, mittens/gloves and hats and it's a good idea to pack extra mittens, socks, etc. in case they are needed.

Principals can always use their judgment to decide whether to send students outside for recess. However, HWDSB asks Principals to follow the City of Hamilton recommendation that individuals stay inside when the temperature is at or below -15C or -20C with wind chill. Questions or concerns regarding winter outdoor play should be directed to the school Principal. Parents are encouraged to go to [hamiltonschoolbus.ca](http://hamiltonschoolbus.ca) to check for any potential transportation delays.

## Severe Weather

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:

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.

School boards have varied policies on cancellations. The HWDSB Rule is: Severe 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.

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.

A school cancellation 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.

For more information, visit <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/about/severe-weather/>