



Gordon Price Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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Weekly Update for February 24, 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.

We hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable Family Day with their families. We are in the final week of February. This year is special with February 29th falling on a Saturday. Do you have any special plans for the extra day this year?

On Feb 26th, it is Pink Day at Gordon Price. As part of our positive school culture work, we will have positive messages about kindness, friendship, and anti-bullying this week. Students will think about how our choices, words, and actions help our school community feeling safe and accepted.

Labour Updates: Please visit this website, <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/about/labour-update/>, for more information regarding Labour Updates.

HWDSB wants to hear from Parents: Give your feedback to HWDSB by completing 2020 HWDSB Parent Survey, <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/blog/families-please-complete-the-2020-parent-voice-survey/>

March Pizza Days: March Pizza Orders will only be accepted through School Cash Online.

Safe Schools Panel: Bullying Prevention and Intervention Review Panel has called on community members to attend Review Panel sessions. Upcoming sessions: LGBTQI2S+ Community Feb 24th, Muslim Community March 2, General Session March 5th, Alternative Education Community March 7th, General Session March 9th. For more information, visit bit.ly/safeschoolsreview

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. <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/blog/wuhan-novel-coronavirus/>

Kindergarten Registration: If you have a child who will be 4 years old in 2020, please 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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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 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/>