



Helen Detwiler Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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September 4, 2018

Helen Detwiler Principal Message 2018/2019

Dear Students & Parent/Guardian(s):

We look forward to welcoming all of our families to the 2018-19 school year at Helen Detwiler! Our hope is that you have had a wonderful summer spent with family and friends. The start to a new school year generates excitement, curiosity and the anticipation of achieving goals that lead to success. Our teachers and support staff are looking forward to making a difference for our students and to build upon their academic success. At Helen Detwiler, we strongly believe in developing skills that will focus on the whole child through learning skills, social skills and academic growth that will shape our students as learners for the future. We are very fortunate to have a strong staff consisting of very talented teachers, early childhood educators, education assistants, office administrative staff and our custodial team who are dedicated in their efforts to make the Helen Detwiler School Community a learning environment that maximizes on students' striving to reach their full potential.

We value the importance of a strong home-school connection that opens the lines of communication required for our students to meet their full potential. Our staff is a dedicated group of professionals who are capable of supporting varied learning styles to ensure students can achieve in all aspects of school life. The school agenda is a valuable tool that we rely on to ensure communication of schedules and student work is tracked on a daily basis. Please take the time to review the General Information section at the front of the agenda to become familiar with our school procedures and code of conduct that supports our students. We ask that you please sign off on the front page of the agenda once you have read through the material.

In order to meet with success, our students begin their education career in Kindergarten and the skills developed each year to Grade 8 are critical to ensure that responsibility, commitment and consistent routines are established from the very first day of school. Starting those routines early in September are essential and are a good predictor of the level of success that will be attained by the end of the year. If you require support regarding consistency and routines, please feel free to contact your child's classroom teacher or advisor. We are more than willing to support you through a team effort to build consistency with home and school.

Student safety is our main priority here at Helen Detwiler. We like to send an early reminder regarding the traffic that exists at front of the school. With over 500 students entering and exiting the building on a daily basis, we ask that you are patient and cautious when driving down Brigade Drive. Setting a designated area that is off school grounds will make for an easier drop off and pick up routine for you and your child. The front of the school is reserved for our buses to pick up and drop off students before and after school. All students will be dismissed out of the Kindergarten, Primary or Junior Doors. Only bussed students exit out the front of the building. To ensure student safety, the **2 parking lots connected to our school grounds are out of bounds to parent vehicles & students. By-law signs stating employee parking only & no parking are visibly posted as a reminder for you. Please note that by-law officers will be monitoring these areas frequently for ticketing purposes with student safety in mind.**

We would also like to inform you about the Early ON Child & Family Centre that will be operating out of Helen Detwiler from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily throughout the week. The program will have its own separate entry and exit from the building which will not affect our students during the instructional day. The location of our Early ON Centre is the main hub for the South Mountain, and will be busy with families & community partners accessing the centre daily. For this reason, we must ensure that the Early ON Centre parking lot located in front of our Kindergarten pen is reserved for families receiving their service. We thank you in advance for your understanding.

Parents, if you plan to drop off or pick up your child, you must determine a meeting point location that is off school grounds to ensure the safety of our bussed students & families exiting the building in front of the school. If you are coming into the school for a meeting or to visit the office, we ask that you please park at the Early ON Child & Family Centre/Partnership Parking lot, located North East of the school. We thank you for supporting the safety of our students every day.

On behalf of the administrative team we look forward to another successful start to the school year building relationships with our new staff, students & families within the Helen Detwiler community.

Sincerely,

N. Radojevic

Ms. N. Radojevic
Principal

K. Francis

Ms. K. Francis
Vice-Principal

curiosity.

creativity.

possibility.

HWDSB