



**COMMUNITY LETTER: Community
News, Updates and Reminders
January 22, 2026.**



Principal: Kwame Djan

Vice-principal: Lynda Southon

Email: helendetwiler@hwdsb.on.ca

Parent council co-chairs: Lora Wall and Candice Perez

SAFE ARRIVAL LINE: 1-844-506-4350

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers,
Below are the updates for January 22, 2026.

Have a great long weekend!

Regards,
Kwame Djan & Lynda Southon

Friday, January 23, 2026

PA day! No school

Nora Henderson

Nora Henderson's option sheet information night for parents is January 27th from 6:00 to 7:00.

Literacy Spirit Week

January 26-30, 2026, is Literacy Spirit Week at Helen Detwiler.

Monday, January 26: Read to a friend, day!

Tuesday, January 27: Bring a beach towel to sit on and read your favourite book, day!

Wednesday, January 28: Wear your favourite hat or head covering while you are reading, day!

Thursday, January 29: Wear your coziest clothes while you read, day!

Friday, January 30: Wear your school colours and bring a flashlight while you read, day.

FOOD

We have many options for students to purchase food, including PIZZA, POPCORN, WRAPS, and COOKIES. Please login to School Cash Online to review dates and cut off times for ordering.

Kindergarten registrations

Kindergarten registration officially opens February 2, 2026. If you have any questions, please call our office. [Click here for additional information.](#)



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Speech arts competition for grades 4-8 students

February 24, 2026, from 1:30-2:30, we will be having "Helen Detwiler Speech Arts" competition. All families are invited.

Grad photos

February 27, 2026 in the 9:00 AM

June 11, 2026

Year-end trip for grade 8 students

June 18, 2026

Grade 8 convocation at Helen Detwiler!

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Be sure to ask your child about Boggle and Battleship!

Fundraising

Did you know that you can support **Helen Detwiler** when you place any order with Mabel's Labels? These labels are ideal for all your child's belongings, including water bottles, clothing, backpacks, shoes, etc. Best of all, they are a local business operating right here in Hamilton!

To order visit the website <https://mabelslabels.ca/>

Select "**Support a Fundraiser**"

Enter "**Helen Detwiler**" and select it then click "**Shop Now**"

Parent council meeting

Date: February 15, 2026

Time: 6:30-7:30 (library)

Access to school: Front entrance

Format: Hybrid (see below for MS Teams link)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 255 774 889 525 45

Passcode: kA7Jd7fz

Parking By-Laws

This is a reminder that there is no stopping from 6am-7pm on the school side of Brigade Dr., from Bonaparte Way to Bastille St. These by-laws are in place to keep pedestrians and drivers safe. By-law officers will be on-site throughout the year to



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ensure compliance. **Additionally, the staff parking lot is for staff only – this is not a space for student drop off or pick up.** We appreciate your support in this as we prioritize the safety of our students on a daily basis.

Kiss ‘N Ride

The Kindergarten loop is a no-stopping zone, as indicated by the City of Hamilton bylaw signs posted. When dropping off, students must immediately exit the vehicle safely and *independently*. At the end of the day, parents must park in the lot or on the opposite side of the street to wait for students.

Volunteering in 2025-2026 school year

All applicants looking to volunteer are now required to present a Vulnerable Sector Screening **specific to HWDSB** before they will be able to begin their volunteer activities. An offence Declaration is required for the subsequent years until a new Vulnerable Sector is required (after 3 years). The Vulnerable Sector Screening is the property of the volunteer. A letter to be presented to the respective police department can be obtained through the office.