

# Kanétskare Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

222 Robinson Street  
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 1Z9  
Phone: 905.528.7975  
Fax: 905.528.9735

EMAIL: [ryerson@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:ryerson@hwdsb.on.ca)  
[www.hwdsb.on.ca/ryerson](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/ryerson)

August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022,

Dear Parent/Caregiver:

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year. We are looking forward to an outstanding year at Kanétskare Elementary School. Our entire staff is to be commended for all of their hard work in preparing their classrooms and the school for your children. We hope you have had a great summer with your families and friends. We look forward to helping your children be curious and creative to see all the possibilities in their learning socially, emotionally and academically. Thank you to Mr. Veldhuis, Mr. Danby and Ms. Silj for their hard work in making our halls and classrooms glisten in the midst of all the ongoing renovations. Thank you also to Ms. Murphy for her leadership and organization in the office.

We are excited to welcome students back to class – in person and remote learning – for the 2022-23 school year. We know that the past two years have been challenging, and we are thrilled to see students, staff and families again. Each new year is a great new opportunity.

A friendly reminder that the first day of school will be **Tuesday, September 6, 2022**.

We know that many families remain concerned about safety, and we are too. We continue to take COVID-19 precautions, such as doing daily [COVID-19 school and child care screening](#) and staying home when sick or instructed within the screening tool.

We are pumped and ready for another year of teaching and learning with your children. School begins at 8:40 a.m. and concludes at 3:00 p.m. Please know that the playground is supervised 15 minutes before school and 15 minutes after school. We would ask that if your child is walking or being dropped off that you are aware of these times for their safety. Please avoid dropping students off at the front doors in the morning. It is important to keep the bus loading zone free from traffic. We are encouraging students to arrive before the bell and enter with their respective classes at the back playground. Additionally, it is extremely important to be at school on time as it creates a sense of calm, decreases interruptions in the class and promotes a team atmosphere as classes enter the school together.

***We are aiming to reduce the number of interruptions in class learning time and therefore, we are respectfully asking parents to not request their children to be dismissed during the last 30 minutes of the day (2:30-3:00 pm).***

## **First Day Procedures:**

On the first day of school, all students will arrive at Kanétskare Elementary School and head directly to the back playground. We will have a check in station where staff will assist you to let you know the location and/or who your homeroom teacher is for the year and where to line up on the first day. Please see map for additional details.

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## 2022-2023 Instructional Day

### 8:40 a.m. Instructional Day Begins

**Period 1** - 8:40 - 9:20 am

**Period 2** - 9:20 - 10:00 am

**Period 3** - 10:00- 10:40 am

### 10:40 - 11:20 Nutrition Break #1

**Period 4** - 11:20 - 11:50 am

**Period 5** - 11:50 - 12:20 pm

**Period 6** - 12:20-1:00 pm

### 1:00 - 1:40 Nutrition Break #2

**Period 7** - 1:40 - 2:20 pm

**Period 8** - 2:20 - 3:00 pm

**3:00 p.m. Dismissal**

### Lockers:

Lockers will be in use again at our school for grade 7 and 8 students. Students are encouraged to purchase a combination lock. The school is not responsible for any personal items that students may bring to school.

### Forms:

Please complete all forms in the Parent Portal (Student Verification & Nutrition Break Permission to leave school property at 2<sup>nd</sup> Nutrition Break only) by **Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>**. Please contact our school to update any health information regarding your child. We will be sending home information as well to update the specific Plan of Care for some children. Throughout the year, please let us know if your contact information changes so we have current information in the case of an emergency.

### Renovations:

Our school is currently being updated both internally and externally. We have new ceiling tiles and lighting in the hallways. Our gym has a new floor and has been brightened with a fresh coat of paint. The Learning Commons and an additional classroom are being updated. We will also have the Art Room (homeroom for 78A), Science Room (homeroom for 8B) and the Music room updated during the school year. Additionally, we are receiving some new basketball nets on the back playground, new trees have been planted with seating available for outdoor learning and the parking lot will be resurfaced. There will be some problem solving and adjustments we will need to make over the school year; however, it's very exciting to see these enhancements to our school.

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## **Kanétskare School Logo/Colour Design Contest:**

We are excited to build the new school community of Kanétskare Elementary School. Students will have the opportunity to submit a design for our new school logo and the accompanying two colours. The submission will include a rationale for the logo/mascot and the colour choice. All submissions will be reviewed by a committee from our school and short listed to a small number of options. We will hold an assembly so the top selections can be shared, including the supporting rationale for the logo and choice of colours. Finally, the students and staff will participate in a secret ballot to determine our school colours and logo. The aim is to have this entire process completed by the end of September.

## **School Council and Volunteers:**

We look forward to seeing many of you at our first Kanétskare School Council meeting on **Tuesday, September 27th at 7:00 p.m.** in the Learning Commons. We will establish the new School Council for the 2022-2023 school year. Nomination forms will be sent home with your children. Please return forms to the office if you are interested in joining School Council. We welcome all parents and community members; this is a great opportunity to learn together and provide community input to the principal on issues affecting Kanétskare Elementary School.

We welcome and value the important role volunteers play in helping children learn and we are always on the look-out for more assistance. Volunteers will be needed for school excursions and sporting events (volunteer drivers and/or supervisors) throughout the year to assist and meet supervision ratios. Volunteers are required to provide an up to date (within 6 months) **Vulnerable Sector Screening** which can be obtained through Hamilton Police Services (see link and/or attachment).

<https://hamiltonpolice.on.ca/how-to/get-background-check>

This screening is valid for 3 years providing the volunteer makes an annual offense declaration. Additionally, as per HWDSB policy each volunteer must complete the **Volunteer Appendices A&B** and submit to the principal for approval. Please complete all 3 items and submit to the school office to volunteer at our school. We really appreciate and need your support, so our students can participate in extra-curricular activities and class excursions.

## **Nutrition Update:**

- Please remember that we must follow the HWDSB Nutrition Policy
- Please do not send in treats to celebrate your child's birthday, please connect with your child's teacher for alternative plans if you wish.

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- We are permitted to have ten school-wide nutrition exemption days which allows for greater flexibility with respect to food choices
- Our first school-wide nutrition exemption day (1 out of a possible 10) will be on Monday, October 31st.
- Additionally, please do not send any food with nut products as we have children with severe nut allergies at Kanétskare Elementary School

## Safe Welcoming Schools:

- All exterior school doors will be locked during the instructional day, and visitors will access the school during school hours through the main entrance. **(Please ring the bell on the left side, introduce yourself and then we will ‘buzz’ you in)**
- Please note that we will continue to **ask visitors to report to the office for sign-in and wear identification at all times.**
- It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to notify the school if you know your child is going to be absent due to illness or an appointment. Please use School Messenger to report student absences and lates.
- If you wish your child to be excused early during the day please use School Messenger or call the school so we can update this information in Power School (attendance tracking software).

## Family and School Connections:

Communication is the key to a great partnership between home and school. Parent/Caregiver involvement is a key ingredient for student learning and achievement. We value your thoughts and time you spend to help your child to be successful. As always, if any concerns arise, please don't hesitate to connect with your child's teacher at **905-528-7975** or by email. Please take the time to check our updated school web site for upcoming events and information.

Also, in an effort to become more environmentally friendly, we will be moving away from the traditional monthly newsletter and enhancing our communication with weekly updates on the Kanétskare Elementary School website.

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/kanetskare/>

**Please take the time to ‘Subscribe’ on the Kanétskare website to ‘follow’ any updates. When changes are made to the site you will be emailed to let you know there is new information.**

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<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/kanetskare/subscribe/>

Additionally, we will be using School Messenger (either phone or email) and notes home when appropriate.

## Upcoming Key Dates:

***Please see our calendar on the school website which shows upcoming dates for the entire year. This calendar will be updated on a weekly basis.***

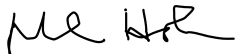
Thursday, Sept. 22nd- Meet the Staff (5:30 – 7:00 p.m.)  
Tuesday, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>-School Council Meeting (7:00-8:00 p.m. in the Learning Commons)  
Tuesday, Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> Picture Day  
Monday Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>- Thanksgiving (school is closed)  
Monday, Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>- PA Day-no school for students  
Monday, Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>-Halloween (Nutritional Exemption day #1)

The following link is to the Kanétskare calendar on our website.

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/kanetskare/event/>

The Kanétskare staff is looking forward to a happy, safe and successful year with you and your children. As always, if you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to call us.

Sincerely,



Mr. M. Hopkins  
[mhopkins@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:mhopkins@hwdsb.on.ca)