

# 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: [Kanetskare@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:Kanetskare@hwdsb.on.ca)  
[www.hwdsb.on.ca/kanetskare](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/kanetskare)

September 1, 2023

Dear Kanétskare families,

We are excited to welcome students back to class for the 2023-24 school year.

As your Temporary Principal, I am thrilled to be back at Kanétskare and looking forward to supporting the school community. Respect, positive communication, patience and seeking to understand is the most effective way for us to all work together to support the students at Kanétskare.

A friendly reminder that the first day of school will be **Wednesday, September 6, 2023**.

## **Promoting a Positive Return to School**

Foundational to fostering both academic success and well-being, the culture and environment within classrooms hold paramount significance. Our ongoing initiative, Reimagining Wellness, which debuted in September 2021, remains dedicated to cultivating inclusive and positive atmospheres across all classrooms and even virtual learning spaces. These endeavors ensure that students experience a sense of belonging and security, nurturing conditions in which they can thrive to their fullest potential. The upcoming Reimagining 3.0, set for introduction this September, further advances our pursuit by fostering robust, wholesome relationships and universal well-being, with a focused commitment to the prevention of bullying. Watch for details in the days ahead.

## **Addressing a Concern**

Students and families with classroom concerns are encouraged to contact their student's classroom teacher. School-wide concerns can be addressed by the principal. [Addressing a Concern \(PDF\)](#).

## **Balancing Work and Life**

Recognizing the significance of maintaining a healthy work-life equilibrium, HWDSB has established a [Right to Disconnect Procedure](#). This ensures that educators, administrators, and other staff members can disconnect from work during non-working hours, contributing to their overall well-being. While urgent communications will persist after hours, please anticipate a delay in responses to non-urgent inquiries sent to educators and administrators.

## **Change of Family Information**

If you have any changes in phone numbers, address, custody arrangements or emergency contacts, please let the office know via email to [kanetskare@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:kanetskare@hwdsb.on.ca) or by calling 905 528 7975.

## **Parent Portal**

It is critically important that we have current contact information (address and phone number) for every student. In the portal, you can complete:

curiosity.

creativity.

possibility.

**HWDSB**

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- Media consent
- Human and Sexual Development exemption
- Emergency Closure Information
- Remote Learning
- Nutrition Break Information

If you are having difficulty with the Parent Portal, please call the school for assistance.

## Parental Involvement

We wholeheartedly welcome volunteers in our classrooms, during nutrition breaks, and on educational excursions. If you're interested in contributing as a volunteer, kindly contact the office for volunteer forms and information about police check requirements.

## Visiting the School

Should you need to visit the school premises, we kindly ask that you use the buzzer at the front door and report directly to the office.

## Bell Times 8:40 am – 3:00 pm

We have two 40-minute nutrition breaks, please send snacks and drinks. Due to anaphylaxis allergies, peanuts and anything containing peanuts is prohibited.

## Student Entry and Exit

Upon arrival, students are to proceed directly to the tarmac area, as staff supervision is concentrated there. For morning entry, students will line up on the tarmac. Students must leave the school premises promptly after dismissal, as supervision on the pavement area is available only from 3:00 to 3:15 pm. Specific classes have designated entry doors.

The first day, staff will be out on the playground to assist students with class assignments as needed and line up procedures. Pylons will be out to mark the location of lines for all classes.

## Class Assignments

You can find out your child's teacher by login onto the Parent Portal beginning August 28. Many factors go into student placements. All placements are considered temporary until reorganization at the end of September. To balance enrolment often minor changes are required. This happens at all schools across the district.

**Nutrition Breaks** - Students will consume meals within their classrooms at designated workspace areas. Due to allergy concerns, sharing of food and beverages is not permitted. We encourage minimal waste and ask that students take leftover food home.

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If you would like to give your child permission to leave the school at second Nutrition Break (1:00 pm -1:40pm) you will need to complete the permission form in the Parent Portal. This is generally a privilege extended to all students. We ask that students do not leave at first Nutrition Break because attendance is NOT taken after first Nutrition Break. It is a safety concern because we are unable to account for attendance until after second Nutrition Break. Students are responsible for returning to school on time for period 7 at 1:40 pm. Food or drink is not to be brought back to the playground or into the school.

**Hydration** - While water fountains are accessible, we recommend students bring labeled water bottles and use the Hydration Station for refills. Sending filled water bottles in the morning helps avoid congestion.

## **Nutrition Programs**

All nutrition programs follow a 'Grab and Go' model, with pre-packaged foods distributed by staff and student helpers to classrooms.

## **Electronic Devices**

Guidelines for personal electronic devices will be communicated the first week of school to all students and shared with families. Electronic devices are not to be used during instructional time, unless directed by the teacher for educational purposes only. Students are not permitted to record videos or pictures of anyone without permission. There are to be no electronic devices in the washrooms. Use of electronic devices are not permitted in the hallways, lockers or during transition times. Students are encouraged to leave their electronic device at home. However, if your student must bring a cell phone to school for safety or personal reasons, they are to be out of sight. Students are solely responsible for the security of their devices. If you need to communicate with your child through the day, please call the school and we will facilitate this through the office.

Looking forward to an exciting year of learning!

Lisa Neale  
Principal