



# Norwood Park Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

165 Terrace Drive  
Hamilton, Ontario L9A 2Z2  
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EMAIL: [norwoodpark@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:norwoodpark@hwdsb.on.ca)  
[www.hwdsb.on.ca/norwoodpark](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/norwoodpark)

September 2, 2022

Dear Norwood Park families,

We are excited to welcome students back to class for the 2022-23 school year. Please note that Mme. Moules is on a temporary leave until October 2022. She is looking forward to her return to continue serving her school community.

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**. Please be aware that our school **Picture Day is on Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 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.

As we move through the pandemic, we will continue to update families on important developments. We know that families may have a lot of questions.

We also invite families to keep up with communications from HWDSB by [subscribing to email updates](#) or following HWDSB on social media or [@norwood\\_hwdsb](#) (twitter).

Please reach out to our school if you have any questions.

Here are some important points to remember as students prepare for the start of the school year:

### **Medical Information Update:**

If your child's medical information has changed, please ensure to contact your child's teacher. We will be sending forms home to families of students with known medical conditions. If your child requires an Epi Pen or an inhaler, please ensure that these items are brought to school on the first day. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

### **Parent use of Staff Parking Lot:**

At Norwood Park we are focused on maintaining everyone's safety. To that end, we are asking that parents do not use the staff parking lot. The staff parking lot is on HWDSB property and is for staff parking only. As well, as we endeavor to maintain the safety of all, we ask that people do not congregate in the parking lot.



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## COVID-19

Most health and safety guidance from the province is unchanged from the end of the 2021-22 school year, but here are some items we want to bring to your attention:

- It is still recommended that staff, students and visitors continue to self-screen every day before attending school using the [COVID-19 school and childcare screening tool](#). We no longer verify student screening results in schools. Please stay home if you have COVID-19 symptoms or are waiting for test results after experiencing symptoms.
- HWDSB is a mask-friendly environment. We continue to support the wearing of masks in schools, administrative buildings and buses, as an effective public health measure. We will continue to offer free masks for students and visitors to our schools. Although masks are not required, our schools, offices and buses are respectful, welcoming and inclusive environments where individuals can choose to wear or not to wear a mask.
- HEPA filter units are installed in every occupied kindergarten class, in all occupied learning spaces without mechanical ventilation, and in mechanically ventilated learning spaces without MERV-13 level filters. HWDSB will continue to deploy HEPA filter units in learning spaces in a manner that maximizes their benefit. We will continue to publicly communicate ventilation measures on our [website](#).

## Supporting a Positive Return to School

HWDSB will continue to offer a wide variety of mental health supports for students, knowing that the pandemic has impacted student well-being. This is especially important during the return to school, which can be stressful for some students. See some supportive tips on our [recent web post](#). Explore our [We Help web page](#) for more evidence-based and timely school-based mental health services and supports.

Across HWDSB, we are also reintroducing a welcoming, inclusive initiative to help students as they return to school. Reimagining Wellness 2.0 is a series of activities and lessons which address needs arising during the pandemic. Watch for details in the days ahead.

## Transportation

We have been supporting HWSTS, our local transportation consortium, as they adopt a new platform for their Parent Portal. If your child qualifies for transportation, **please follow the steps listed to access your child(ren)'s information via the online portal**. Please keep in mind that last minute changes sometimes do occur and that it is important to re-check the information prior to sending your child(ren) to their assigned pickup location on September 6, 2022. Go to [www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca](http://www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca) and click on the "Parent's Portal" on the Home page, OR "Bus Stop Finder" on the landing page. [Learn more](#).

Bus contactors will continue with regular cleaning routines, to ensure that students and drivers have a sanitary environment. Masks are optional but encouraged while riding the bus.



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## 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 \(PDF\)](#).

## Right to Disconnect

Healthy work-life boundaries, including the ability for all employees to disconnect from work after hours, is an important part of maintaining one's health and well-being. HWDSB has implemented a [Right to Disconnect Procedure](#) to support educators, administrators and other HWDSB staff. While all urgent communication will continue to be shared after hours, please note that families communicating with educators and administrators may receive a delay in response to all non-emergency inquiries received after hours.

## Volunteers at Norwood Park:

We are pleased to be welcoming back volunteers in our schools. Please see our school website for volunteer information and forms. If interested, please indicate to your child's classroom teacher that you would like to volunteer. All volunteers must have an up-to-date Vulnerable Sector Screening. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

We know the return to school, especially for those who had been learning remotely, can be stressful for some students. We are here to support every student. If you think your child might struggle with school, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Biljana Arsovic  
Principal  
Norwood Park Elementary School

Diane Barlow  
Vice Principal  
Norwood Park Elementary School