



Queensdale Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

67 Queensdale Avenue East,
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Acting Principal: Tara Gasparik
www.hwdsb.on.ca/queensdale

Queensdale Newsletter December 2022

Principal's Message

To our Parents/Guardians,

Welcome December, one of the busiest months of the year! It is great to see the joy in our students' face as we get closer to the holiday season!

During this time, we would like to say thank-you to:

- Parents/Guardians who work hard with their children, checking their homework, agenda, reading with them, helping them to succeed
- School Council Members and parents who help organize, support our many fundraisers and upcoming Family Events that bring our school together
- Dedicated staff who are committed to giving their best to your children through learning, extra-curricular, and leadership opportunities

On behalf of Queensdale staff, we hope you have a joyous Holiday and Prosperous New Year!!

Best Wishes

Ms. T. Gasparik

Date	Activity
Dec 1	International Christmas Lights Day World Aids Day
Dec 3	International Day of Persons with Disabilities
Dec 6	National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women
Dec 14	Family Holiday Sing Along 7:00-8:00 pm
Dec 16	FDK Trip to the Movies
Dec 18	Hanukkah Begins
Dec 23	Last Day of School – Winter Break Begins
Dec 24	Christmas Eve
Dec 25 th	Christmas Day
Dec 26	Hanukkah Ends , Kwanzaa Begins
Dec 31 st	New Years Eve



From the office:

A gentle reminder to please call ahead if you are picking up your child(ren) early. Early pick up is for emergencies only in order to avoid unnecessary movement around the school. There has been an increase in the number of students entering the school at the front door in the morning. This causes congestion. Please ensure that children arrive on time between 8:35 am – 8:50 am on the back playground.

Dressing for the Weather

With winter weather upon us, please make sure students are dressed appropriately for outdoor activities. On days where cold weather and snow are in the forecast, boots, mittens or gloves, a warm hat and a winter jacket should be worn. Snow pants may also be needed for children who will play in the snow. Please remind your children of this, as many feel that they do not have to wear what they come to school with during outside nutrition breaks.



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Parent Council Message:

Queensdale School Council has had a successful start to the year. In October, we sold pizza at Meet the Teacher Night and raised money for new iPads to be used by Queensdale students. The poinsettia fundraiser has just wrapped up and was a big success. Thank you Queensdale community! We are happy to be holding the annual holiday sing-along (Dec 14) after a multiple-year hiatus.

Queensdale School Council is looking for volunteers! The council's responsibilities include coordinating community-building activities, planning fundraising events, as well as promoting parent involvement in education initiatives. We are especially looking for volunteers from diverse cultures. If you are interested in helping out, contact QueensdaleSC@hwdsb.on.ca for more information. We also run a Facebook group: "Queensdale School Events" - all parents are welcome to join.

School Cash Online

Queensdale school has some exciting upcoming events, trips and fundraisers planned for the 2022-2023 school year. In an effort to reduce the amount of cash and checks received by our school, we are asking our parents/guardians to sign up for School Cash Online. This is a safe, easy and convenient way to purchase items online for upcoming school events, trips for your child's class and fundraisers such as popcorn sales and pizza day. It takes less than five minutes to register.

Please register for [SchoolCashOnline.com: Welcome](https://www.schoolcashonline.com) today! Please contact the office for instructions on how to get started.

Message from Mrs. B & The SET Team

The Student Equity Team members have been gathering weekly to share ideas from their student body, to have a personal voice, and to build their leadership skills. They have also been the "lens" for Spirit Day suggestions to ensure that all students feel comfortable participating. S.E.T. members are now working on developing a more inclusive morning announcements procedure to ensure that all students have access to it, including our students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. Ms. Rossi has also promised to teach Ms. Blanchette's class how to sign our national anthem. In turn, the students will help teach the rest of the school. Another project the team will embark on this month is how to welcome new students to the school in a way that not only makes them feel accepted but keeps them feeling that way for the whole school year. The S.E.T. is also very interested in running a food and essentials drive in the new year! Way to go Student Equity Team! You are making a difference.

Message from Mrs. Youssef (34A)

Queensdale is happy to announce the start of the Playground Ambassador Leadership Program. We have a diverse group of enthusiastic grade 5 and 6 students who will lead their younger friends through play and games during nutrition breaks starting January. This program is a great way for the older students to take on the leadership role, and to interact and teach the younger students new games and help them work through conflicts/challenges. The Playground Ambassadors have been meeting weekly with our Public Health nurse Syllas, Ms. Lubrick and Mrs. Youssef to help prepare for January. Looking forward to a great start!



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School Messenger

School Messenger is our school's absence reporting system and has been used across our Board for quite a few years now. By now, majority of our families should be connected and using this program daily in order to communicate an absence, late arrival or early departure to the school.

[What is SchoolMessenger?](#)

SchoolMessenger allows you to personalize communications from your school or district. After logging in, you will be able to:

- See your related SchoolMessenger Contacts across schools and districts.
- View the last 30 days of SchoolMessenger messages.
- Change your SchoolMessenger communication preferences.
- Opt-into Push notifications (mobile only).

Where enabled by your school or district, you may also be able to:

- Update your SchoolMessenger contact information - add phone numbers, emails, and SMS text message numbers.
- Manage your student attendance via SafeArrival.
- Chat with teachers via Teacher Messaging.
- View additional information like student grades, lunch balance data, etc.

[How do I sign up for SchoolMessenger?](#)

Signing up is easy. Before you begin, you'll need to confirm that your school or district is using SchoolMessenger. Once you've done that, you can create an account using the main email address your school or district has on file for you. Just follow these three steps:

1. Click "Sign up" at the top of the page, or download the SchoolMessenger App from the Apple App Store or Google Play.
2. Enter your email address and create a password. You'll need to verify that email before proceeding.
3. After authenticating via your email, return to SchoolMessenger and sign in using the email and password you just verified.

It's that easy!

[SchoolMessenger](#) | [Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board \(hwdsb.on.ca\)](http://Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (hwdsb.on.ca))