



R.A. Riddell News

schools.hwdsb.on.ca/rariddell

twitter @riddell_HWDSB

200 Cranbrook Drive, Hamilton, Ontario, L9C 4S9

JANUARY 2019

Phone 905-387-3350, Fax 905-387-9188

Message from the Principal & Vice-Principal

Welcome back and Happy New Year to everyone in the Riddell community. We hope you had a relaxing break and were able to spend some quality time with family and friends.

It is with mixed emotions that I announce that I will be moving on to Mary Hopkins School effective January 21, 2019. Although I am certain to have a friendly welcome at my new school, Riddell has been an great place to work each day. Our amazing students are a true reflection of the combined efforts of the parents and staff at this school. Thank you to everyone for making my time at R.A. Riddell enjoyable and rewarding. A warm welcome to Doug Trimble who will the incoming Principal.

December was a month of generosity from our community. Thank you to those who donated to our Warm Hands/Warm Hearts mitten drive. It was very successful. Overall, we collected several boxes full of mittens, hats, socks and scarves. We have donated our warm clothing to a local Hamilton school. They were very grateful for this donation and your support was greatly appreciated!

Thank you to our classrooms who went above and beyond to help local families who, due to circumstances, were in need of support over the holidays. Our staff was truly touched and overwhelmed by the contributions made by our students and their families to the Riddell Cares initiative. A special thank you to Mrs. Nicosia and Mrs. Henry for delivering our packages of presents, clothing and personal items. They were met with gratitude from the receiving schools and families.

Finally, in the spirit of New Year's resolutions, this is a good time to reflect with your child(ren) on his/her progress and set some goals for the remainder of the school year.

The staff at Riddell look forward to 2019 and the activities and events we have planned.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Jan 16	School Council (6:30 pm)
17	Sport Academy Information Night
23/24	Grade 8 Grad Photos
25	PA Day (No Classes)
30	Spirit Day - Pajama Day

Kindergarten Registration Begins

February 4, 2019

Kindergarten is available for students who will be four and five years old in 2019. To register for September 2019, pick up a registration package in the office or complete and print the form posted online.

<http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/rariddell/kindergarten/>

No out of catchment applications will be accepted for the 2019/2020 school year.

Emergency School Closures



When bad weather is expected, Hamilton-Wentworth Student Transportation Services carriers check weather reports, road conditions and road clearing, starting as early as 4 a.m.

Based on this information, the Director of Education makes the decision in conjunction with Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board.

HWDSB will announce the cancellation of school and board operations by 6 a.m. based on the best information at the time.

We share this announcement on the HWDSB website, [HWDSB's Twitter account](#) and on the [HWSTS website](#). We also contact local media outlets including CHCH TV, CHML and the Hamilton Spectator.

School boards have varied policies on cancellations. The HWDSB Rule is: Severe weather + Bus cancellation = No school. When HWDSB cancels busing due to inclement weather, we have deemed the roads unsafe and this triggers the closure of schools.

A school cancellation is a tough decision – and some families may disagree with HWDSB's call. Families can always make the choice they feel is best when it comes to sending their child to school.

Reminder: Riddell is a Nut-Safe School

Parents are asked to pack a lunch free of nuts and nut products to assure the safety of our students with anaphylactic allergies to nuts.

Interested in finding out more about the
R.A. Riddell Sport Academy?

Sport Academy Parent Information Evening



Thursday, January 17, 2019

5:30—6:30 PM



The R.A. Riddell Sport Academy High Potential Athlete and Basketball Program are HWDSB Specialized Learning Programs. This program consists of 5 classes in total. There are High Potential Athlete classes in grades 7 and 8 and Basketball classes in grades 6, 7, and 8. These programs are open to student athletes living within the HWDSB district.

Applications and more detailed information can be found on our website at the link below. Please call the school if you have any further questions.

<http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/rariddell/sports-academy/>

Senior Floorball Team Gives Back

Mr. Perniac took the Sr. Floorball team to Ancaster High before the break for their annual Floorball tournament. The team went 4 and 1 and lost the championship to the Tapleystown team. The team participated and won a skills competition and the prize was a hockey stick signed by members of the Hamilton Bulldogs. The team decided to bid on it and donate the money to Riddell's Warm Heart/ Warm Hands initiative. Congratulations to Matthew M who was the winning bidder. Other members of the team were Asher, Easton, Callum, Nathan, Drew, Seth, Charlie, Matthew, Ryder, Giuliana, Meaghan, Maddy & Katelyn.

Important Notice Regarding Rygiel Parking Lot

As our neighbour, Rygiel has been receptive to working with our school and has enjoyed several outreach activities with our students.

We understand that mornings are busy, but parents are reminded that the Rygiel lot is private property. We have been asked not to use this parking lot during business hours (8:00 AM - 5:00PM). During these hours the lot is available solely for their employees and clients. We ask that you respect this request, as it is within Rygiel's rights as the property owners. Thank you for your cooperation on this matter.

Stay Up to Date on News and Events

Subscribe for Direct Email Updates

Take advantage of our electronic subscriptions for weather alerts, school closures, HWDSB's monthly newsletter, as well as Riddell school website updates. Visit the school website and select "Subscribe". <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/rariddell/>

R.A. Riddell Lunch Programs

Milk is available daily. Pre-orders can be placed via School Cash online or sold each day for \$1 (white or chocolate).

Pizza is available each Thursday - Pre-orders can be placed via School Cash online or sold on Thursday for \$2 while quantities last.

Lunch Lady is available on Wednesday - Orders can be made via the Lunch Lady website <http://thelunchlady.ca/>

INDOOR-ONLY SHOES



For safety reasons, students are expected to wear shoes at all times in the building. Keep our school and classrooms clean by sending an additional pair of indoor only shoes with your child each day. Assist us in keeping the mud, dirt, water and salt outside.

Snow and rain can often lead to some very wet conditions in our school yard. With two outdoor breaks, it is a good idea to leave items such as extra socks and mitts in your child's backpack in the event they are needed.

Secondary School Transition

Gr. 8 Option Sheet Evenings - January 17, 2019

- Sir Allan MacNab
- Westmount Secondary School

As you prepare your son/daughter for secondary school it may be helpful to know that secondary schools in Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) are about to hold Option Sheet Information Nights. These nights are welcoming and practical sessions that help Grade 8 students and their parents select courses for the 2019-2020 school year. Visit your In-Catchment Secondary School's website to determine the date and time of your option sheet night. Please do not hesitate to connect with the Riddell staff, as they may also be able to provide some insight and guidance around course selection for your child.

R.A. Riddell Snack Program

Tastebuds is a partnership of community agencies and community members that supports and facilitates local student nutrition programs for children and youth in Hamilton. It is through their support that we are able to provide a daily snack program at R.A. Riddell. Each day all students are offered a snack that meets our Nutrition Policy requirements. Snacks are distributed by our Grade 8 students and coordinated by Ms. Dunnett, Mrs. Gilmour and Mrs. Fleet. We hope that these snacks are part of our students' overall healthy eating habits that help them to learn and play actively each day.