

Community Weekly Time Lion

Hear us Roar

September 6-8



Principal Announcement:

Dear SWL families,

Sir Wilfrid Laurier staff is excited to welcome back students starting September 6th. We are looking forward to another ROARING school year and hoping everyone is feeling refreshed and ready to learn after a wonderful warm summer.

*School begins **Wednesday, September 6, 2023.***

Please review the parent portal for your child's class placement. Due to our current class assigned numbers, we are not able to accommodate class changes or new requests at this time. Our SWL staff is dedicated in addressing student need and will support our students so they feel welcomed and safe in new classrooms this year.

Weather permitting, SWL students, Grades 1-8, will meet on the hard top on the first day of school during entry time, 8:35-8:50AM. Class signs will be up for students to locate their classroom line and teacher. The order will be from Grade 1 (starting near our pathway) to Grade 8 (near the portable area). Looking forward to seeing everyone back in September.

Kindergarten students new to school will have a scheduled appointment time communicated by their child's homeroom teacher. Students and families will visit during their scheduled time on September 6th. Year 2 Kindergarten students will attend school starting Thursday, September 7th. Students will come to the Kindergarten gate, as per previous routines, during entry time.

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

*Respectfully,
K. Reilly-Scott
Principal*

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Monday, September 4	Day 0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Labour Day
Tuesday, September 5	Day 0	<p>No School</p> <p>PA Day – Staff in Professional Development</p> <p>Topics: Bully Awareness & Re-imagining Wellness Anti-Sex Human Trafficking Training Health & Safety</p>
Wednesday, September 6	Day 1	<p>First Day of School! Welcome back!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 1-8 meet us at the back of the school and look for class sign line up area (ordered Gr. 1-8) JK and SK Students new to Kindergarten visit school at scheduled appointment time <p>***Parents/Guardian please complete Student Verification Forms & Media Consent Forms in Parent Portal</p>
Thursday, September 7	Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All SK students begin today
Friday, September 8	Day 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual September Welcome Back Assemblies <p>9:30AM Grades K-4 10:00AM Grades 5-8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent Portal Forms due (Student Verification & Media Consent)

Important Updates

Staff List 2023-2024

Amy Onat	JSA	Melony Parkin	DECE
Melissa Mitchell	JSB	Jana Boccaccio	DECE
Teresa Anderson-Wong	JSC	Valbona Kertoci	DECE
Leanne McGrimmond	JSD	Souhad Saffaf Masri	DECE
Sandra Manojlovic	JSE	Darla Kobe	DECE
Rachel Hone	JSF	Emily Legree	DECE

Lillian Milinkovic	1A		
Jordana Smith	1B	Brock Erben	Educational Assistant
Kristina Groleau/Julia Moore	12A	Andrea Hillen	Educational Assistant
Theresa Jones	12B	Lynda Knight	Educational Assistant
Maria Serra/Lisa Mathieson	2A	Bailey Lansley	Educational Assistant
Stephen Ellsmere	2B	Taylor Rideout	Educational Assistant
Jesse Kirkpatrick	2C	LTO TBD (Penny Matte)	Educational Assistant
Matthew O'Connor	2/3A	Amani Abu Errub	Educational Assistant
Lori Colasanzio	3A	Nicole Pereira	Educational Assistant
Tracy Hitchcock	3B	Olivia Slota	Educational Assistant
Erica Mueller	34A	Arlene Tokiwa	Educational Assistant
Anna Cole	4A		
Kristyn Luker	4B	Amy Thorne	Social Communication
Amanda Tessaro	4C	Anice Francis	Social Communication
Melanie Collingwood	5A	LTO TBD	Social Communication
Shana Watanabe	5B		
Julie Engelage	5C	Jane Johnston	Reading Specialist
Ryan Maynard	6A	Megan Wood	Intermediate Support (ESST)
Chris Moase	6B	Gail Glenny-Burke	Social Worker
Kailey Kirkpatrick	6C	Jeremy Murray	Math Facilitator
Samantha Coddington	67A		
Frank Federico	7A	Magda Bielak	Head Caretaker
Matthew McAllister LTO (James Cain)	78A	Jean Boyle	Asst. Caretaker
Brittany Passfield	7/8B	Elzbieta Jedrzejewicz	Asst. Caretaker
Andrew Byrne	8A	Deysy Sandoval de Funes	Asst. Caretaker
Claudio Santaguida	8B	Garcia Smith	Asst. Caretaker
Michelle Tuite	8C		
Melissa Cryer	LRT		
Carni Grewal	LRT		
Scott Petterson	Phys. Ed		
Boichuk	Music		
Emmalee Jovanovic	Library/Lit	Carla Fidanza	Office Administrator
Kristine Scott	Kinder Cov	Tara Mantini	Office Administrator
Kerry Silver	French	Tim Kivell	Vice-Principal
Jeannette Raynham	French	Kelly Reilly-Scott	Principal
Cale Riccobon (Teesha Burnett)	French		
Lindsay Rogers	Special Class		
Lisa Miron	ESL Support		
Reema Kamboh	ESL Support		
Kelly Burke	AIM Support		

Bell Times 2023-2024

Entry 8:35 – 8:50	School Grounds Open
AM	
8:50 – 9:30	Period 1
9:30 – 10:10	Period 2
10:10– 10:50	Period 3
10:50 – 11:10	Grade 5-8, Outside Nutrition Break Grade 1-4, Inside Nutrition Break
11:10 – 11:30	Grade 1-4 Outside Nutrition Break Grade 5-8, Inside Nutrition Break
11:30-12:00	Period 4
PM	
12:00 – 12:30	Period 5
12:30 – 1:10	Period 6
1:10 – 1:30	Grade 5-8 Outside Nutrition Break Grade 1-4 Inside Nutrition Break
1:30 – 1:50	Grade 1-4 Outside Nutrition Break Grade 5-8 Inside Nutrition Break
1:50 – 2:30	Period 7
2:30 – 3:10	Period 8
3:10	Dismissal
3:25	School Grounds Close

Hamilton Student Transportation System

Responsibility for getting to and from school rests primarily with the student and parents or guardians. The Education Act states that a board may provide transportation for pupils enrolled in schools operated by the Board. Transportation to and from school provided to students is a privilege and not a right. The HWSTS Member Boards' Transportation Policies set out the terms and conditions under which the Boards may provide transportation. To check if your child is eligible for busing, please visit <https://hwsts.mybusplanner.ca/TransportationEligibility> .

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, 2023. Go to www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca and click on the "Parent's Portal" on the Home page, OR "Bus Stop Finder" on the landing page. [Learn more](#).

Nutrition Breaks

HWDSB provides two 40minute nutrition breaks for students. All students should remain at school for these nutrition breaks to engage in active play and socialize with peers. Students that must go home for a nutrition break due to a special circumstance, require a form signed by a parent/guardian that is located in the Parent Portal. Parent/Guardian will need connect with the school and provide the student's schedule of when they will be specifically leaving for safe attendance tracking. Students must sign in and out at the office prior to leaving and upon return back to school. This process must be completed daily. Any student that needs to leave for nutrition break should be going directly home and returning to school on time for class at the end of the nutrition break. Due to the elementary age, we do not encourage students to leave school property at nutrition break as we will not be able to monitor student safety in this capacity. The office is also a

high traffic area and will only be able to manage necessary student leaves for the day as per safety protocols.

Student Attendance

Students should be arriving on time, no later than 8:50AM. Please make every attempt to have your child arrive at school between 8:35-8:50AM. Student attendance will be taken during the beginning of Period 1 and during the beginning of Period 4 after our first nutrition break. Attendance is monitored throughout the day by our educators, however the system monitoring will occur during these time frames only for the day.

SWL Home-School Communication

We are committed to providing timely, relevant information about your child and the school in a variety of ways. Here are some of our key communication strategies:

1) Direct Contact: School staff will phone home if the need arises. Please feel free to phone the school to share pertinent student information with school staff as well. Parents are welcome to phone the school in order to arrange meetings with teachers to discuss school related issues or concerns. 905-578-4422.

2) Community Weekly Updates: SWL School updates are provided on the school website and through SchoolMessenger. Updates contain information regarding all areas of school life. The weekly community updates are particularly important in providing dates for upcoming events of all kinds.

3) School Website & School Messenger: A great deal of school information will be shared on our school website and through School Messenger during the coming year in regard to school events, school council, etc. A school calendar of upcoming events is also posted and updated regularly. You can subscribe to our website by clicking subscribe button on the left side of the home page screen. <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/sirwilfridlaurier/>. Community weekly updates will be posted on our website as well.

4) Student Agenda: Our student agenda is designed to help students to plan and organize their work at school this year. Teachers will use it as a key vehicle of communication with parents/guardians. It also provides some basic information concerning the programs, policies and procedures at Sir Wilfrid Laurier Elementary School.

5) School Sign: The school sign on the front lawn is a great source of up to date information.

7) Parent Portal: HWDSB Parent Portal, is a protected parent log in space that contains important forms for families, student information (e.g, grades, schedule, homeroom teacher etc.).

PARKING AND DROP-OFF AREAS During Entry & Dismissal

Parking space is extremely limited. We are currently experiencing construction at the Recreational Centre attached to the school as well. This parking lot area is closed. Although we are a walking school, parents in special circumstances needing to drop their child off by vehicle are asked to park on the streets adjacent to the school (where it is unsigned) at all times. Our front drive way will have pylons placed in areas where cars should not park as well to help the flow of traffic as our buses and taxis need to access these areas.

Walk to School

SWL is primarily a walking school as only a few students require transportation due to distance from the school allowing for busing eligibility. Students that live within a walking distance from the school are encouraged to walk to school with parents/guardian or peers rather than be driven by vehicle.

Benefits of Walking to and from School

- Improved safety on our community streets
- Less congestion and pollution near the school
- Walking provides time for mindfulness and self-reflection
- Walking with a peer provides time for peer connection

- Exercise – feeling healthier and energized for school
- Adding more steps to your day

Students Requiring a Medical Plan of Care

If your child requires a specific medical plan of care (i.e., Anaphylaxis, Asthma, Diabetic, Special Medical Conditions) and you have not informed the office, please connect with the school the week of August 28 so we can support and provide families with correct forms and processes.

Our office will be sending home updated forms for families of students that currently have a medical plan of care at SWL. Any updates or new information can be included in these forms. If the plan has not changed a signature is all that is required.

Students requiring an epi-pen, must have one on person at all times and one stored at our main office. The epi-pen can be handed to the office starting the week of August 28th. Students that require an inhaler should have on person at all times. Inhalers can also be stored at our main office for support.

Administration of medications require parent/guardian permission and a doctor signature.

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.

School Council

Every school in Ontario is required to have a School Council and work collaboratively with the Principal to improve student achievement and enhance accountability of the school with parents. Information about School Councils can be found here:



<https://www.ontario.ca/page/school-councils-guide-members>

We welcome all parents/guardians who are willing to volunteer their time to participate on our School Council for the 2023-2024 school year. School Councils must hold an annual election to identify voting members which will occur at our first meeting.

Our 1st School Council first meeting and elections is scheduled for September 28th at 6PM. School Council forms are attached in this update for parents/guardians interested in joining our council this year. All families are welcome! Families do not need to be on council to attend our meetings. We encourage parent/guardian voice. Meetings will occur in-person and virtually throughout the year to accommodate families' schedules. Please see our website, School Council Page, for further details about Council.

Dogs on School Property

Our school community includes many families who are dog owners. We know it is nice to take the dog for a walk when you drop-off and/or pick-up your child at school.

We remind anyone who is walking a dog that it must be on a leash.

Individuals with dogs on a leash are asked to keep them distanced from children, staff, other parents/guardians, and other dogs. Some children may be afraid of dogs, and the behaviour of a dog can be unpredictable. Please do not bring dogs near our entry/exit zones where students are entering gated areas or lining up as these areas consist of high student traffic. We thank you for your understanding.

Service animals are exempt from this expectation according to Procedure 5.5, Student Use of Guide Dogs and Service Animals.

Parent Portal

Families will need to access our Parent Portal and complete the following forms this week;

- Media Consent
- Student Verification

Supporting a Positive Return to School

HWDSB will continue to offer a wide variety of mental health supports for students. This is especially important during the return to school, which can be stressful for some students. See some supportive tips in our recent [We Help Update](#) on our blog. 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 3.0 is a series of lessons and activities for elementary students which address needs that have arisen in the past few years. Watch for details in the days ahead.

Elementary Remote Learning

Elementary families interested in switching between in-person and remote learning will have an opportunity to register students starting Monday, August 28.

The 2023-24 Remote Learning Registration form is now available on Parent Portal and will close at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, September 6. Families can complete this form if they wish to transition from in person to remote learning, or transition from remote learning back to in person.

Families selecting a new learning option will be choosing this for their student for the entire 2023-24 school year. Students will begin attending their new classes when the re-organization process takes place in early October. [Click here for more information about Elementary Remote Learning.](#)

Re-Imagining Wellness First 30 Days and Top 5 Bullying Prevention Lessons this month

Educators will instruct and engage students in a variety of lessons this month to support student wellness and bullying prevention. Mental Health Literacy will be covered in October. Themes of these lessons will include the following;

1. Healthy Relationships – Human Rights
2. Mental Health Literacy in the Classroom – Thoughts, Emotions and Actions
3. Introducing Bullying Prevention – Teasing, Aggression and Bullying
4. Collaborative Classroom Agreements
5. Barrier-free Reporting – HWDSB Helps



Looking forward to seeing our students and caregivers on Wednesday!