

## Community Weekly Time Lion Hear us Roar

September 11-15



Monday, September 11	Day 4	Let's have a Roaring full first Week!
Tuesday, September 12	Day 5	
Wednesday, September 13	Day 1	
Thursday, September 14	Day 2	
Friday, September 15	Day 3	

- *Safe/Secure Schools Drills this Month (Fire, Hold & Secure – Further Details to Follow)*
- *Ride Smart Program for Gr. 4&5 September 25-29*
- *School Council September 28*
- *Tentative Open House – October 26 5:30-7PM (Further Details to Follow)*

### Important Updates

### Entry/Dismissal

#### **Entry:**

Thank you to our SWL families for your support this week helping your child find their classroom teacher and lines. Now that students are aware of their teacher and classmates, families do not need to remain on our pavement area during entry time. Our educators are out supervising at 8:35AM, just as we do at nutrition break. We encourage students to visit with peers and get active before our morning bell rather than waiting in line. We ask students not bring any equipment out during this time as it is a high traffic area with all Grades on the pavement. We also encourage parents/guardians to say their goodbyes and leave

the school ground area once dropped off at 8:35 or later. If there is special circumstance we ask families wait on the field area. This is to avoid crowding on our pavement and allow for movement for all our students. Thank you for your understanding here.

**Dismissal:** Please do not arrive early before dismissal and request to pick up your child, unless there is a special circumstance (i.e., appointment, event to attend, illness etc.). We encourage our students to be at school for a full day of learning to achieve optimal success. Our office is very busy throughout the day as well and this will help limit unnecessary traffic at our main doors and office as we near the end of the day. We appreciate your understanding here.

## Student Medical

We want all children and those with a life-threatening allergy, to feel safe, supported and accepted at school.

Please be aware that there are students in our school that have severe life-threatening food allergies to nuts and eggs.

This life-threatening allergy is likely to result in anaphylaxis, a sudden and severe allergic reaction that can be fatal.

We can all help foster a safe and inclusive environment by preventing such a dangerous and frightening situation at our school. All staff know about this risk and have been instructed on the correct procedures regarding anaphylactic shock.

To help reduce risk, please help your children understand the seriousness of this allergy and encourage empathy for the child. Please do not send to school any lunches or snacks containing nut products. In addition, students should not be sharing food and please do not send food for special events (e.g., student birthday, holiday party). Educators may arrange alternate ways to celebrate while maintaining safety.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

## Previous Updates

### 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](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.](#)

### 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 28<sup>th</sup>. 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 1<sup>st</sup> School Council first meeting and elections is scheduled for September 28<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **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

**Reimagining Wellness 3.0**  
2023/2024

1. The Top 5 – Bullying Prevention
2. The First 30 Days/Ongoing
3. Mental Health Literacy



**HWDSB**