



# Sir William Osler Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

330 Governor's Road  
Dundas, Ontario L9H 0A3  
Phone: 905.628.1588  
Fax: 905.628.2275

EMAIL: [sirwilliamosler@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:sirwilliamosler@hwdsb.on.ca)  
PRINCIPAL: G. Smith  
VICE-PRINCIPAL: J. Schinkel  
[www.hwdsb.on.ca/sirwilliamosler](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/sirwilliamosler)

Dear SWO families,

May 2019

With the arrival of warm weather we have found our first tick on our property. There are two common species of tick in this area: American dog ticks and deer ticks. Deer ticks may be carriers of the bacterium, *Borrelia burgdoferi*, that causes Lyme Disease. This bacterium is passed onto people and pets through the bite of a blacklegged tick (also called a deer tick). The risk of human infection from Lyme disease in Hamilton remains low. Not all tick bites will pass on an infection of Lyme disease — a tick has to be infected with the Lyme causing bacteria and be attached and feeding for 24 hours or more to cause Lyme disease.

To help raise awareness of safety, we are following guidelines located on the City of Hamilton Public Health website, [www.hamilton.ca/lymedisease](http://www.hamilton.ca/lymedisease) and teaching children to check themselves after playing outdoors. Aside from familiarizing yourself with ticks and how to remove them, after returning from play outside, the acronym WHAT is a helpful learning tool to use while doing a quick body check for ticks:

**Waistline**

**Hairline**

**Armpits**

**Toes**

Enjoy doing activities outside such as end-of-year outdoor field trips and outdoor activities offered throughout the summer, but take precautions. For more information about Lyme disease, visit <https://bit.ly/2W76h2H>, or call the City of Hamilton (905) 546-2489. If you have any questions about your child's health, please talk to your child's healthcare provider.

Sincerely,

Gerry Smith  
Principal

Jonathan Schinkel  
Vice Principal