

Director's Updates

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Achievement in Special Education

BE YOU. BE EXCELLENT.

Special Education

HWDSB's BIP is implemented through:

- **Universal Design for Learning (UDL)**
- **Differentiated Instruction**
- **Equity and Human Rights frameworks**



These approaches ensure Special Education is not isolated, but **embedded within system-wide improvement effort**



Literacy Achievement in Special Education

- **Tiered instruction and interventions**
- Early reading screening (K–2) helps **identify learning needs early**, allowing Special Education teams to intervene before gaps widen
- Reading specialists, evidence-based programs (e.g., structured literacy), and classroom supports complement:
 - IEP accommodations and modifications
 - Assistive technology
 - Oral Language Pilot
 - Special Education Class Literacy Pilot
 - BRAIN (Building Responsive Approaches for Instructional Needs) Resource released in all schools



Numeracy Achievement in Special Education

Through differentiated instruction and Universal Design for Learning (UDL), students receiving Special Education services can:

- Build foundational number sense and problem-solving skills
- Engage in math learning that reflects their cognitive strengths and needs
- Demonstrate achievement through a variety of assessment formats
- Math intervention pilot



Well-Being in Special Education

The focus on well-being recognizes that achievement for students with special education needs is directly connected to **emotional safety, mental health, and belonging.**

By prioritizing well-being, HWDSB supports achievement through:

- Predictable, supportive learning environments
- Trauma-informed and inclusive practices
- Equity-based supports aligned with Human Rights principles



Future Preparedness in Special Education

The BIP recognizes achievement for students with special education needs as extending beyond academics to include **life skills, self-advocacy, and successful transitions.**

Special Education achievement is strengthened through:

- Intentional IEP transition planning
- Development of learning skills, independence, and workplace readiness
- Pathway planning aligned with students' strengths, interests, and needs
- Work experience opportunities through TWEP, iTWEP and Project Search
- Recreation and leisure exploration through engagement in REALISE



Engagement in Special Education

Student engagement is a critical driver of achievement for students receiving Special Education services.

- Student voice in goal setting and learning
- Inclusive classrooms that affirm identity and ability
- Strong partnerships with families, caregivers and community
- Students helping students: Westdale secondary students creating keyguards for communication iPads
- AAC to the Core pilot project: Giving voice to students with complex communication needs



Recap of the Special Education Carnival

CELEBRATE THE AUTISM COMMUNITY AT OUR

FAMILY Carnival

Saturday, April 25, 2026
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Hamilton Wentworth District School Board
Education Centre
20 Education Court, Hamilton

FREE! NO Registration Required!
Rain or shine!

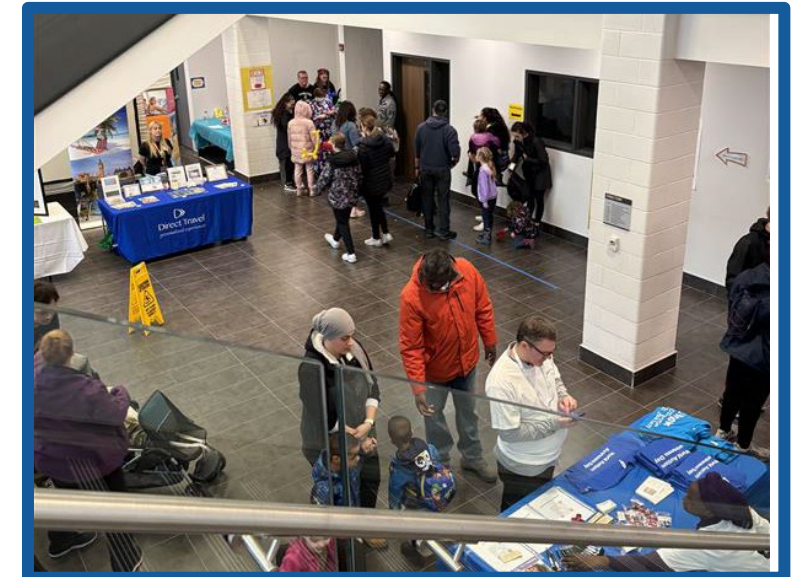
BALLOON TWISTER **SENSORY ROOM**

FACE PAINTING **LIVE PERFORMANCES**

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE **CRAFTS & GAMES**

Autism ONTARIO Autism Program at McMaster Children's Hospital HWDSB The Salvation Army Woodview

[WAADFREEFAMILYCARNIVAL](#)



Exciting System News!

Waterdown Elementary School Progress Photos

- ❑ New school to support growing community
- ❑ Integrated licensed childcare.
- ❑ Funding of \$24.5 million
- ❑ 504 elementary student spaces, 5 childcare rooms (1 infant, 2 toddler, 2 preschool).



Exciting System News!

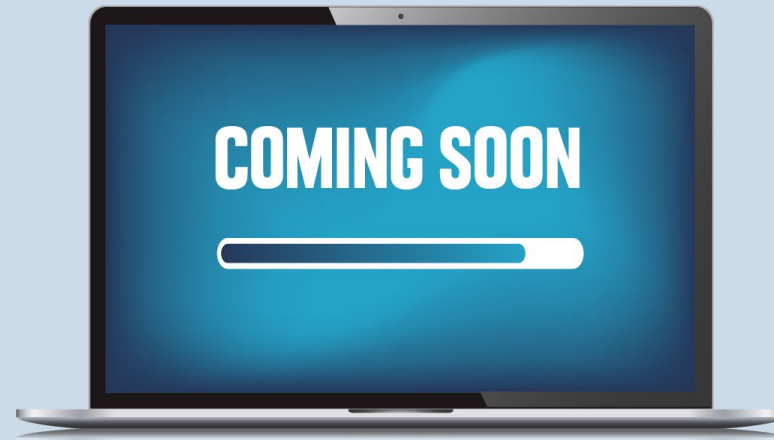
Binbrook Elementary School

- A second elementary school in the Binbrook community.
- Funding of \$29 million.
- 615 elementary student spaces.



Exciting System News!

**HWDSB'S NEW WEBSITES
ARE LAUNCHING SOON**



HWDSB



HWDSB

Upcoming Dates – May 1st, 2026, National Principal's Day





Education Week 2026: May 4th – 8th!

*“It’s not about winning or losing—
it’s about the journey, the
struggle, and the courage to keep
going.”*

- Clara Hughes, Canadian Olympic Speed Skater and Cyclist

THANK YOU



HWDSB
BE YOU. BE EXCELLENT.