



School Newsletter



Principal's Message

With progress reports sent home last week, we are well into the school year and it was great to see so many parents and caregivers in the school on November 1st and 2nd to meet with our educators and discuss strengths, areas of growth and next steps for your child's learning. We value the communication and partnership between home and school.

With our Little Caesar's Pizza Fundraiser and Parent Council Catalogue Fundraiser coming to a close, we thank all of our families and staff that placed orders and improving our students experience at Westwood through your contributions. A big thanks to Mrs. Pejic and our Parent Council for organizing these fundraisers. We look forward to more fun and creative ways to fundraise throughout the year.

On November 9th, Westwood will be honouring the many brave people who stood up for their beliefs and sacrificed their lives in service to our country. Our upcoming Remembrance Day ceremony will be run by our grade 4/5 students and the ceremony will be held on Friday November 9th at 9:45 a.m. in the gymnasium. Parents and caregivers are welcome to join the ceremony paying tribute to all those that have devoted their lives for our freedom. We hope you have an enjoyable month ahead and look forward to your ongoing support for our students.

YMCA BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE

If you are looking for before or after school care, the YMCA School Aged Child Care program is operating at Westwood.

If you'd like more information, please call our administration team at [905-317-4916](tel:905-317-4916) If you have questions please contact Andrea Vardy at [289-659-9400](tel:289-659-9400) or andrea.vardy@ymcahbb.ca

PHONING STUDENT ABSENCES

If your child will be absent, please remember to call the school and let the office know. Automated phone calls go out for any unexplained student absences.

School Contact Info:

Phone: 905.383.2143

UPCOMING EVENTS

Remembrance Day Ceremony

- November 9th, 2018
9:45 a.m. in the gym

Bullying Awareness & Prevention Week

- November 12th - 16th

Hamilton Bulldogs Junior Literacy Game

- November 14th, 2018

Swim Meet

- November 19th, 2018
12:15 pm - 4:30 pm

Photo Retake Day

- November 22, 2018

LOOKING AHEAD

Family Movie Night

- December 6th, 2018

PA Day (NO SCHOOL)

- December 7th, 2018

Winter Break (NO SCHOOL)

- December 24th -
January 4th

HWDSB

Winter Weather

Bus cancellations and school closures

How does HWDSB decide on bus cancellations and school closures?

- When bad weather is expected, Hamilton-Wentworth Student Transportation Services (HWSTS) 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.



When do we make decisions?

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

The HWDSB Rule:

**Inclement 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. Some boards have different procedures.



What's the rule for extreme cold?

In extreme cold, buses may not start or run as expected and HWDSB may need to cancel transportation. But this **does not** automatically mean that schools will close. In 2014, Trustees gave the Director (or designate) the discretion to keep schools open when busing is cancelled due to extreme cold.



Where do I find cancellation information?

We will share this announcement in a variety of ways:

- The HWDSB website www.hwdsb.on.ca
- HWDSB's Twitter account www.twitter.com/HWDSB
- HWSTS website www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca
- Local media outlets: *CBC Hamilton, C101 TV, C10ML, CKPC Brantford, Hamilton Community News, Hamilton Spectator.*



Families always have a choice

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.

BULLYING AWARENESS & PREVENTION WEEK: NOV. 12 - 16TH

All students have the right to come to a school where they feel safe and respected. Over the next weeks classes will be focusing on character development and learning more about how we can become caring citizens. To honour the spirit and intention of this province-wide awareness campaign, we encourage parents to take a moment to talk to their children about bullying:

Bullying is typically a form of repeated, persistent, and aggressive behavior directed at an individual or individuals that is intended to cause (or should be known to cause) fear and distress and/or harm to another person's body, feelings, self-esteem, or reputation. Bullying occurs in a context where there is a real or perceived power imbalance.

Students may attain or maintain power over others in the school through real or perceived differences. Some areas of difference may be size, strength, age, intelligence, economic status, social status, solidarity of peer group, religion, ethnicity, disability, need for special education, sexual orientation, family circumstances, gender, and race. Bullying is a dynamic of unhealthy interaction that can take many forms.

