



School Newsletter



Principal's Message

With progress reports sent home on October 29th, we are looking forward to seeing parents and caregivers in the school on November 7th and 8th 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.

On October 31st, we will be having a Halloween parade at 12:30 pm in our gym. If your child brings a costume to school, we ask that it is NOT worn to school. Students will be provided with time to change into their costumes before the parade. Parents and caregivers are invited to watch the parade in our gym. There will be space in the middle of our gym for parents to stand as our students walk around the gym. Each classroom will have their decorated pumpkin displayed on the stage for families and students to view. Thanks to Mrs. Crozier for organizing our pumpkin decorating contest.

With our School 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 thank you School Council for organizing these fundraisers.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Halloween Parade

- October 31st at 12:30 p.m. in the gym

Daylight Savings Ends

- November 3rd (Turn clock back 1 hour)

Parent/Educator Interviews

- November 7th 3:20 - 6:30 p.m.

PA Day

- November 8th (NO SCHOOL)

Remembrance Day Ceremony

- November 11th at 9:30 a.m. in the gym

Bullying Awareness & Prevention Week

- November 18th - 22nd

Hamilton Bulldogs Junior Literacy Game

- November 20th

Photo Retake Day

- November 27th

PA Day

- November 29th (NO SCHOOL)

WESTWOOD/TRUE HAMILTONIAN SHIRTS ARE BACK!

We are very excited to offer our Westwood students and families an opportunity to purchase True Hamiltonian Westwood t-shirts and hooded sweaters with our school logo and tagline proudly created by our students! The cost of the t-shirt will be \$15 and \$30 for the hooded sweater. There will be an opportunity for students and families to look at different sizes at our Parent/Educator Interviews on **Thursday Nov. 7th from 3:20 - 6:30 pm** and **Friday Nov. 8th from 8:45 - 11:30 am**. Order forms will be available for families to pay with cash. Families will also be able to order and pay for shirts using School Cash Online. If you haven't registered, please visit: hwdsb.schoolcashonline.com

WESTWOOD FAMILY BINGO NIGHT!

On November 28th, School Council will be hosting Family Bingo Night in our gymnasium at 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. More details will be shared closer to the date.

Remembrance Day Ceremony a.m. in the gymnasium.

On November 11th, 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 5 students in Mrs. Dunford's class and the ceremony will be held on Monday November 11th at 9:30 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.

SafeArrival – A New Way to Report Student Absences

SafeArrival, a student absence reporting system, makes it very easy for families to report student absences. It also allows school staff to respond quickly and thoroughly to all unexplained absences. Our goal is to continue to have all absences explained and all student accounted for each day, knowing that they are all safe.

With SafeArrival, families report a child's absence in one of three ways:

1. Use the SafeArrival website, go.schoolmessenger.ca. The first time you use the website, select Sign Up to create your account. Select Attendance then Report an Absence.
2. Using your mobile device, download and install the SchoolMessenger app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store (or from links at go.schoolmessenger.ca). The first time you use the app, select Sign Up to create your account. Select Attendance then Report an Absence.
3. Call the toll-free number 1-844-506-4350 to report an absence using the automated phone system.

BULLYING AWARENESS & PREVENTION WEEK: NOV. 18TH – 22ND

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.

