



School Newsletter



Principal's Message

As Westwood finishes 2019, we continue to look for ways to improve the positive culture within the school and the well-being of our students. In order to promote physical fitness and connecting with others, we will be offering an opportunity for students in grades 2-5 to participate in intramurals after the winter break during our second nutrition break.

We have many exciting events and activities planned for our students this month and we look forward to our kindergarten and grade 1-5 winter concerts. We will also be having some festive fundraising activities during the last week before the winter break such as a hot chocolate and candy cane reindeer sales. We will also be having a special cookie decorating event on December 20th. More information will follow closer to the event. December 20th will also be a Special Event Day. Sweet treats are welcome!

On behalf of everyone at Westwood, we would like to thank our families and community for all they do to support our school and wish all of you a very enjoyable and memorable Holiday season.

COLD WEATHER PROTOCOL

Time spent outdoors is an integral part of the school day. There are great benefits when children experience fresh air, exercise and time spent outside. Outdoor play is also a break from the structure of the classroom.

Depending on the season, preparing for outdoor play in Canada can mean anything from applying sunscreen to wear mittens and a hat. During winter, it's important that children come to school prepared for the cold. Students should wear boots, mittens/gloves and hats and it's a good idea to pack extra mittens, socks, etc. in case they are needed.

Principals decide whether to send students outside for recess. HWDSB asks Principals to follow the City of Hamilton guideline that people stay inside when it's at or below **-15C, or -20C with wind chill.**

School Contact Info:

Phone: 905.383.2143

UPCOMING EVENTS

Pyjama Day

- December 13th, 2019

Winter Celebration Concert (Gr. 1-5)

- Parent performance - **December 17th, 2019 11:30 a.m. in the gym**

Kindergarten Concert

- Parent performance - December 19th, 2019 **DOORS OPEN at 1:30 p.m.**

Holiday Tacky Sweater Day

- December 20th, 2019

Special Event Day

- December 20th, 2019 **Sweet Treats are welcome!**

Winter Break (NO SCHOOL)

- December 23rd - January 3rd

First Day Back

- January 6th, 2020

HWDSB School Closure Guidelines

During severe winter weather, the difficult decision to remain open or to close is always made with the safety and security of our students and staff in mind. Here are some guidelines to remember:



- 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.

- HWDSB will announce the cancellation of school and board operations by 6 a.m. based on the best information at the time. We share this announcement on the HWDSB website, HWDSB's Twitter account and on the HWSTS website. We also contact local media outlets including CHCH TV, CHML and the Hamilton Spectator.



- School boards have varied policies on cancellations. The HWDSB Rule is: Severe 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.

- 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. The Director (or designate) has discretion to keep schools open when busing is cancelled due to extreme cold.



