



# School Newsletter



## Principal's Message

April marks the beginning of Spring and warmer temperatures. We thank our Westwood families for their continued efforts to help keep our school safe for students and staff. Please ensure that you are screening your child(ren) daily before sending them to school and keeping them home if they fail the /covid-19 screening tool. Please communicate with the school if they are symptomatic.

The Day of Pink is the day to take action on Bullying, Homophobia and Transphobia. The Day of Pink was started in Nova Scotia in 2007 when two Grade 12 students saw a Grade 9 student who wearing a pink shirt being bullied on the first day of school. Bullies harassed the boy, called him a homosexual for wearing pink and threatened to beat him up. The two Grade 12 students – David Shepherd and Travis Price bought and distributed 50 pink shirts and encouraged peers to arrive to school wearing pink. The result was that the school took a stand and began working together to prevent bullying.

This year, Day of Pink is being celebrated as usual on the second Wednesday in the month of April, which is April 14th, 2021. Unfortunately, this very important day takes place within the newly created provincial April Break. So, to continue in the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board's tradition of raising awareness on Day of Pink, HWDSB will be officially recognizing International Day of Pink on Thursday, April 8th, 2021.

I want to wish all our Westwood students, staff, and families a safe and well deserved break in April!

### School Contact Info:

Phone: 905.383.2143

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### World Autism Awareness Day

- April 2nd, 2021

#### International Day of Pink (Wear Pink!)

- April 8th, 2021

#### April Break

- April 12th - 16th, 2021

#### Virtual School Council Meeting

- April 21st, 2021, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

## RETURN TO SCHOOL ATTESTATION – AFTER ILLNESS OR SELF-ISOLATION

Following illness or self-isolation, parents and guardians are asked to complete an attestation for return to school/child care. Parents and families must complete the form to document that it is safe for your child to return to child care or school (elementary and secondary). Click here: [https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Attestation-for-return-to-school\\_03-05-2021.pdf](https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Attestation-for-return-to-school_03-05-2021.pdf)

The document has been translation into the following languages:

Arabic, Farsi, French, Karen, Korean, Kurdish, Simplified Chinese, Somali, Spanish, Swahili, Urdu, and Vietnamese

## WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

Although World Autism Awareness Day occurred over the Easter long weekend, The organization, Autism Ontario is celebrating World Autism Awareness Day on Tuesday April 6th. On this day, we seek to further increase world knowledge of people who have autism spectrum disorder and the barriers they face. Today, we celebrate the unique talents of those with autism around the globe. To learn more, please visit:

<https://www.autismontario.com/>