



W.H. Ballard Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

801 Dunsmure Road
Hamilton, Ontario L8H 1H9
Phone: 905.547.1689
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EMAIL: whballard@hwdsb.on.ca
PRINCIPAL: Angela Giardino
VICE-PRINCIPAL: J.T. Shearer
www.hwdsb.on.ca/whballard

August 29th, 2024

Greetings W.H. Ballard Families,

As the 2024-25 school year quickly approaches, we are excited to welcome students back to class on Tuesday, September 3, 2024.

Please join me in welcoming Mr. J.T. Shearer to Ballard! Mr. Shearer is excited to be joining the team at W.H. Ballard as Vice-Principal. He has previously worked as Vice-Principal at Bellmoore Elementary School and is looking forward to getting to know and working alongside the community to help our learners grow together. Mr. Shearer is a big advocate for equity, inclusion and belonging and will be looking forward to meeting families on the first day of school. Please see a message from Mr. Shearer:

Hello W.H. Ballard Families, Caregivers and Community Members,

I am so excited to be joining the team at Ballard this year as Vice-Principal. I am incredibly eager to work with the students to create the best and ultimate school experience for them as possible. I value student leadership and voice as well as working closely with families to ensure success for their child while seeking out the joy and individuality that can be found in each and every child. My door is always open, should you ever care to reach out to have a conversation. I am so excited to see the great work and achievements that come with our 2024-2025 school year!

Beginning the new school year can be a time of excitement, nervousness and energy for students, staff and families alike.

But the start of the school year at Ballard is also a time of new beginnings filled with opportunities for all students to experience a sense of belonging, engage in dynamic learning and reach their full potential.

To help Ballard families prepare for their child(ren)'s return to the classroom, we would like to share the following information:

Transportation

Hamilton Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) provides students with safe and secure transportation for eligible students by HWSTS. This may take the form of traditional school buses, school purpose vans or Hamilton Street Railway transit. For

curiosity.

creativity.

possibility.

HWDSB



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more information, visit HWDSB's [Transportation webpage](#). If your child qualifies for transportation, please remember to re-check information prior to sending your child(ren) to their assigned pickup location on Tuesday, September 3, 2024, as changes can occur.

Code of Conduct

HWDSB is committed to making each one of its schools a caring place that is safe for learning. Every student deserves to feel and be safe in a school, on the school grounds, on the school bus and at school events and activities. Visit HWDSB's [Code of Conduct webpage](#) to learn about these changes.

Family Communication

Staying connected with your child(ren)'s schools, the Board and services matters. HWDSB offers many ways for parents and caregivers to stay connected. To learn how you can access the most up-to-date information, visit [HWDSB's Parent page](#). We also invite families to keep up with HWDSB by [subscribing to email updates](#) or following us [on social media](#).

SchoolMessenger

W.H. Ballard and all HWDSB schools use SchoolMessenger to notify families about unexplained absences, as well as other important announcements. Families can use the free [SchoolMessenger app or website](#) to choose how they wish to receive these messages. Please contact your child(ren)'s school to provide current - or to change - your information.

Student Dress Guidelines

Starting in September 2024, HWDSB is sharing updated Student Dress Guidelines to help foster positive and inclusive learning environments. Developed with extensive student input and community consultation, these guidelines focus on equity, dignity, and well-being for every student. They can express themselves freely, without fear of bias or discrimination. Visit hwdsb.info/student-dress to learn more.

Volunteer Opportunities

W.H. Ballard and HWDSB values and appreciates dedicated volunteers who share their time and talents in support of healthy, positive and flourishing school communities. If you are interested in exploring volunteer opportunities like School Council at W.H. Ballard. Please see HWDSB's [Volunteers in Schools](#) page for more information.



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At W.H. Ballard, we are committed to partnering with our families to ensure that your child(ren)'s school experience reflects HWDSB's values – dignity, trust, compassion and joy. We are committed to ensuring your child(ren) are celebrated for who they are, experience safe and caring school environments and are supported to achieve their own academic success and positive learning outcomes.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out at 905-547-1689

Sincerely,
Principal Name
Contact

curiosity.

creativity.

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HWDSB