



Yorkview Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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Principal: Ms. G. Stafford

Yorkview February 2026 Newsletter



Dear Parents/Guardians,

We have started the month celebrating Black History Month and Chinese New Year. Looking at influential people from across these cultures who have impacted Canada in positive ways.

We will be enjoying another school wide event of Winterfest on Feb 5, 2026, with the assistance of our Lynx Leaders. Students will enjoy fun winter activities both inside and outside for the majority of the day.

Yorkview students will enjoy an author visit from Emil Sher on Feb 12, 2026. Emil will be discussing his new book, "I Love You More". Thank you to School Council for supporting this opportunity.

Term 1 Reports will be arriving home on Feb 13, 2026. Please ensure you review these documents and if you have any questions please reach out to staff.

This month Yorkview will continue to be filled with love, friendship and positive energy as we celebrate Kindness Week Feb 17-20, 2026 in honour of Valentine's Day. Kindness and the importance of being kind to others is highlighted in our school announcements with quotes daily but what truly warms my heart and makes me proud of being the Principal at Yorkview is seeing our students being kind to one another on a daily basis.

To end the month, we will be celebrating Pink Shirt Day on Feb 25, 2026 in support of anti-bullying. The theme this year is Sprinkle Kindness.

As always, if you have ideas, concerns or need clarification on an issue, please contact me.

Kind regards,
Ms. Stafford

| Date | Activity |
|-----------|--|
| Feb 1 | Start of Black History Month |
| Feb 2 | Groundhog Day Kindergarten Registration Opens |
| Feb 5 | Winterfest |
| Feb 12 | Author Visit -Emil Sher |
| Feb 13 | Term 1 Reports sent home |
| Feb 14 | Valentine's Day |
| Feb 16 | Family Day |
| Feb 17-20 | Kindness Week |
| Feb 17 | Chinese New Year: Year of Fire Horse |
| Feb 18 | Ramadan |
| Feb 19 | Staff Meeting School Council 6-7:30pm |
| Feb 20 | IEP's come home |
| Feb 25 | Pink Shirt Day (Sprinkle Kindness) |
| Feb 27 | Friendship and Heart Day |

Thought for the Month:

Kindness is free.
Sprinkle that stuff everywhere.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION



Your child is eligible for the two year Kindergarten Program in the calendar year that they turn four or five. You may register your child online or come into the school starting February 2, 2026. Registration Forms are available at <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/kindergarten/>. Please note: only parents or legal guardians can register their children for school. Required documents include:

- Proof of age (child's birth certificate or passport);
- Proof of address (current utility bill that shows parent/guardian's current home address);
- Verification of date of arrival/immigration documents (if your child was not born in Canada).

TERM 1 REPORT CARDS



Report Cards

On February 13th, you will receive your child's term one report card. This report, unlike the progress report, will provide you with more detail on how your child is progressing at school in all areas of the curriculum which have been taught this term. Please review the report with your child and discuss the next steps that are suggested for improvement.

Feel free to reach out to staff regarding any concerns.

DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER

With winter weather upon us, please make sure students are dressed appropriately for outdoor activities. On days when cold weather and snow are in the forecast, boots, mittens or gloves, a warm hat and a winter jacket should be worn. Snow pants may also be needed for children who will play in the snow.



Please remind your children of this, as many feel that they do not have to wear what they come to school with during outside nutrition breaks. Please consider taking some time to label your child's clothing in case they misplace them.

OUTDOOR PLAY EXPECTATIONS

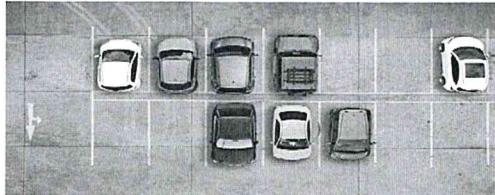
Outdoor play must be safe and respectful!! Please speak to your child about keeping their hands to themselves. Aggressive play is rough and it causes injuries to children. While at school, there is no need to play games that involve grabbing, pushing, shoving, or hitting. Likewise, snowball throwing is not permitted, as it is not safe as we never know where it might land or what object might be caught up in it. Students are not permitted to throw snow during outdoor times. Every year, we also tend to have issues with the building of snow forts. We will be having conversations with students to see if there is a way to work around this issue and hopefully we can reach amicable solutions.



PARKING

A reminder that the parking lot is for staff and board employees. Please park on the streets adjacent to the school and walk onto to the school property for drop off and pick up.

We appreciate your cooperation with this matter.



ON TIME & READY TO LEARN

ATTENDANCE

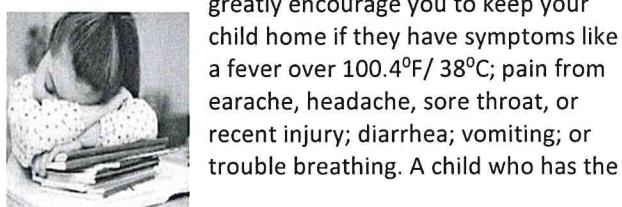
As the weather changes and we get more settled into school, we are beginning to notice a number of students showing up for school late or not attending. It is important to note that students who attend school regularly tend to be more engaged in their learning, feel more connected to the school and have better academic outcomes than students who miss a lot of school.

Did you know?

- If your child is 20 minutes late every day, he/she will have missed 12 days of school instruction by the end of the school year.
- If your child misses two days of school per month, he/she will have missed one-month worth of instruction by the end of the school year.

FEELING SICK

Being sure that a child is well enough to go to school can be tough for any parent. It often comes down to whether the child can still participate at school. Having a sore throat, cough, or mild congestion doesn't always mean kids can't handle class and other activities. However, we



greatly encourage you to keep your child home if they have symptoms like a fever over 100.4°F/ 38°C; pain from earache, headache, sore throat, or recent injury; diarrhea; vomiting; or trouble breathing. A child who has the

sniffles but hasn't slowed down at home is likely well enough for the classroom. But one who coughed all night and had a hard time getting up in the morning is encouraged to take it easy at home.

WINTER WEATHER

We ask that all students are sent to school with proper winter wear each day. Please review our weather conditions for outdoor recess below.



Weather Conditions

Students will play outdoors when:

- Temperatures are above -15°C with consideration given to wind chill factor
- There is light precipitation (e.g. snow flurries, drizzle)
- Snow is on the ground, depending upon how different play areas are affected

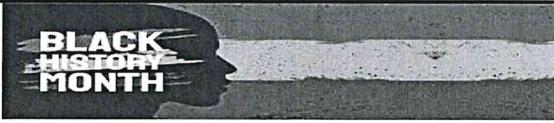
Playground/Field Conditions

Students will be permitted to use the field and asphalt play areas when conditions are suitable for safe play.

Safety considerations included:

- Fields that are not muddy or icy and asphalt play areas that are not icy
- Snow that is not deep enough to inhibit students walking/running

Black History Month



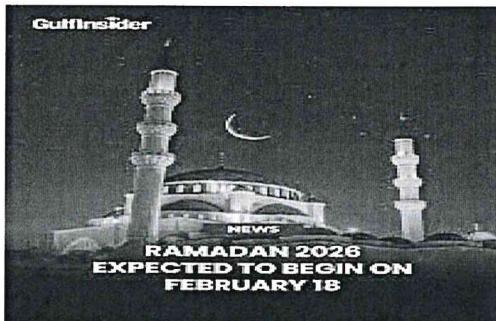
Black History Month is a month dedicated to commemorating the achievements of Black people throughout history, whilst also reflecting on the prejudices Black people have endured. Throughout Canada and North America, Black History Month is celebrated in February each year, and is a very important event for everyone to celebrate.

Why do we celebrate Black History Month?

Black History Month is celebrated to mark and commemorate Black contributions to arts, culture, science, sport, and history. It is important to remember that historically, Black people in Canada have been overlooked and have faced a lot of prejudice and discrimination as a result of race. Black History Month is celebrated annually so that we all can remember and celebrate the wonderful things that Black people have brought to Canada. No matter where you live, we invite all Canadians to learn more about these communities, and how they continue to help shape Canadian history.



We celebrate the Chinese New Year, Feb 17, 2026 this year. This year is the year of fire horse which symbolizes a period of intense energy, rapid change, action, and freedom, favoring boldness over hesitation.



We celebrate Ramadan February 18, 2026. This is a celebration marked by special observations such as spiritual times and fasting.

Update Personal Information

Sometimes, when we call home or attempt to contact parents over the phone, we discover that the contact information written on the registration card is not accurate. When we send out emails to the community, we routinely have around 12 emails bounce back with messages that they are no longer valid. Please take some time to contact the office if your contact information has changed so we can update it on your child's registration card and in the school contact information. Not only is this a safety issue, but most of the information parents also receive from the school is sent via email, text or sometimes by phone. In order for you to be updated on what is going on at Yorkview, it is important we have the correct contact information.

OFFENCE DECLARATION



Parents play an important role in the development and education of their children, and in the success of the school community. At Yorkview we welcome and encourage the participation of parents and community members, and are grateful for the countless hours our volunteers have contributed in previous school years. All volunteers in HWDSB schools MUST provide an **original** Vulnerable Sector Check (VSC) that is kept at the school and is valid for five years without a break in service. The original (VSC) will be kept in a secure location and if a digital (VSC) is provided, it will need to be printed. We want everyone at HWDSB to be safe in our buildings and the updated Vulnerable Sector Screening is one way we can protect our students. A criminal background check is required for all school volunteers in Ontario. Even if you want to accompany your child on a field trip, you need this background check. Once you have completed the process, you are on file with Yorkview School as being a school volunteer.

National Anti-bullying Pink Shirt Day

Pink Shirt Day is the Day of Pink on February 25th where we stand up against bullying and discrimination. This year's theme is Sprinkle Kindness. A day to stand up for kindness, where we work together and treat others with dignity and respect. Working together we can make sure that Yorkview is a safe learning and working space for everyone.

Building healthy relations in our school communities are important; however, it is also important to review steps we can take together to stop bullying and discrimination. Bullying refers to any situation where a child is being deliberately and repeatedly hurt by others and they find it difficult to stand up for them self. This can be face to face or online, in school or in the community. It may be physical or it can be verbal or emotional.

We all have a role to play in creating communities where children feel safe and valued, where we stand up to prejudice and are united against bullying or acts of discrimination. Reporting these types of behaviour is the first step in addressing these situations. We need to ensure that our children know who the caring adults are at school and in their community so that incidents of bullying or discrimination are reported and addressed promptly.

Support Bullying Awareness, Prevention and Diversity by wearing Pink on February 25th!

