



## WELCOME BACK!!!

Good afternoon Queen Victoria Elementary School Families,

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

Beginning a new school year can be a time of excitement, nervousness, and energy for students, staff, and families alike. At the start of the school year at Queen Victoria, this 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.

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### First Day of School

Families can log onto the [Parent Portal](#) to access information on your child's class placement.

Additional staff will be available to help families upon their arrival.

JK's: Classroom teachers have arranged an appointment time.

SK's: First day of school on Wednesday, September 4, 2024

Grades 1 – 2: Meet teachers at 8:30 am in the small playground on Walnut St.

Grades 3 – 8: Meet teachers at 8:30 am on the big playground.

### Soft Entry

Classes begin at 8:30 am and end at 2:50 pm. **\*New\*** There will be an additional bell at 8:25 am.

This will allow students to enter the building early and be settled and ready to learn at 8:30 am.

### Parking

We are asking families not to use the school parking lot before and after school. Please park on the street and walk your children to the playground. Please do not use the parking lot to drop off and pick up children. Safety is our top priority for students.

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### 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.

### Queen Victoria Elementary Phone Policy

In April 2024, [the Ministry of Education announced its plan](#) to reduce distractions in classrooms and improve the health of children. This strategy involves the implementation of province wide measures and mandatory learning to address cell phones in schools.

Beginning this September, HWDSB is taking specific steps to ensure students are well-supported in the classroom and focused on their learning and well-being.

The use of personal electronic devices, especially cellular/smartphones has brought challenges related to safety, privacy, well-being and disruption in our school. The school recognizes that unacceptable use of this technology can be disruptive and intrusive in classroom instruction and interfere with its daily operations. Queen Victoria expects that all persons in the school can support a positive teaching and learning environment and adhere to the following expectation:



**Student personal cell phone use (including texting) is not permitted during the school day (8:30 am – 2:50 pm). Cell phones must be powered off and locked in the child’s locker or kept securely out of sight. All calls must be made through the school office or facilitated by a staff member for safety, tracking and accountability reasons.**

#### **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](https://hwdsb.info/student-dress) to learn more.

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#### **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 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.

#### **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 HWDSB [on social media](#).

#### **School Messenger**

Queen Victoria Elementary and all HWDSB schools use School Messenger 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.

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### Volunteer Opportunities

Queen Victoria ES 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, Chaperoning Trips, or the Nutrition program at Queen Victoria please [contact](#) the school. Please see HWDSB's [Volunteers in Schools](#) page for more information.

### Nutrition Program

At Queen Victoria we have a Nutrition Program that aims to provide every child with a healthy snack each day. The snack includes a protein, a grain and a fruit or vegetable. These snacks are usually served at or before first nutrition break.



The Nutrition Program receives its funding from the government and other donors, but that funding only provides enough money to feed about 5 children per class. We rely on outside donors, fundraising and caregiver donations to support the program and feed more kids. Donations can be made to the program through School Cash Online or through the Hamilton Centre for Student Success for those who wish to make a larger donation and get a receipt.

We strive to keep our costs down by providing snacks that are prepared fresh. To do this we need volunteers to help. Most of our wonderful volunteers come in to help prepare snacks after the bell. This is simple preparation such as chopping cheese and slicing cucumbers. We also need one person a day to come in at about 2:30 pm to clean bins. So, if you have a day to spare, we would be grateful for your help. It's a great way to keep informed about what is going on at the school! Email [QueenVicNutritionProgram@gmail.com](mailto:QueenVicNutritionProgram@gmail.com)

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### International and Indigenous Language Program

The International and Indigenous Language Elementary (IILE) program offers children an opportunity to learn and/or maintain a language other than French or English and to develop an appreciation and sensitivity to the cultural diversity within Canada.



Here is the link to the webpage where you can see the many language programs and school locations:

Good news! Queen Victoria will be hosting the following classes on Thursday evenings from 5:30 to 8:00 pm beginning on September 19, 2024:

Arabic- All Levels

Spanish – As a Second Language Grades 5 – 8, Intermediate- Grade 3 – 4

Vietnamese – As a Second Language – JK to Grade 8

Registration is now open! [Click here](https://forms.office.com/r/RtVQf0AmjJ) to register for the Language Program  
<https://forms.office.com/r/RtVQf0AmjJ>

### Free Backpacks

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Thank you to donations from the community, we have several brand-new backpacks, with stationery items (e.g., notebooks, pencils, crayons, erasers). If you would like a free backpack, please stop by the office.

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At Queen Victoria 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 905-667-5880 or email [queenvictoria@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:queenvictoria@hwdsb.on.ca).

Sincerely,

Omari White  
Principal

Sheri Laws  
Vice-principal