



Westdale Secondary Community Newsletter

April 2026

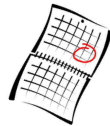
Greetings

We are very excited to acknowledge Brian Goodram in his move to support Family of Schools 3 in a Temporary Superintendent position. This is a great opportunity for Brian and we wish him all the best! We know Family of Schools 3 is in good hands. I want to thank the Westdale community for the kind words and support as I step into the Acting Principal role at this time. I am very excited to continue to work with our students, staff and families as we complete the 2025-2026 school year. As always, the school is a busy hub of activities where all students can find a place to connect with their peers. I am a proud Westdale Warrior!

Sincerely,

Leanne Schaap, Acting-Principal

Important Calendar Dates



Date:	Event(s):	Audience:
<i>Friday April 3rd</i> <i>Monday April 6th</i>	Good Friday—No School Easter Monday—No School	Grades 9-12
<i>Tuesday April 7th-</i>	OSSLT Writing	Grade 10,11 & 12 students who need to pass the OSSLT
<i>Tuesday April 21st</i>	Last day to receive student vaccinations	Students requiring updated Immunizations
<i>Wednesday April 22nd</i>	First day of health suspensions	Students requiring updated Immunizations
<i>Friday April 24th</i>	Mid-Term Reports go home	All students
<i>Tuesday April 21st</i>	Earth Week Campus Clean Up	All students

Shout Outs / Good News



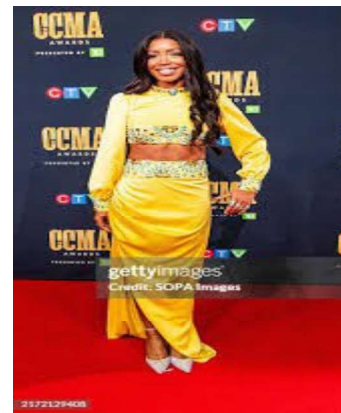
Welcome to Westdale!

We are pleased to welcome Mr. Don Pente to Westdale in the Vice Principal role. He will be supporting students with surnames N-Z. We are also excited to welcome William Wallace back to our English Department team, Abigail Morrison to the ESL team and Cheryl Ciannavei to the main office. We are thrilled to have them supporting our Westdale students.

Westdale Music Department:

Westdale Music Department Selected for Juno Educational Experience and Awarded CARAS Grant

On Friday March 27th, the Westdale Music Department was selected by the JUNO Awards to participate in a unique two-part educational event. The day began with an experiential demonstration focused on how the brain is studied through music and external stimuli. Students were introduced to leading neuroscientists and learned about their groundbreaking work exploring the connection between music, cognition, and human response. Following the presentation, Westdale students were treated to a live concert by JUNO nominee SACHA, a Sony recording artist and rising force in the country music scene. An amazing opportunity! At the conclusion of the event, Sony Music Canada, in association with CARAS, shared the exciting news that the Westdale Music Department was awarded the CARAS Grant!! A huge thank you goes out to Mr. Abel for the continued work he does to support the Westdale Music Program!



Iftar:

Thank you to the staff and students for organizing another successful Iftar dinner for our Muslim students and staff to break fast together. This was a wonderful event that allowed students to find and build community with peers and staff.



Nowruz Celebration:

On March 25th, Westdale's Persian Club had their Nowruz Celebration in the Learning Commons. Another great event where students celebrated their culture through food, dance and being together. These students were very excited to welcome the spring equinox.



Relay for Life:

Westdale is hosting a Canadian Cancer Society Relay for Life event at Westdale on Wednesday, May 6th to support Canadians in their cancer journeys. This event will be held after school on the football field from 3-7pm. The rain date will be on Wednesday, May 13th,

Relay For Life is a global movement to end cancer, active in 29 countries and 6000 communities worldwide. We are hoping that you may want to get involved as well, as you are an important part of our school community. Here's how! You can encourage your child to sign up, join a team, and start fundraising. You can also donate online through our school Relay for Life website at www.relayforlife.ca/westdale and help us reach our goal. Please share our link with your friends and family too!

Please contact Mary Peace (mpeace@hwdsb.on.ca) or Colleen Francisci (cfrancis@hwdsb.on.ca) if you would like to get involved in any other way or if you have any questions.



Celebrating Student Achievements:

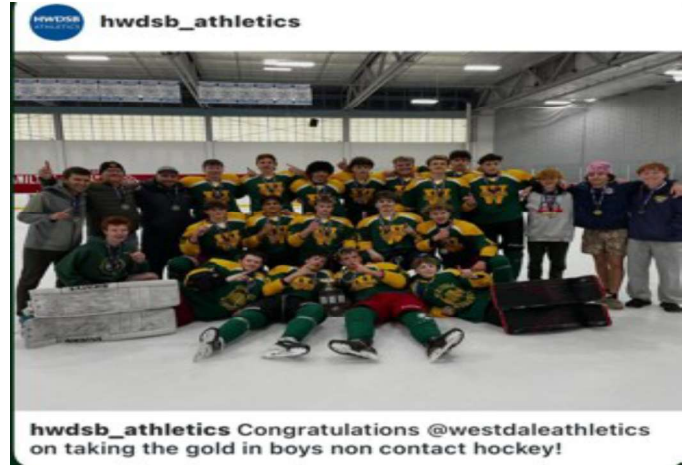
Bay Area Science and Engineering Fair

We are pleased to announce that we had 8 Westdale students who earned awards at the BASEF ceremony on March 24th. The BASEF awards are given to students in grades 7 through 12 who have had deserving projects in the area of: Biotechnology, Engineering & Computing Sciences, Earth & Environmental Sciences, Health Sciences, Life Sciences and Physical & Mathematical Sciences. We are very proud of these students and acknowledge all of their hard work as they continue to achieve excellence!



Boys Varsity Hockey :

On Tuesday, our Boys Varsity Hockey Team, coached by Mr. Olah, Mr. Harrison and Mr. Rawlins won the City Championship game at Chedoke arena. The boys fought hard to come out on top and take the gold. Congratulations to the players and coaches for a great season. Westdale is proud!



Other News



Student Health Vaccinations:

Are your students at risk for a school health suspension? Have you received a letter saying that your immunization record is incomplete? If so, please see your family doctor, walk-in clinic or a community vaccine clinic. Appointments can be made at community clinics at hamilton.ca/vaccines. The last day to complete these vaccinations is Tuesday April 21st. After that health suspensions will start to take place. If you have any questions, please connect with the main office.

Don't get suspended from school!
Get vaccinated now by your doctor.
Report vaccinations to Public Health:



When reporting, please include the following:
Full Name, Address, Date of Birth, Phone Number,
Health Card Number, Copy of the Vaccine Record.

School Council PRO Grant Event: Warrior Fest!

Mark your calendars! Warrior Fest is coming to Westdale on Thursday May 28th, from 5:30 to 8:30pm. It's a chance for the whole school community to connect through music, food, activities and information sharing. It's going to be an exciting evening of *community, collaboration and connection!* In preparation for the event, Westdale School Council is looking for raffle donation items (examples include tickets for sports games, concerts, theatre or other experiences; gift cards, or other goods, products or services). Follow Westdale's School Council social media (using the QR Codes shared right) or contact westdaleSC@hwdsb.on.ca with any questions, suggestions or donation items.



OSSLT Literacy Test

Once again this Spring, students in Grades 10, 11 and 12 who have not written or passed the OSSLT will be given the opportunity to write the test. Grade 10s will write on Tuesday, April 7th and Wednesday April 8th. Grade 11 and 12 students will write the OSSLT on Wednesday, April 8th only. Students in our ESL program will write on Thursday, April 9th and Friday, April 10th. All students will begin writing the OSSLT at 8:00 am each day. Students are reminded to charge and make any software updates to their electronic device and ensure that they bring it with them to complete the test. Additional information as well as access to an online Practice Test can be found at www.eqao.com Individual student reports will be distributed in June. Best of luck to those students preparing to write!

