



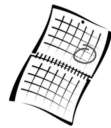
Westdale Secondary Community Newsletter

February 2026

Greetings

As we begin semester 2, this is an opportune time to celebrate learning and successes from this past term while identifying areas of growth. In secondary schools, semester 2 serves as a “new year”, providing opportunities for students to build on their learning and skills while improving habits to support continued growth. As you will see in this newsletter, we have much to celebrate as we head into the 2nd half of the school year!

Sincerely,
Brian Goodram, Principal



Important Calendar Dates

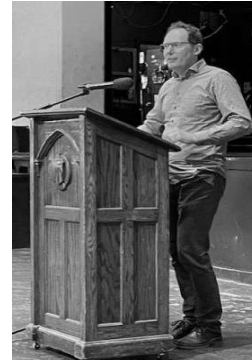
Date:	Event(s):	Audience:
<i>Wednesday Feb. 4th</i>	2026-27 Course Options Presentations by Student Services (TF#1=Gr. 12, TF#2=Gr.9, TF#4=Gr.11, TF#5=Gr. 12)	All
<i>Monday Feb. 9th</i>	Grade Assemblies (12-12:30pm = Gr.11; 12:40-1:10pm = Gr. 12)	Grade 11 & 12 students
<i>Tuesday Feb. 10th</i>	Grade 9 Assembly (1:30-2:15pm)	Grade 9 students
<i>Friday Feb. 13th</i>	Grade 10 Assembly (9:30-10:15am)	Grade 10 students
<i>Monday Feb. 16th</i>	Family Day (no school)	All
<i>Thursday Feb. 19th</i>	Semi-Formal (5pm; Liuna Station)	Grades 9-12
<i>Monday Feb. 23rd</i>	Grad Photos begin (through to March 6th)	Class of 2026 (Grade 12)
<i>Wednesday Feb. 25th</i>	Pink Shirt Day (anti-bullying)	All

Shout Outs / Good News



Westdale Retirees:

Congratulations and well-wishes to Mr. Moore (Technology), Ms. Vivian (Art) and Mr. Wrona (Science) as they head into retirement. This past week we were able to thank and celebrate the trio as they move on to new adventures!

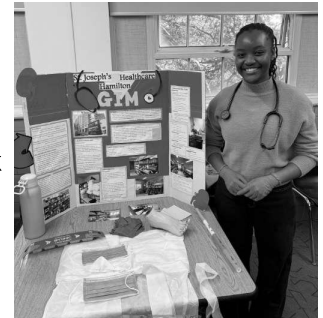


Welcome (Back) to Westdale!

We are thrilled to welcome some new and returning teaching staff to Westdale for semester 2: Ms. Champion (English), Ms. Costanzo (Science), Ms. Cygan (French Immersion, Geography), Mr. Rawlins (Special Education), Ms. Morrison (ESL), Mr. Dewar (Tech), Ms. Hughes (ESL), Ms. Wilde (Co-Op), Ms. Sharma (Math), Ms. Sipos (Tech), Ms. Martin (French Immersion), Mr. Newsome (Science) and Ms. West (Science). As well, we welcome Mr. Ashamalla to the Main Office as our Accounts Administrator.

Co-Op Career Fair:

During the month of January, students were able to share their learning and growth from semester one in a variety of ways. Co-Op students showcased their placements and answered questions from peers and staff at the annual Co-Op Career Fair. Thank you to Mr. Daschko and Ms. Wilde for their leadership in the Co-Op program and to the various community employers who support authentic and transformative learning for our Westdale students through these placements!



Blood Donor Clinics:

Thank you to Ms. Peace for her work with Westdale students in supporting various blood donor clinics throughout the school year. This initiative teaches our students about this vital act of giving and kindness. Prior to the winter break, Ms. Peace took students to a clinic where they met with Westdale alum Kathleen Zavarise, who is a multi organ transplant and blood transfusion recipient and works as an advocate for blood/organ donation. She was at the clinic celebrating her 1000th bonus days (1000 days since she received her lifesaving organ transplant).



Westdale Robotics

Westdale's Robotics team, aptly named the Guardians of the Allen Key, finished the FIRST robotics season on a high note. The team completed at the Burlington tournament a few weeks back, and despite some technical difficulties, spent most of the day in first and second place. The team made the playoffs, ending in the quarter-final round. The team won awards at all three tournaments they participated in this year, making this Westdale's best robotics season ever! These students have shown excellence in teamwork, and dedicated themselves to the competitions by working nearly every night after school for the entire semester, plus lunch and spares. Many will be graduating this year, with a number entering Engineering programs at universities across the province. Thank you to Mr. Wilson for his leadership with robotics at Westdale and for the countless hours spent supporting the students.



Other News



Semester 2 “Re-Set”:

With the beginning of semester 2, we have the opportunity to re-establish expectations that support focused learning and student well-being. As shared in the calendar, we are hosting grade assemblies this month to reiterate expectations to students. At Westdale, we continue to follow the Personal Mobile Device (PMD) procedure. For our Westdale students, they must have their devices stored out of view and powered off (or on silent mode) during instructional time unless permitted by the educator. There are exemptions to this, for example, students who use their PMD as a health/medical support tool.

Additionally, we have heard concerns about washroom access and want to ensure that students feel safe and comfortable in all spaces. As such, we have increased staff supervision during lunch hours to deter loitering and direct students back to approved common areas: the cafeteria and the Library/Learning Commons. We will be reminding students of our expectations (highlighted by the graphic) and partnering with families, as needed, to support our efforts.

Every Day Counts:

Regular attendance and punctuality is essential to student success as it provides students with adequate time to learn, consolidate, and demonstrate their understanding of overall course expectations while developing habits that will support them beyond high school. This semester, we are continuing on with the Day 1 / Day 2 “flip” schedule where periods 1 and 2 will rotate on a daily basis. On Day 1 (odd numbered calendar dates), periods will run in order: P.1-P.2-P.3-P.4-P.5. On Day 2 (even numbered calendar dates) periods will run in the following order: P.2-P.1-P.3-P.4-P.5. The Day 1—Day 2 Calendar for semester 2 is provided at the end of the newsletter, for your reference. Attendance during the final evaluation period is mandatory. For semester 2, final evaluations run on June 17,18,19,22,23. Families are asked to note these dates for their planning.

News from Westdale School Council:

Westdale School Council continues their work in identifying areas where Westdale can better serve students and families. Recent work has focused on continued advocacy for later bell times, reinstatement of cafeteria service, and planning for an upcoming parent engagement event in May. To stay connected and learn how you can support School Council’s efforts, check out their social media pages through the QR codes posted here!



WESTDALESCHOOLCOUNCIL



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Immunization of School Pupils Act:

As per the Immunization of School Pupils Act (IPSA), students attending secondary school must be immunized against specific diseases (diphtheria, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, meningitis, and pertussis) or have a valid exemption on file with public health. Parents must report vaccinations to local public health (not schools), or risk suspension from school. Westdale will have two in-school immunization clinics on March 5th and 9th. Below are some key dates for your awareness, and follow up, as needed:

- **November 14, 2025:** Letters sent to families of students requiring immunizations by Public Health
- **March 9, 2026:** Deadline for families to submit immunization records to Hamilton Public Health
- **Week of March 16, 2026:** Suspension notices sent to families
- **April 21 to May 19, 2026:** Suspension period

Families should contact Hamilton Public Health directly for questions:

- **Mail:** P.O. Box 897, Hamilton ON, L8N 3P6
- **Phone:** 905-540-5250
- **Email:** vaccinerecords@hamilton.ca (Note: Vaccine records cannot be reported by email)

Day 1 / Day 2 Westdale School Calendar Semester 2 2025-2026

January/February 2026

M	T	W	T	F
				Jan 30 Day 1
2 Day 2	3 Day 1	4 Day 2	5 Day 1	6 Day 2
9 Day 1	10 Day 2	11 Day 1	12 Day 2	13 Day 1
16 H	17 Day 1	18 Day 2	19 Day 1	20 Day 2
23 Day 1	24 Day 2	25 Day 1	26 Day 2	27 Day 1

March 2026

M	T	W	T	F
2 Day 2	3 Day 1	4 Day 2	5 Day 1	6 PA Day
9 Day 1	10 Day 2	11 Day 1	12 Day 2	13 Day 1
16 March Break	17 March Break	18 March Break	19 March Break	20 March Break
23 Day 1	24 Day 2	25 Day 1	26 Day 2	27 Day 1
30 Day 2	31 Day 1			

April 2026

M	T	W	T	F
		1 Day 1	2 Day 2	3 H
6 H	7 Day 1	8 Day 2	9 Day 1	10 Day 2
13 Day 1	14 Day 2	15 Day 1	16 Day 2	17 Day 1
20 Day 2	21 Day 1	22 Day 2	23 Day 1	24 Day 2
27 Day 1	28 Day 2	29 Day 1	30 Day 2	

May 2026

M	T	W	T	F
				1 Day 1
4 Day 2	5 Day 1	6 Day 2	7 Day 1	8 Day 2
11 Day 1	12 Day 2	13 Day 1	14 Day 2	15 Day 1
18 H	19 Day 1	20 Day 2	21 Day 1	22 Day 2
25 Day 1	26 Day 2	27 Day 1	28 Day 2	29 Day 1

June 2026

M	T	W	T	F
1 Day 1	2 Day 2	3 Day 1	4 Day 2	5 Day 1
8 Day 2	9 Day 1	10 Day 2	11 Day 1	12 Day 2
15 Day 1	16 Day 2	17 P1 E Final Evaluation	18 P2 E Final Evaluation	19 P3/4 E Final Evaluation
22 P5 E Final Evaluation	23 Make-up Day	24 PA Day	25	26 PA Day
29 B	30 B			

H - Holiday—no school

PA Day - no school for students

E - Exam or Final Evaluation Day

HWDSB's School Year Calendar can be found online at [School Year Calendar | Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board](#)

FD - The first day of Semester 2 is Friday, January 30, 2026

Bell times: 8:00 am– 2:30 pm