

The Panabaker Chronicle



March 2026 Edition

Dear Families

As we welcome the month of March, we look forward to the exciting opportunities and growth this spring season brings. Our students are continuing to work hard and reach new milestones as they progress toward the end of the school year. March is a time for reflection and renewal, and we are proud of the perseverance and dedication our students have shown throughout this school year.

A special shout-out to our teachers and staff who are continuously providing engaging and enriching learning experiences for all our students. As always, we appreciate your support and involvement in your child's education.

Please remember that March Break will take place from **March 16th to 20th**, and students will return to school on **Monday, March 23rd**. We hope everyone has a relaxing and enjoyable break!

Wishing you all a wonderful month filled with growth, happiness, and of course, a little bit of luck!

Sincerely,

Mr. Fede & Mrs. Baggio

Upcoming EVENTS

Every Tuesday – Pizza Day

Every Wednesday – Booster Juice

Every Thursday – Quesada/Subway

March 2 – Jamaica Fundraiser Starts

March 6 – PA Day

March 16-23 – March Break

March 21 – World Down Syndrome Day

March 24 – Commencement Photo Retake

March 26 – Great Big Crunch

No act of
kindness,
no matter how small,
is ever wasted.
-Aesop

School Parking Lot

Just a friendly reminder that when dropping off or picking up your child please do not block the bus loading zone or park on the side of the road in the parking lot. These are all **NO PARKING ZONES**. Our school busses are having a very difficult time navigating between cars and this is causing a delay. We want to ensure the safety of all our students as they are being transported to and from Frank Panabaker. Please leave all accessible parking spots free unless you have a valid permit.



Thank you to our Home & School Association!

We want to send a HUGE shout-out to our amazing Home and School Association for the wonderful Amazon gift cards! Your generosity brought big smiles to both staff and students, and we are so grateful for the thoughtful surprise.

Your continued support helps make our school such a warm, joyful, and connected community!



Kindergarten registration is now open for the 2025-2026 School year!
Please complete the registration package online.
<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/kindergarten/#register>

MEDICAL ALERT



Just a reminder that Frank Panabaker is a NUT FREE School. We have both staff and students with severe life-threatening allergies to peanuts and tree nuts. Do not send any nut products to school with your child. Thank you!

February in Review!

February was a month full of connection, celebration, and kindness at Frank Panabaker, which is a true reflection of our commitment to ensuring every student and staff member feels like they belong.

This month, we proudly honoured **Black History Month** through daily announcements highlighting Black excellence, achievement, and leadership. Students heard stories of innovators, artists, scientists, and changemakers whose contributions continue to shape our world. Classrooms engaged in meaningful discussions, read-alouds, and activities that deepened understanding and celebrated the strength and brilliance of the Black community.

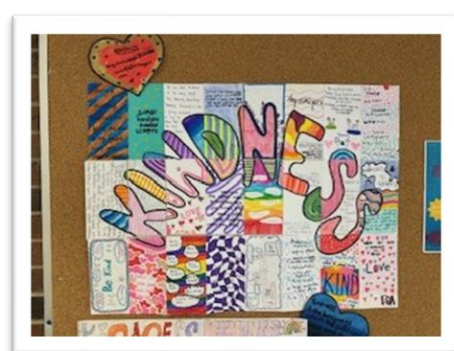
This month, we also recognized the **beginning of Ramadan**, supporting our students and families observing this important time of reflection, gratitude, and community, reinforcing our belief that every identity is valued at our school.

February also brought the spirit of kindness to life with **Pink Shirt Day** and our school-wide **10 Days of Kindness** initiative. Students and staff filled the halls with acts of compassion, from kindness notes and classroom kindness chains to murals celebrating the power of empathy and inclusion. Everywhere you looked, there were reminders of how small positive actions can create a big impact.

This year, our Pink Shirt Day also included a **food drive**, and we're thrilled to share that together we collected **482 lbs of food** for **Ancaster Community Services**! This incredible contribution speaks to the generosity and community-mindedness of our Panabaker families. Thank you for helping us make such a meaningful difference.

Throughout the month, our goal remained clear: to inspire a culture where everyone at Frank Panabaker knows they are seen, supported, and celebrated. February was a shining example of what it means to learn and grow in a community where we lift each other up, and we couldn't be more proud of the kindness and leadership shown by our students and staff.

At Frank Panabaker... we ALL belong.



Out of Catchment

As you are aware, Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board has created attendance boundaries for each of its schools. In some cases, families want their child to attend a school that is not within their catchment boundary.

Unfortunately, Frank Panabaker is staffed based solely on the projected enrollment of students in our catchment area. This means that there will not be space available for out-of-catchment students. We regret the impact this will have for families.

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board uses this protocol to make the most effective use of space and staff in all schools. All parents are urged to register their children at the school for their designated catchment area.

You can learn more on the HWDSB website's page detailing Out-of-Catchment school attendance at <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/find/>



Class Placements

With a new school year approaching, many parents wonder about who their child's teacher will be. This process for organizing classes will soon be underway. When creating classes, teachers meet with each other and school administration to discuss the needs of each student. Some of the issues that are considered are:

- Balance of ability, interests, and talents
- Learning styles of students
- Teaching styles of teachers
- Resources and remedial needs, enrichment needs
- Students to be kept together or separated because of the positive/negative influence on each other's learning.

We appreciate your trust in our professional judgement in balancing the considerations mentioned above. The final decision for class placements is the responsibility of the principal. If you have further information regarding your child's learning needs that we should consider, please send me an email or note with the specifics. We will not entertain requests for specific teachers. Please consider the bullets listed above. We will do our best to accommodate your child so that we can maximize their learning opportunities and be successful.

Please note that all requests are due by email to D. Fede dfede@hwdsb.on.ca by May 8th. All class placements are tentative until the end of September.

Remote Learning Option for 2026-2027

Please note the following Key messages regarding Remote Learning:

- All students will default to returning to in person learning if they did not complete the 2026-2027 Remote Learning Request to Register Form
- Families who want remote learning must complete the Remote Learning Intent to Register Form in the Prent Portal if they want their children in Remote Learning for 2026-2027. Entry to remote would take place at re-organization time in October.
- Students who are returning to in person from remote will return to their home English track school
- Remote learning in 2026-2027 will only be provided in English; French Immersion is only available in person
- If you choose Remote, your children's remote learning class will likely be in another school next year



We're excited to announce that Frank Panabaker staff and students will be taking part in the **Great Big Crunch** this year! Each classroom will receive apples to enjoy on March 26th. Our Student Voice team will lead the event over the PA system, ensuring that everyone "crunches" together at the same time. It's sure to be a fun and delicious way to celebrate healthy eating!



Math Action Plan Update

We are excited to share an update on our school-wide Math Action Plan and the great work happening in our classrooms. This year, our staff has been engaging in ongoing professional learning with a focus on strengthening students' problem-solving skills, especially in the areas highlighted through EQAO-style thinking and application questions.

Our recent EQAO results show something to be proud of: **our students have a solid understanding of core math concepts**. This is a wonderful foundation. As we move forward, our focus is on helping students **apply** that understanding in deeper, more complex situations. We are working intentionally on thinking questions, real-world problem solving, and building student confidence so they feel comfortable taking risks in math.

A key part of our plan is fostering a **growth mindset in mathematics**. We want every student to know that mistakes help us learn, taking risks is encouraged, and everyone can be a "math person." When students feel safe to try, explore, and persevere, they begin to enjoy math more—and their learning grows naturally from there.

We've also identified areas for continued development. While our students are doing excellent work in **financial literacy**, we will be dedicating additional time and strategies to strengthening the **Data, Number, and Spatial Sense** strands. Our team has built an exciting plan, and we're already engaging in meaningful instructional shifts to support student success in these areas.

How You Can Support Math Learning at Home

Here are a few simple ways families can help nurture math confidence and curiosity:

- **Talk about real-life math:** cooking, shopping, measuring, budgeting, sports stats, travel time, or comparing prices.
- **Praise effort, not speed:** saying "I love how you stuck with that!" helps build growth mindset thinking.
- **Encourage explaining their thinking:** ask "How did you figure that out?"—not just "What's the answer?"
- **Play math-rich games:** card games, dice, puzzles, Sudoku, building toys, or strategy board games build number sense and spatial reasoning.
- **Use everyday data:** let children help track weather patterns, organize groceries, or notice patterns at home or in the community.

We are proud of the hard work students and staff are putting into math learning this year. With a strong foundation and a collaborative plan, we are confident that our students will continue to grow as creative, capable mathematical thinkers.



BIGBOX FUNDRAISING



Keep your eyes open!!

The Big Box of Cards is a fun and simple way to support our school, and each box offers great value your family and friends will love.

Sample cards and instructions to be sent home in the beginning of March.

Home / By your side - Parents and caregivers / By Your Side Webinar Series

By Your Side Webinar Series

School Mental Health Ontario is offering a free webinar series for Parents/Primary Caregivers.

1. Webinar 1 March 5: Conversations about balanced-device use
2. Webinar 2 April 10: Conversations about vaping
3. Webinar 3 May 7: Conversations about body image
4. Webinar 4 June 5: Conversations about anxiety

Here is the link for more info and to register:

[By Your Side Webinar Series - By your side – Parents and caregivers - School Mental Health Ontario](#)

As an Eco school, we can make a **DIFFERENCE**. Lets show our care by spreading **LIGHT** and **HOPE** with the donations of Flashlights, Solar lights, lanterns or batteries. From our families to their families.



In October, hurricane Melissa hit Jamaica, leaving much destruction.

Help Jamaica shine bright

Drive is between March 2-9



thank
you
for your
support!

Frank Panabaker Elementary School

SNACK DRIVE

To support our students who may benefit from a small nutritious snack throughout their school day, we are pleased to introduce our Nutrition Program!

We are kindly asking our amazing FP Families for donations of snacks that will be used in our "Grab & Go" stations at both North and South Sites.

Thank you!

ITEMS REQUESTED:

- Granola bars
(Made Good/Nature Valley)
- Yogurt tubes
- Cheese strings



RUNNING ON AN ON-GOING BASIS

Snacks need to be nut-free,
individually wrapped,
and nutritious

**WE WILL BEGIN ACCEPTING DONATIONS MONDAY MARCH 2ND
PLEASE BRING DONATIONS TO THE MAIN OFFICE AT EITHER SITE**

**FRANK
PANABAKER
PRESENTS..**

Booster Juice.

April 1st & 8th



All proceeds go towards
Grade 8 Commencement



**Orders Due March
25th**



