Halton District School Board

Nelson High School
4181 New Street, Burlington, ON L7L 1T3
T: 905-637-3825 F: 905-637-5960 nel.hdsb.ca

November 6 2026

Dear Nelson Families,

It has been a week full of excitement and energy. On Wednesday, our grade 9 students participated in Take Our Kids to Work Day and we welcomed over 300 incoming grade 8s for an afternoon of exciting activities. Students in Gr.10 English began their OSSLT (Literacy Test) graduation requirement. Some classes will continue into next week. We had our second School Council meeting on Thursday evening. Our next meeting is February 11 2027. Today students from our Hairstyling and Esthetics program attended the National Women' s Show.

Next week, on Monday, our Jr Girls and Sr Girls basketball teams compete in their semi-final games in our Nelson gym. We look forward to cheering them on, hopefully securing spots in the Finals hosted on Friday at Alton Community Center. Should the Girls continue with their successful seasons, we will be arranging for Fan Buses, please stay tuned!

Our Jr and Sr Football teams both won their semi-final games to secure spots in the HSSAA Finals. The Jr Football team will play on Tuesday at Bronte Field in Oakville. Our Sr team will play at McMaster University on Thursday. More information below outlines how to purchase tickets for the fan bus!

This weekend our students in DECA will compete at Regionals; good luck to all participating!

Did you know that the Burlington Festival of Lights has been supported through the hard work and ongoing commitment of Nelson, and before that, the Robert Bateman communities? On Thursday Nov 12, students in our Manufacturing and Fabrication programs will be working at Spencer Smith to begin the installation of many of the light displays. When you visit the display this year, please remember that Nelson students, faculty and alumni have played a large contributing role to this event.

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On November 11th, Remembrance Day, the whole school will participate in a school-wide service to remember the sacrifices of Canadian Armed Forces Personnel.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend,
Kate

Indigenous Veterans Day - Nov 8 2026

This year marks the 30th anniversary of National Indigenous Veterans Day, which honours the service and sacrifice of First Nations, Inuit, and Metis soldiers. Over 12 000 Indigenous people have served in Canada's military conflicts, including World War I, World War II, the Korean War and modern peacekeeping mission.

Sr Football Finals - Fan Buses

Our Sr Football team has qualified for the 2026 HSSAA Championship vs the Abbey Park Eagles to be played at McMaster University's Ron Joyce Stadium on Thursday November 12th. Cost for the bus ride and game ticket is $15 and is available on SchoolCash Online. Buy your tickets now to guarantee a spot on one of the buses, seats are limited to first come-first serve. Permission forms can be picked up in the foyer at lunch next week with proof of purchase. Signed permission forms are required on Thursday in order to board a bus for the BIG Game!

Nelson Open House - November 19 2026

On Thursday November 19 we will open our doors to welcome in the Nelson Community to learn about programs available at Nelson. Doors open at 5:30 and a formal presentation showcasing course and program options will begin in our Auditorium at 6:00. This presentation is specifically valuable to any student transitioning to Nelson for grade nine. Students and Families will have the opportunity to tour the school and see various programs in action. Last year we had over 500 prospective students visit.

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AP Information Night - November 19 2026

As part of our Open House, at 7:30 in the Auditorium, we will host a Nelson AP Information session. We will share all of the AP options available to students at Nelson. This presentation will include information for incoming grade nine students through to our senior course offerings. We look forward to welcoming many interested students and families

Math Clinic

A reminder that the Nelson Math Clinic runs Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at lunch in room 221. Teachers are there to help with homework, test prep, and to help students prepare for the EQAO Math Test that's coming up in January.

BugQuest - Nelson & the University of Guelph

In partnership with the University of Guelph, Science classes have completed Phase 1 of their BugQuest analysis. Over the past several weeks, classes have been collecting bugs from Nelson campus, and those bugs have now been sent to UofG for DNA analysis.

Level Up Skilled Trades

Sixty-five Nelson Grade 9 Technology students had the chance to travel to Ancaster this week to visit the Level Up Skilled Trades career fair. Students spoke with industry professionals and college representatives to get current information and try hands-on technological activities. Students came away with valuable advice and resources for future career opportunities in technology.

Specialized Program Applications Open - Check out AP at Nelson

Ahead of course selection, we encourage any students interested in pursuing specialized programs such as Advanced Placement (AP) or the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) in Grade 11 and 12 to connect with their guidance counselor for more information. Students can explore programs at the following links:

- Advanced Placement (AP) Prep Program: hdsb.ca/AP

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- International Baccalaureate (IB) Prep Program: hdsb.ca/IB

Recording Absences and Attendance - Ministry Updates

Starting **Monday November 9, 2026**, explicit and verifiable written documentation is required to formally excuse student absences in accordance with longstanding Ministry of Education regulations. As a result, we will not be able to officially excuse absences over the phone, as all excusals must now be submitted and confirmed in writing. The quickest way to submit absences is directly through the **SchoolMessenger app or website**. Please review the SchoolMessenger information page on the HDSB website to set up an account if you haven't done so already. If you enter an absence in SchoolMessenger, the system automatically validates it and sends you an email confirmation verifying the absence is excused. If you prefer not to use the app/need an alternative:
We can accept a reported absence in writing through our office using either of these two methods (pick one that works for your school with your Administration):

1. **Send a Handwritten Note:** You can write, sign, and date a note explaining the absence and send it to the office with your student when they return.
2. **Email Us:** You can email our office directly at **[Office / Admin Assistant Email Address]**. Please include your child's full name, grade, date of the absence, and the specific reason. Once we receive it, we will log it in the system and email you back a written confirmation.

If you don't report the absence in School Messenger, you have a **3-school-day window** from the date of the absence to provide the written note or email so we can update the record for the student to be excused in the system. After 3 school days, excusals require direct approval from school administration.

Planned Absences for More Than 3 Consecutive Days

These cannot be reported in SchoolMessenger, and you will need to complete an Extended Absence Request Form for administration review. This can be emailed to you, or you can pick one up from the main office.

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Healing Forest @ Paletta Lakefront Park - Treaty 14 Sign Installation

The first Treaty Sign within a City of Burlington public space has been installed right here in our own Nelson Community, at the Niigaan maamwiying Healing Forest in Paletta Lakefront Park! Parents of Nelson students created the Niigaan maamwiying Healing Forest in honour of Truth and Reconciliation. This space is part of a community of Healing Forests across Canada, connected by the National Healing Forest Initiative (NHFI). For several years, they have advocated for a Treaty Sign to be installed within the Healing Forest, in partnership with our Treaty Partners, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN). They are thrilled that this dream became a reality last month! As it is Treaty Week, this is a wonderful opportunity to take a walk over to the Healing Forest, see the Treaty Sign for yourselves, and reflect on the significance of the treaty relationship and our shared responsibilities. The sign represents more than a historic first for Burlington. It is an opportunity to learn, reflect, build understanding, and recognize the relationship we share with our Treaty Partners.

We are all Treaty People.

Your Nelson Admin Team
Kate Diell - Principal
Navi Manners - Vice Principal (A-G)
Andrea Gruscyk - Vice Principal (H-N)
Tim Harvey - Vice Principal (O-Z)