

# Director's Update

October 28, 2024



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# Welcome to the revitalized Sherwood Secondary School



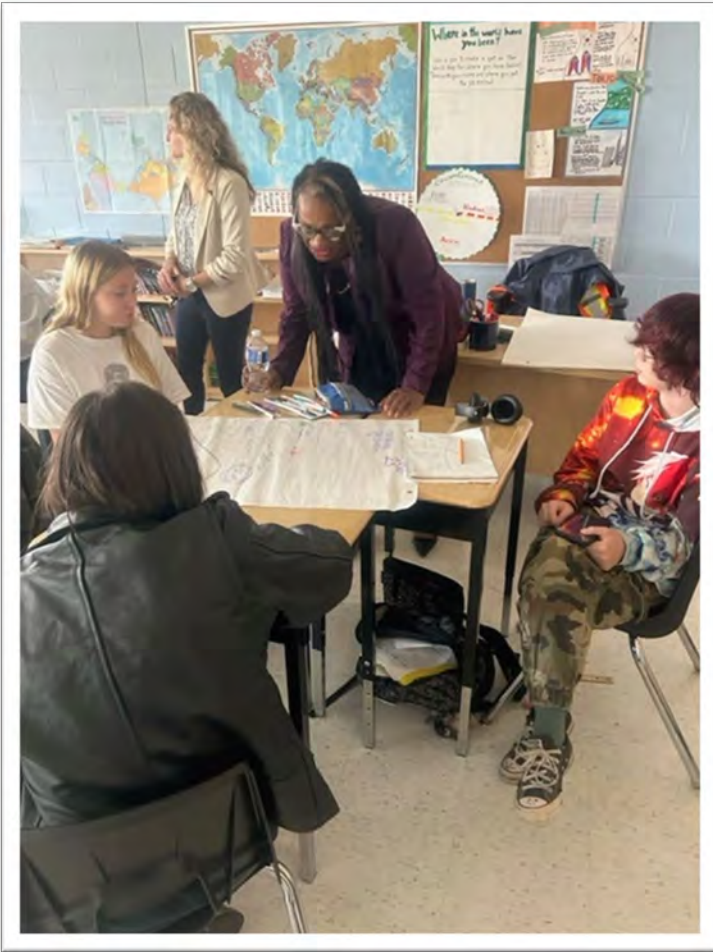
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# Welcome to the revitalized Sherwood Secondary School



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# Viola Desmond Elementary School



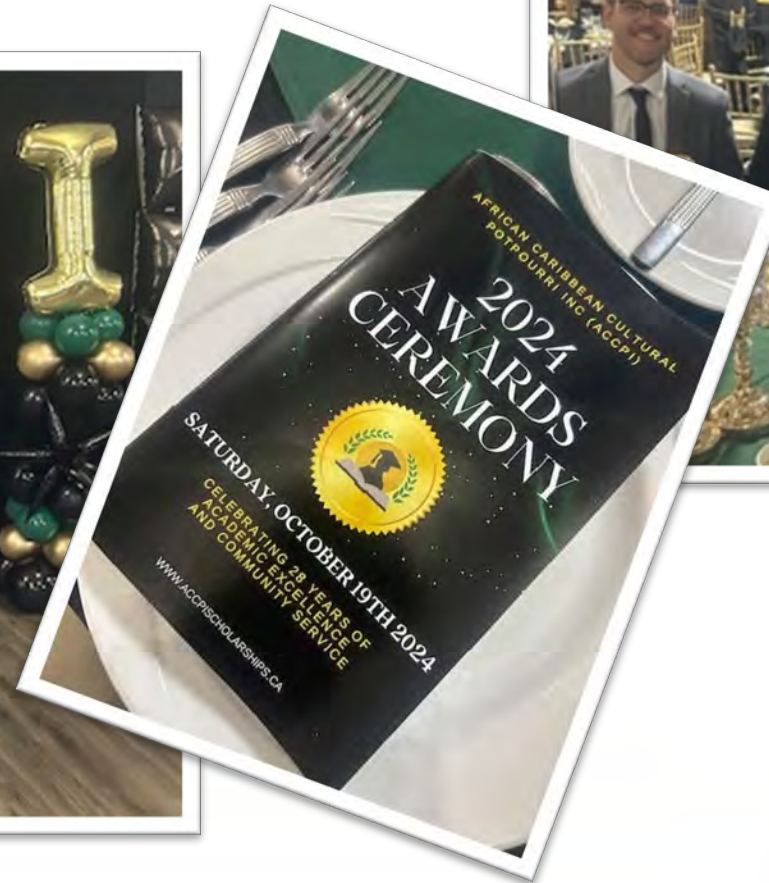
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# Celebrating HWDSB: 100 Years at W.H. Ballard



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# Celebrating HWDSB: 28<sup>th</sup> ACCPI Awards



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# Celebrating HWDSB: 28<sup>th</sup> ACCPI Awards

**Ines El Aker**



At Nova Frances Henderson Secondary, Ines was a model student. She had an exemplary academic record, but balanced that with extraordinary extracurricular involvement. She was dependable, responsible, and respectful of fellow students and staff. Ines always looks to encourage her peers to perform better. She is quick to provide assistance to her classmates to assure their academic success.

Ines demonstrated exceptional leadership skills in both school and community settings. Her leadership is based on her moral values, including human rights, equality and diversity. She is fueled by her desire for academic excellence and a commitment to enrich her community.

She was a member of the Student Council, being vice president for several years. She was also a member of the Black Student Union and the Muslim Association. She volunteered for a STEM summer camp at McMaster University assisting in fun and informative hands-on activities. There, she was commended for her dedication, passion, and enthusiasm. She also volunteered for a nonprofit organization for orphans in Africa.

Ines is an excellent team player and has been part of the basketball, volleyball and soccer teams.

Ines has entered the Engineering Coop stream at the University of Waterloo.

*Congratulations Ines!*

**Emilia Diaz-Ruiz**



Emilia is a graduate of Westdale Secondary School where she was an outstanding academic achiever as well as an active participant in extra-curricular and volunteer activities.

Emilia had a passion and interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and was recognized by being the recipient of numerous awards such as the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce Innovation Award, the Molten Academic Award and the Immerse Education Physics Scholarship Award.

In Emilia's grade 11 and 12 biology classes, she approached the challenge of new learning in the IB (International Baccalaureate) program with positivity and enthusiasm and this led to great success.


Emilia's extracurricular activities were wide-ranging and included Captain of Varsity Basketball, the Robotics Club, Student Council, HOSA Club, Physics Club & STEM Club, Math Contests, Varsity Soccer and Varsity Track.

Emilia has volunteered in ACCA's Summer Camp, the Hamilton Community Foundation and in Westdale School as a score keeper and student advisor.

Emilia is enrolled in the Bachelor of Engineering program at McGill University and is studying Chemical Engineering.

*Congratulations Emilia!*

**Tyson Gooden**



Tyson is a graduate of Saltfleet District High School.

Tyson has been an Honour Roll student while participating in many activities in his school. He has been recognized for his achievements as he received a number of awards such as the Heritage Green Community Trust Award, the John Holland Pillar Award, the Saltfleet School Male Athlete of the Year and the Glen Keeper McWhinney Award. His extra-curricular and community service experiences have been stellar and included membership of the Senior Badminton Team, Senior Boys Football, Mock Trial and Debate Team, and the Ultimate Frisby Team.

Among his various community service experiences, coaching his football and volunteering with 'Skate The Dream' has been the most impactful on his life. These activities allowed Tyson to directly engage with young children in marginalized communities and helped to make meaningful differences in their lives. Tyson also volunteered at the McMaster Sports Fitness School, the Hamilton 1000 Football League and the Bisons Football Team. These experiences have taught him the value of giving back to the community.

Tyson aims to pursue a career as an investment banker and will continue his education to navigate the financial markets.

Tyson attends Queen's University in the Bachelor of Commerce Program.

*Congratulations Tyson!*

**Lexy Sevor**



Lexy is an accomplished student, athlete and leader who has made a significant impact on her school and community. She is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where she is studying to become a sport psychologist. Her passion for understanding how athletes overcome challenges while maintaining a positive mindset has fueled her interest in sport psychology.

Lexy is deeply committed to leadership and volunteerism. As a member of Westmount's Athletic Council, she fostered a sense of belonging within the sports community. Since age 16, she has coached basketball and recently served as head coach for a junior boys' team. She is also a certified indoor and beach volleyball referee and has received the Award of Excellence from the Ontario Volleyball Association.

Lexy's achievements extend beyond athletics. Named Senior Athlete of the Year in 2024, she has accumulated over 400 volunteer hours while maintaining a 95% academic average. Lexy is also officially certified in French language, having achieved her DELF qualifications. As a role model for young Black athletes, she consistently demonstrates discipline and excellence. Lexy plans to further her education by pursuing a master's degree in Sports Psychology, continuing her commitment to empowering athletes.

*Congratulations Lexy!*

# Celebrating HWDSB: 28<sup>th</sup> ACCPI Awards

**Suzan Bachir**



Suzan is a proud Sudanese born graduate from Bernie Custis Secondary School.


Her positive nature, leadership spirit and community-minded approach were key qualities that enabled her to make significant contributions both within her school and community at large. Suzan balanced her academic responsibilities with her commitments as a member of Student Council, past president of the Muslim Students Association and member of the Black Youth Council. She would often volunteer to welcome new students to the Bernie Custis through her participation in Grade 8 nights and elementary school presentations.

Within her community, Suzan volunteered at the Hamilton General Hospital, the Ron Joyce Children's Health Centre, Hamilton Children's Water Festival, the Hamilton Indoor Games and at the Hamilton Downtown Mosque. She believes that finding joy starts with helping others and this attitude is evidenced in the impact that she's made in the lives of all who know her.

Suzan is currently enrolled in Health Sciences at Queen's University with a dream to return to her home country, Sudan as a trauma physician.

*Congratulations Suzan!*

**Sherlanda Raymond**



Sherlanda has always desired to become a teacher. She has discovered within herself a passion for guiding others to excellence, teaching new skills and connecting with people. Her commitment to fostering interpersonal relationships and her genuine compassion for humanity are qualities that will undoubtedly make her an inspiring and impactful teacher.

She is a graduate of Westmount Secondary School. There she was a member of the track and field team, the yearbook committee, debate club and the Future Health Professionals club (HOSA). Participation in those activities transformed her, from self-doubt, into a confident, well-rounded individual.

Sherlanda is a quick study, accepts suggestions readily and is always seeking ways for personal improvement. She works well independently and possesses strong work habits and organizational skills.

In the community, Sherlanda has been a volunteer at the Good Shepherd and has completed a Thriving Well program at Mohawk College. This 11-week program for BIPOC youth focuses on healthy living, building leadership skills and discussing world issues and their local impacts with like-minded students.

She has enrolled in the Arts and Science program at the University of Guelph.

*Congratulations Sherlanda!*

**Javan Rodney**



Javan is a graduate of Nora Frances Henderson Secondary School.

Javan has been a diligent student who worked hard and actively volunteered in the community. Javan was recognized with awards for his many achievements. These awards included: the Nikola Tesla Award, the John Holland Award for Creativity, the Hamilton Justice Education Award, and being on the Honour Roll for the last two years.

Javan's curiosity and aspirations was to learn more about how things were assembled and this led him into the manufacturing industry. He worked diligently and cooperatively to obtain his credits in the Manufacturing Technology classes. He was a confident and effective communicator who was able to design and create custom projects. He completed a co-op placement at a manufacturing facility in Hamilton and received stellar praise from the owner of the facility for Javan's skills, knowledge, willingness to learn and punctuality enabled him to be offered employment from the owner.

Javan's extra-curricular activities and community service were outstanding as he was a Peer Leader in the Manufacturing Course, a member of the Black Student Union, a volunteer Sound Technician in the Media Department of his church where he also helped feed and care for toddlers, shopped and packed hampers for needy families and designed holiday cards for seniors.

Javan's goal is to become an Aviation Engineer. He is enrolled in the Aviation Technician (Structures) Course at Mohawk College.

*Congratulations Javan!*

**Julia Wilmot**



As a student of Westmount Secondary School Julia was known for her strong work ethic, unwavering dedication and genuine enthusiasm for everything she pursues.

Through out her high school years, Julia participated in a variety of extra-curricular activities that showcased her diverse skill-set. In her senior year, she demonstrated her artistic and journalism skills as a journalism executive for the Westmount Secondary 2024 year book. Her attention to detail and creativity led to a high-quality publication that will continue to preserve timeless memories for her peers. Julia was also an integral member of her basketball team since 2021 where she modelled sportsmanship and the importance of team-building. Beyond her school commitments, she volunteered to support important causes such as raising awareness for autism through the "Autism Speaks" event and advocating for environmental initiatives through the "Green Venture" program.

Julia's commitment to improving the lives of everyone around her shows her empathetic nature and highlights her passion for making a difference. In an effort to give back to her community in a meaningful way, Julia earned her lifeguard and swimming instructor certificate to take on a voluntary role teaching children how to swim through out various neighbourhoods, providing them with a sense of confidence through water safety skills.

She has chosen to pursue a major in the School for Advanced Studies in Arts and Humanities and Neuroscience with a minor in Film at Western University.

*Congratulations Julia!*

**Camilla Rubin**



Camilla is a graduate of Westmount Secondary School.

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*Congratulations Camilla!*

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# Celebrating HWDSB: A Successful School Council Start Up!



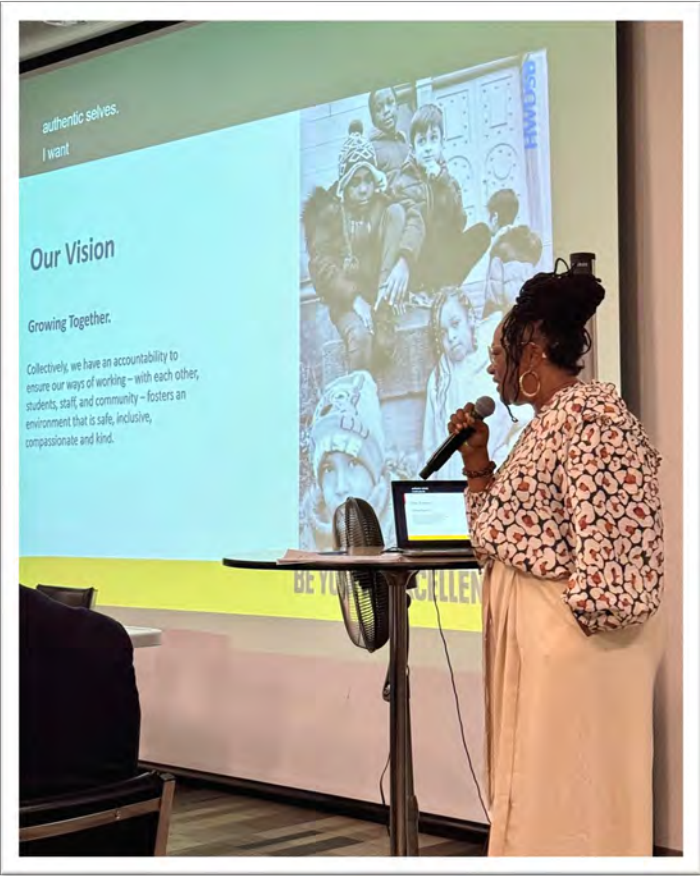
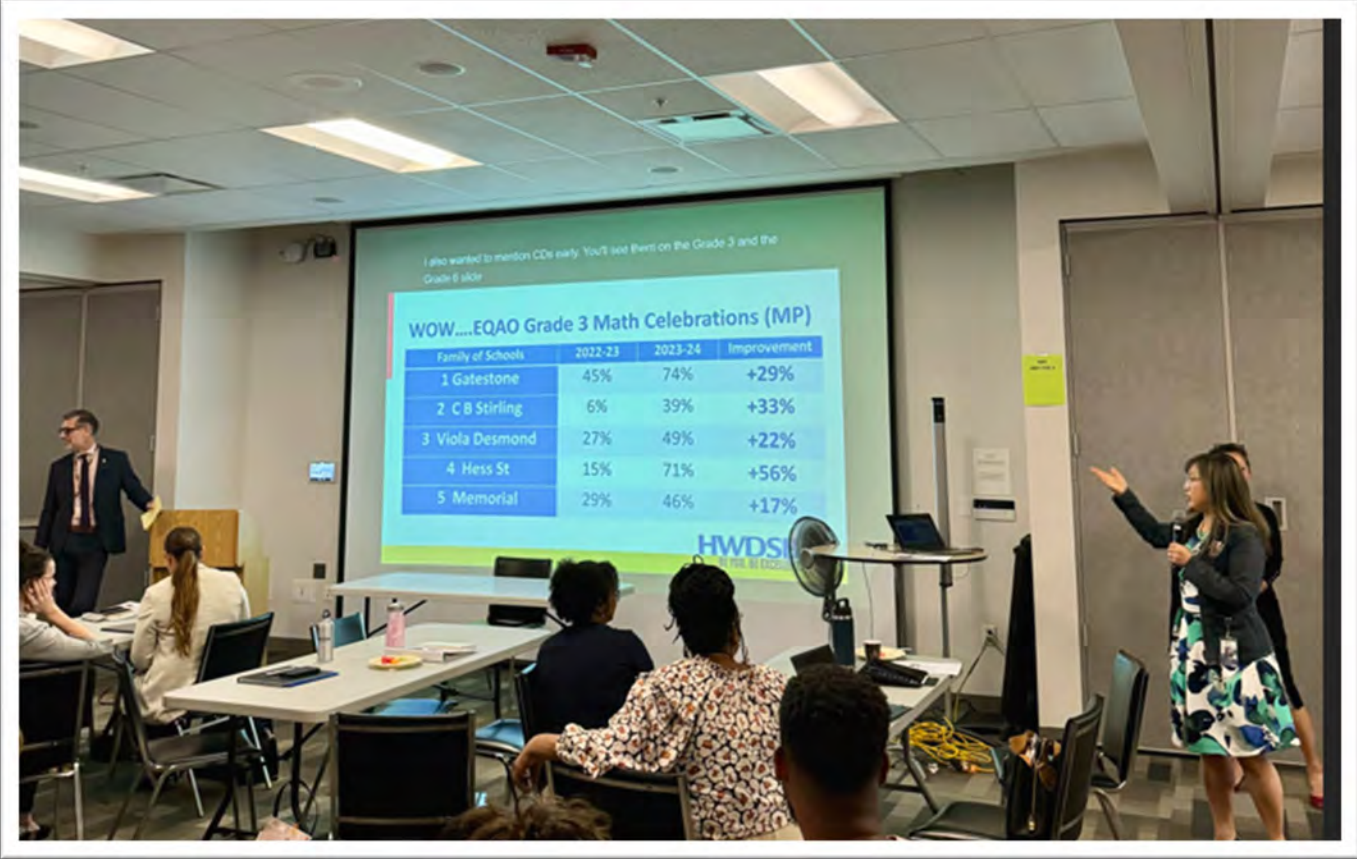
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# Celebrating HWDSB: On My Way Pathways Event



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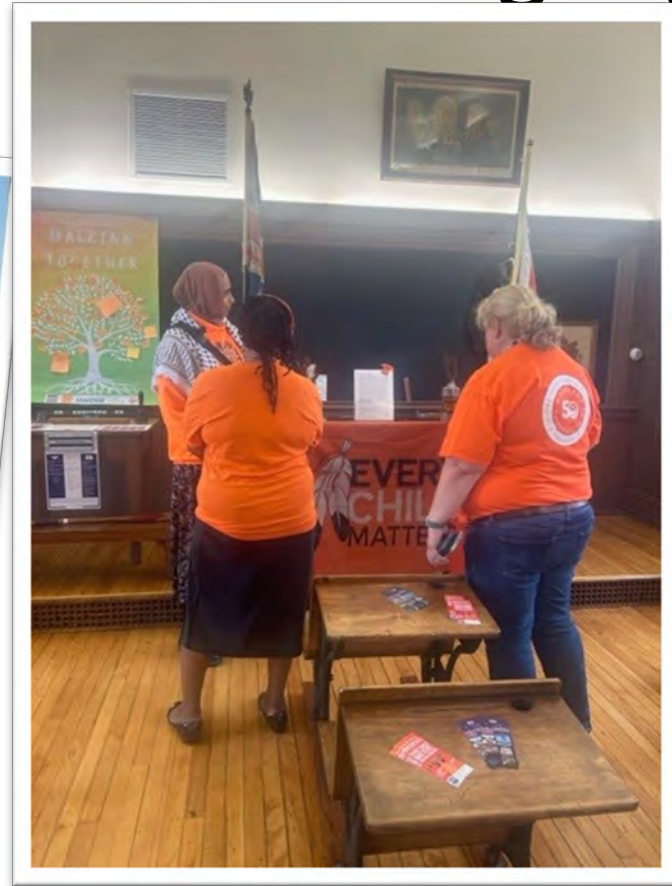
# Celebrating HWDSB: EQAO Results



# Reflection, Learning and Action – EQAO Results

Focus	Performance Indicators	Achievement 2022-2023	Achievement 2023-2024	Impact
<b>Improve literacy achievement for every student</b>	L3/4 EQAO Grade 3 Reading L3/4 EQAO Grade 3 Writing L3/4 EQAO Grade 6 Reading L3/4 EQAO Grade 6 Writing First Time Eligible (FTE) passing OSSLT	62% 53% 75% 73%*** 77%	67% 60% 75% 72% 77%	Up 5% Up 7% --- Down 1% ---
<b>Improve numeracy achievement for every student</b>	L3/4 EQAO Grade 3 Math L3/4 EQAO Grade 6 Math L3/4 EQAO Grade 9 Math	42% 35% 45%	51% 36% 47%	Up 9% Up 1% Up 2%

# Reflection, Learning and Action – Walking Together



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# October is:

- Women's History Month
- Learning Disabilities Awareness Month
- National Disability Employment Awareness Month
- Cyber Awareness Month
- Islamic Heritage Month
- Latin America Heritage Month
- October 31 – Diwali
- October 31 – Halloween
- Holocaust Education Week

## Upcoming:

- November 1st PA Day

**Thank you!**

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