



# Westminster Woods Public School

## 2021 Year End Newsletter

This is certainly an unusual end to an equally unusual and eventful year. We appreciate all that you have done to keep your children learning and engaged in remote learning and we hope that the Fall school start up will bring us a bit more normalcy. Students are scheduled to return on September 7th. Please keep watching the news and checking the school website for updated information. Plans for our return, as they become available, will be shared with our school community.

### **GOODBYES:**

We would like to say goodbye and thank you to Ms. Case, Mr. Downing, Mr. Forcey, Mr. Kraal, Mr. Zanette, Ms. Hamilton, Mrs. Gibson, Mr. Renaud, and Ms. Amaral-Bertozzi for the learning and experiences they provided to their students this year, and for the positive relationships developed with the Westminster staff and parent community!

Congratulations and all of our best wishes go to Mr. Hopkins who has been teaching for several years at Westminster and has accepted a position at another school in Guelph. You will be greatly missed by the students, staff and parent community!

Best wishes are also extended to Mr. Hejny on his retirement! Mr. Hejny has taught at Westminster for many years and, after a long career, has decided to begin a new journey! Mr. Hejny, you will be missed by so many. Thank you for all of your contributions over the years to our school!

### **WELCOME!**

We are pleased to welcome a new Kindergarten teacher to our school. Mrs. Nelson will be joining us in September!

We are also very fortunate to have Mrs. Ly, Ms. Furnival, Mr. Lockie, Mrs. Bauman, Ms. Lebrun and Mme. Campbell returning after their time away from Westminster.

### **TEMPORARY AND COMBINED GRADE (SPLIT) CLASSES**

Due to the numbers in our Elementary Remote School, our class compositions from the Board are temporary and will not be finalized until September (**we have been told that the classes we start September with are very likely to change**). Our number of classes, students in each class and number of combined grades are all determined centrally and we are not given flexibility to adjust this. Westminster Staff spend hours outside of instructional time composing classes. They consider who students work best with, friendships, the classroom environment and community, behavioural needs, interests and several other factors. When a student is placed in the higher grade of a combined class (ex. Grade 5 going into a 4/5), it is not because they are academically low, nor are they placed in there if they are academically strong and are in the lower grade. Academic strength is not a driving factor in these decisions. Every class needs, and will have, a wide variety of learners who are at different levels in it. This is the reality of our school system and provides opportunities for different levels of discourse, consolidation, and extension. Teachers always meet students where they're at in their learning. Here at Westminster, teachers do a great job of providing strong academic programming and do not teach students with a one-size-fits-all approach. Requests for class changes will not be considered.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

If your child is eligible for transportation and you do not plan on them riding the bus in the Fall of 2021, please contact the transportation consortium. All "opt-outs" are carried forward, so if your child did not ride the bus this year but will be next year, you will need to connect with them. Their website is <https://stwdsts.ca/> and they can be contacted at 519-824-4119.

## **SCHOOL OFFICE CLOSURE:**

Please be aware that the school office will be **CLOSED** as of **Wednesday June 30 at 3pm** and will re-open the afternoon of **Tuesday August 31st**.

Have a happy and safe summer.

Sincerely,

Allison Stoffman  
Principal