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Council**

Please join us for
School Council
Meetings on the last
Tuesday of every month
at 7:15pm in the Library

**Principal's Message****Important Dates**

Nov. 18 - Midterm Reports go home
Nov. 25 - PA Day
Nov. 28 - Last day to drop a course

Dec. 5⇒9 - Grad Photos
Dec. 9 - Winter Semi-Formal
Dec. 16 - Winter Music Concert
Dec. 23 - Talent Show
Dec. 23 - Staff/Student Basketball Game
Dec. 26⇒Jan. 6 - Christmas Holidays

Jan. 9 - First day of classes in 2017
Jan. 10⇒13 - Winter Camping
Jan. 17 - Senior Art Show
Jan. 18 & 20 - Grade 9 EQAO Test
Jan. 20 - University Apps Due
Jan. 26⇒Feb. 2 - Semester 1 Exams

Feb. 3 - PA Day
Feb. 6 - Semester 2 Begins

Pedestrian Crossing

In September there was a petition by Westside students and a presentation from a Westside teacher asking Town Council to create a pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Alder St. and Montgomery Rd.

The Public Works department has now completed a review of the intersection and will be presenting their findings at the next Town Council meeting on Nov. 28th at Town Hall. Parents and students are encouraged to attend this meeting to show your support for a new crosswalk.

Welcome to another school year! Can you believe we are already a quarter of the way through?

In the past month we celebrated another Commencement, Thanksgiving, and Halloween. Our Parent-Student-Teacher interview night was very well attended. We also received our Grade 10 literacy and grade 9 math EQAO results from last year, and are very excited to report that Westside students did incredibly well again. Last year, more grade 10 students at Westside passed the test than the year before. Our pass rate (a score of 300 or more out of 400) was 3% higher than the rest of the province. In math, grade 9 students who scored level 3 or 4 that were studying at the academic level were 3% higher than the province and at the applied level were 23% higher than the rest of the province. Go Thunder!

Staff and students have been involved in many activities this semester through a large array of clubs and teams. Boys' soccer, Boys' volleyball and Girls' basketball wrapped up their seasons with the boys teams taking a district 4 title. Boys' hockey and basketball and Girls' volleyball are just beginning. Next week is *Bullying Awareness and Prevention* week. Several activities are planned so ask your student what's happening.

Our school bands have been busy entertaining us at numerous events such as Commencement and Pink Day. Our music students are always looking for a chance to perform and recently had the chance at the Laurelwoods Remembrance Day assembly. The band is planning to visit all our partner schools next month and use music to help start the holiday season.

This year's Pink Day, our annual fundraiser for breast cancer, was the biggest success ever with staff and students raising over \$23,000 putting the grand 12 year total well over \$100,000. Way to go Westside!

Last week students took time to honor the men and women who gave their lives so we could have the freedoms we enjoy today. Staff and students remembered and celebrated with a very moving ceremony at the school. Thank you to the members of the Legion, who were able to join us for our assembly. Special thanks to our grade 10 students who were able to go to the cenotaph on Remembrance Day.

There have been a few new staff since the beginning of this year: a big welcome goes out to Ms. Griffith (technology), Mr. Heaslip (Math), Ms. Lacroix (English), Mr. Mackintosh (Technology), Mr. Matchett (English), Mr. Mosurinjohn (Careers), Ms. Leduc Mitchell (French), Ms. Phillips (Art), Ms. Ramchandani (Social Science), Mr. Steele (Science/Math), and Ms. Vivian (English).

Don't forget Friday Nov 25st is a PD day. Our teachers will be following up from the first PD day, on September 30th, where we worked on assessment with facilitator Sandra Herbst. Teachers are learning how to triangulate student learning data by collecting and using data from observations, conversations and products.

Eco Team

EcoTeam's goal this year is to make WSS a silver EcoSchool. Last year we earned our bronze status but we know we can do better! To help achieve our goal we have started the year off with some great initiatives including:

- **A Battery Drive:** Our goal is to keep batteries out of our landfills as the acid inside of batteries can pollute our environment. Block B classes are currently competing to bring in the most batteries, as the winning class of each month will get a Timbit party!
- **GOOS Paper:** GOOS (good on one side) bins have been put in each class to help reuse paper. Not only is this a good idea for classrooms but homes as well!
- **Pen and Marker Recycling:** We are collecting and recycling old pens, markers, etc. as Staples will take these items and recycle the plastic for us.
- **Ink Cartridge and Electronics Recycling:** Old toner cartridges and small electronics (cellphones, calculators, etc.) are collected in a bin in the office to be properly recycled.

EcoTeam also plans to have waste and energy audits to help us get a better understanding of our school's environmental footprint and how we can reduce it!

The Eco Team meets Tuesdays at lunch.

OSSLT

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) is set to run on Thursday, March 30, 2017. All grade 10 students, along with any grade 11 student who was previously unsuccessful on the test, will be writing on that day. Successful completion of this standardized test is a graduation requirement. Currently, EQAO plans to deliver this regularly scheduled OSSLT in March 2017, which students will be able to take either online or on paper.



Pass The Test Program

Preparing for the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

Is your child writing the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) this year? This year's Literacy Test will be administered on **Thursday, March 30, 2017**. For any of our grade 10's or grade 11's writing the test, Westside is offering a free course to help you prepare. The course provides students with an opportunity to improve their reading and writing skills through direct classroom instruction on the tasks of the OSSLT. The **"Pass the Test Program"** will run after school, two afternoons a week, for five weeks starting in February 2017.

To sign up for the program, or for more information, please call Mrs. Will at 519-938-9355 x271.

The Music Program at Westside is full of activity this year. The Honour Band, made up of members who auditioned for a spot in the ensemble, meet every Wednesday to rehearse for various performances, as well as preparing for competition in March. The Community Band meets every Thursday after school, the musicians range from grade 9 - 12. It is a group for musicians who are developing their skill while being mentored by their senior peers. We have our Ukulele club that meets every Friday at lunch for all staff and students for some sing and play along fun.

The music department has been very busy this semester, we have had our Breakfast Television debut, we performed for Graduation, Pink Day assembly, the Remembrance Day ceremonies both at Westside and Laurelwoods. Now we are getting ready to go on a two day road trip to perform locally at our feeder schools to bring in the Christmas cheer.

Stay tuned for more information on our ARTS night celebration on January 17th, 2017.



Coaches and Club Advisors

A MASSIVE heartfelt thank you goes out all of our dedicated and hardworking coaching staff. Coaching requires many different talents: patience, time management, a competitive spirit, and an understanding how important team opportunities are for many of our students.

When seasons are in full swing, coaching often takes up 4 out of 5 days a week. This might be a 7am practice, or one that ends at 6pm. Games might be as far away as Mount Forest, and that would mean that coach returns to Westside, on the bus, only to turn around to drive home to Guelph where they will then have to plan and prep for the next day.

Our bands practice most days at lunch and many days after school as well - all year long. Our school community is so much richer, our students learn so many valuable lessons about resilience, teamwork and balance. Parents and students, if you have the opportunity, thank your coaches and club advisors for volunteering their time and for their dedication.



Follow
@WestsideThunder

Westside Goes Pink In a Big Way!

This year Westside celebrated its 12th annual Pink Day in support of the Breast Cancer Society of Canada. Since we began in 2004, Pink Day has been a day of incredible spirit within the school, and a day to bring awareness and hope to a disease that has affected so many within our school and community.

Last year, Westside was recognized as the top fundraiser in the entire nation raising over \$12,000. Our hope this year was to repeat as top fundraiser, but also to surpass a cumulative total of \$100,000 since Pink Day started. With this in mind, we wanted to make this year's event extra special. So, with the help of our social media savvy student population, a twitter campaign was started to convince Kevin Frankish and Breakfast Television to cover what was happening at the school. It did not take long for them to say yes and our planning was kicked up a notch.

This year we hosted a Pink Pancake Breakfast, which aired live several times on Breakfast Television, in addition to our traditional pink assembly at the end of day. We had the support of many members of our community that either sponsored our amazing students who shaved their heads, donated their hair or had a leg wax, or donated financially to our campaign. We also had a number of donations to our staff raffles and auctions. We are so incredibly thankful for the generous support of our community.



That being said, after so much planning and hard work, we are pleased to announce that Westside Secondary School will be presenting the Breast Cancer Society of Canada with a cheque of over \$23, 000.00. What an amazing accomplishment!

A huge thank you to the many students who were involved in the planning of the event, and the hours of work they put into making the day as memorable as it was. Their spirit, ideas and support were unparalleled.

A special Thank You goes out to, Scotia Bank, Tire Discounter, Headwater Racquet Club, MacDonald's (Riddell Road), Gay Lea, Freshco and Dairy Queen for their sponsorship in our Pink Day event!

A Word about Community Coaches

We are always so grateful when parents and community members step forward to help out with a club or team. Sometimes we are limited in our programming because there isn't a staff member available to run a program. However, even with a community coach, we must have a staff member as the Primary coach.

Please check with the office to see if there is a need for help coaching.

ngdsb.schoolcashonline.com

A message from our Student Union President, Coltrane Yan

Westside's Student Union hit the ground running this fall, starting with a wet, muddy Terry Fox Run that raised over \$700 for the Foundation. The students at Westside continued to showcase their extraordinary generosity, with Westside's Pink Day fundraiser in support of breast cancer kicking off in November. The nationally-televised event, featuring a pancake breakfast, generous donations from local businesses, and Breakfast Television host Kevin Frankish. Our school raised over \$23 000.00, and blew past our goal of \$100,000 in total donations to the Breast Cancer Society of Canada. The Student Union is now hard at work planning for our upcoming winter festivities, including the first semi-formal dance of the year, our traditional staff-student hockey game (go students!), and of course, "Ugly Winter Sweater" Day. Stay tuned for Christmas movies and hot chocolate in December!

The Student Union meets Wednesdays at lunch in Room 321, new members are always welcome.

STAY CONNECTED

See our website for daily announcements
www.ugdsb.on.ca/westside

Receive regular school messages on your phone (ie. No bus days and schedule changes)
Text to 705-230-2295 the message @d6391

Follow us on Twitter for event news
@WestsideThunder

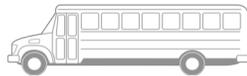
Teams and Clubs

We have had an amazing start to our Co-curricular program. Some of the clubs that our students can participate in are up and running already: Ms. Padgett has many bands going, and she also started The Ukulele Club; The library plays host to many of our games clubs; The Art club, Link Crew, and Magic Club also meet regularly.



Our first season teams are just winding down while tryouts are heating up for our second season sports. Our Senior Boys soccer team will re-emerge in the spring to go to CWOSSA. Our Junior Boys Volleyball team had a great season and is heading to CWOSSA this week. Boys and Girls Hockey is already underway. Rehearsals for the Drama production of Robin Hood are also underway.

TRANSPORTATION NEWS



To check bus info go to www.findmyschool.ca and login with your child's OEN number (located on report card), school name, birth date and house number.

To receive an email when your child's bus has been cancelled or is delayed, subscribe to Wellington-Dufferin Student Transportation Services (STWDSTS) subscription service at <https://www.findmyschool.ca/subscriptions/login.aspx> and follow the directions.

If your address changes, please call and advise STWDSTS at 519-824-4119 ASAP.

Follow STWDSTS on Twitter @stwdsts.

Please make sure you connect with us to hear about inclement weather, cancellations and important information.

Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week

Ontario has designated the week beginning on the third Sunday of November as Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week to help promote safe schools and a positive learning environment.

During Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week – November 20-26, 2016 – Ontario students, school staff and parents are encouraged to learn more about bullying and its effect on student learning and well-being.

Ask your student what's happening at Westside this week!

Dufferin Parent Needed ...

The Upper Grand DSB is looking for parents of secondary students (Gr 9-12) in Dufferin interested in serving on a Secondary French as a Second Language (FSL) Review Committee. This committee is to serve in an advisory role with respect to the UGDSB's French as a Second Language instruction and delivery models. This committee will meet once each month from December, 2016 until May, 2017.

The parent representatives of this committee include those whose children have experience in different French delivery models including Core French and French Immersion. For further information, please contact the school principal.

A HUGE thank you to all of those families who made a purchase of frozen cookie dough during Student Union's first ever Frozen Cookie Dough Sale. The funds raised help Student Union run programs at school. Our orders will be in the week of November 28th. Stay tuned!



ONLINE ATTENDANCE

Currently the Aizan System is calling home for student absences, but you can monitor your child's attendance each day online by following these instructions:

Website address: <https://students.ugdsb.on.ca/WSS/Students>
or follow the attendance link on the Westside Website: www.ugdsb.on.ca/Westside

Username

- First 5 letters of the student's last name, followed by the first 3 letters of the student's first name.

Password

- The student's 9 digit OEN. This number can be found on a report card or on a student card. If unsure, please contact Student Services at extension 212