



WESTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL

September 2016 Newsletter

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:

Welcome to Westwood! We are extremely excited for the year to begin and to reconnect with our students and parents as well as meet and welcome our new families. Westwood is a busy Kindergarten to Grade 8 school with many events occurring each week. A great way to keep informed of our activities is to check our school website www.ugdsb.on.ca/westwood.

I would like to welcome some new staff and returning staff to Westwood this fall. Mr. Cloutier is our new Vice Principal. Mr Fletcher is teaching Grade 2/3, Mr Kenney Grade 5 and Ms. Awad is also teaching Grade 5. Mrs. Halls, Ms. Watson, and Ms. Schinck are new to our team of Educational Assistants. We are looking forward to another great year at Westwood!

A smooth transition for students coming to Westwood is a top priority for us, however, classroom reorganization as a result of Ministry mandated caps is always a possibility. Therefore, during the first two weeks of school classroom placements are considered tentative. If changes must be made, parents will be notified and we will make every effort to keep disruption to a minimum. Please do not hesitate to contact me at the school if you have questions or concerns.

In addition to the automated call you received last week, I would like to remind parents and students that our school is a fragrance/scent aware environment. There are staff members and/or students who could suffer adverse reactions and health effects when exposed to even a small amount of fragrance or scents. We are asking that the community support us in our efforts to promote a scent-aware environment by refraining from wearing fragrances or scented products to school when visiting the school, even if your visit will be short. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and for becoming part of our solution to providing a scent-free environment.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, concerns or comments.

Tara Topping
Principal

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR READING BUDDY PROGRAM:

As educators we are always looking for ways to improve a child's learning. We continue to strive to improve our primary students' proficiency and love of reading. Thus, we are looking at concentrating our volunteer efforts on children who find reading a challenge. Specifically we are looking for volunteers who would be interested in reading to children and with children. This

volunteer program is coordinated through Mrs. Walton and two dedicated parent volunteers. No experience is necessary. Please contact Tara Topping at 519-823-5450 ext. 223 or via email at tara.topping@ugdsb.on.ca if you are interested.

VERIFICATION FORMS:

Verification forms have been sent home in our 1st day packages. We ask that you make any changes or corrections to the information, sign and date them and return them to the teacher as soon as possible. **It is important that we have updated information in case of an emergency.** Forms for computer use, walking trip permission and lunch must also be completed, signed and returned as soon as possible. Please return all forms at the same time as one completed package. Thank you.

CUSTODY:

In the cases of special custody, it is very important to provide the office with the most up-to-date paperwork possible. If we do not have paperwork with regards to custody, both parents are entitled to equal rights.

BELL TIMES:

8:50	-Entry
10:30 to 11:10	-Nutritional Break 1
12:50 to 1:30	-Nutritional Break 2
3:10	-Dismissal

PIZZA:

Pizza sales will begin the second week of school on Wednesday, September 14th. Pizza will be sold on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays this year. The cost of a slice is \$1.25.

MILK:

Student milk orders will be sent home the week of Sept 12th and the lunch milk program will begin the week of September 26th.

ATTENDANCE:

Regular school attendance is a key ingredient for student success. However, it is essential that you contact us if your child will be late or absent from school. The answering machine is available 24 hours a day. To report an absence or late arrival, call the school at 823-5450, extension 100 and leave a message stating student's name, teacher, reason and date(s) of absence. If we do not hear from you, we will be contacting you to confirm your child's absence. For the safety of your children, it is important to know where they are. If your future plans include a family vacation of 15 or more consecutive school days, please notify the Principal in writing of your plans, in accordance with Ministry of Education Guidelines.

RECORDING SCHOOL EVENTS AND PRIVACY:

It is a wonderful community activity to present school plays, assemblies and other events. However, there is a risk that recording such events will invade the privacy rights of students,

parents and staff. We have been asked to remind parents, students and community members that personally recording school events and then subsequent public posting of those recordings on social networks is not respectful of the privacy rights of all those parents, staff, and particularly students whose images are shared without their knowledge or permission. Please contact the school if you have any questions or concerns.

AGENDAS:

Students in grades 1 to 8 are expected to purchase a school Agenda. These organizers help students to keep track of deadlines, test dates and upcoming events. Parents can help their children to develop good work habits and organizational skills by checking and signing the Agenda daily. It is also a great way for parents to communicate with the teacher. The cost of the Agenda is \$7.00. Payment should be sent to your child's teacher by September 16th.

TERRY FOX RUN:

Our Terry Fox walk will take place in September. Please watch for the special letter coming home.

SAFETY PATROLS:

Our patrols perform a very important duty each and every day of the school year. It is their responsibility to look out for the safety of our students as they walk to and from school. In order for this to happen, patrollers need the respect and cooperation of all Westwood students. As parents, you can help by encouraging your child to obey safety patrollers at all times and use the patrolled crosswalks. Crossing guards can be spotted by their bright yellow vests in the parking lot and at Rhonda and Willow Rd.

Please remember that vehicle access to the parking lot strictly prohibited from 8:35-8:50 and 3:10-3:25 for the safety of our students. Safety Patrols are there to direct students and parents to use the path.

MEDICAL ALERT LIST:

Each year we compile a list of students who have a potential "life threatening" medical condition, such as an allergy to nuts, requiring the administration of an epipen. If your child is considered one of these high risk students, please contact the main office so that we can prepare a Life Threatening Management Plan in case of emergency. This information is shared with staff.

Where oral medication must be administered to pupils by school personnel, the parent/guardian must:

- a) provide written authorization on the Consent for Administration of Oral Medication form;
- b) deliver to the Principal or designate the required medication in a labeled "tamper-proof" container;
- c) ensure the container has a pharmaceutical sticker attached indicating the name of the child and directions for administration;
- d) instruct their child to attend the school office for medication as per the schedule for administration as established in conjunction with the school Principal.

ALLERGY ALERT:

We have several students in the school at various grade levels who have severe allergies to peanut and/or nut products and other life threatening allergies. For these students, contact with peanuts/nuts can be life threatening. Nut allergy is one of the most difficult to control, because it can be transmitted by a child with just a trace of peanut oil on his or her hands touching a desk or drinking fountain with which the allergic child comes in contact. Thank you for your help in keeping our children healthy and safe.

PLEASE NOTE: Alternative Soy Products, which are designed to look, smell and taste like peanut butter are thought to create safety concerns for those with nut allergies and are also to be avoided.

SCHOOL COUNCIL:

Parent Council is excited and ready for another fantastic year here at Westwood. Our End of Year Yard Party was a huge success – thanks to all who came out and celebrated with us! We can't wait to do it again. We will be kicking off the school year with our **first Parent Council meet on Thursday, September 15 at 6:45pm in the community room**. Join us as we look ahead and discuss ways to give back to the school and develop a strong community with parents, students, and school staff all working together! Have a great first week back.

Westwood Parent Council

VISITORS TO OUR SCHOOL:

Visitors are more than welcome to our school, but in order to maintain a safe environment for our children, all visitors (including parents) must sign in at the office and take a visitor tag before going anywhere in the school. If you are coming to pick up your child early, please come to the office rather than going directly to the classroom and sign him/her out. If you are coming to school to meet your child at the regular dismissal time, please wait at the exit doors.

BUS PARENTS:

Please note: We will be doing daily bus attendance before the bus leaves the school in the afternoon. If your child will not be on the bus in the afternoon, please send a note to their teacher or call into the office at the school. We will hold the bus until all bus students are accounted for.

FSLAC

The UGDSB is establishing a French Second Language Advisory Committee (FSLAC). The Committee will serve in an advisory role and make recommendations with respect to the FSL Action Plan and the French Immersion JK Registration Process for 2017 and beyond. Eleven Committee members will be selected from all areas of the Board, and will be parents of current elementary or secondary FSL students in either French Immersion or Core French programs. Interested parents may forward an application to Superintendent Tracey Lindsay which includes the following:

1. A statement explaining why they are interested in serving on the FSLAC.
2. The current grade their children are in, in what FSL programs and attending which school.
3. A brief outline of your school and/or community volunteer experiences.

Applications may be emailed to Tracey Lindsay at tracey.lindsay@ugdsb.on.ca.