



Westwood Public School

October 2017 Newsletter



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:

We have had a busy but great start to the school year. I would encourage you install the UG App on your smartphone for notifications for fast and easy access to the school newsletters, calendar and Twitter feed. [Find the how to instructions here.](#)

This year we are adding to our environmental goals as we strive to become a Platinum Level Eco School. We are encouraging students to bring reusable water bottles daily and avoid juice boxes and other containers that end up in the garbage. This initiative, while reducing the amount of garbage will also benefit our students' health as they consume more water on a daily basis. We are also very excited to start composting all our organics. Arrangements have been made to pick up all food and paper towel waste on a weekly basis. Way to go Green Hornets!!

School Council is meeting Thursday October, 5 at 6:45pm in the community room. Hoping to see many of our new and returning parents at the meeting. Our Council plans great events for our students and school community throughout the year, and your participation is an excellent way to voice your ideas and opinions. Looking forward to seeing you on Thursday!

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call or meet with me at the school.

Sincerely,
Tara Topping
519-823-5450 ex. 223

TERRY FOX:

A huge thank you to all our Westwood families and staff. The year is the 37th Terry Fox Walk and our school rose to the challenge that Terry left us. If you still have pledges, please submit them to the school. Stay tuned to find out how much money we raised! Way to go Westwood!

Lice at School

The Canadian Pediatric Society has stated that head lice is no longer considered a Public Health issue. Lice do NOT carry any diseases and it is now considered a public nuisance. Therefore the local Public Health Unit is no longer advising on head lice. Research indicates that school based head checks are ineffective and they create heightened anxiety for students and their families. If students are found with head lice, we will contact the parents AND we will send notes home to all students in the class, but as per the Canadian Pediatric Society's recommendations, we will NOT require our students to stay home until the lice have been removed. We are asking all parents to please check their children for lice at home and let us

know if they need any help to purchase the special shampoo. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Westwood's Safety Patrol Team:

Students on our Westwood Safety Patrol Team 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, patrols need the respect and cooperation of all Westwood students. As parents, you can help by encouraging your child to obey safety patrols at all times and use the patrolled crosswalks.

Safety Patrol Students patrol at the following crosswalks at the following times:
Rhonda & Willow, and Westwood's Parking Lot at 8:35-8:50 & 3:10-3:25.

READING BUDDY PROGRAM:

The Reading Buddy Program is off to a great start but we need more volunteers. If you can spare an hour and a half per week, we have volunteer opportunities for parents to read with children throughout the school. Parent volunteers will be trained by other parent volunteers. Please contact the office to arrange for a police check prior to starting the program.



WESTWOOD SCHOOL AND THE GUELPH STORM:

Westwood wants to thank BALNAR MANAGEMENT again this year for providing season tickets to the Storm games!! WOW! Westwood Storm fans are going to really enjoy cheering on the Storm! Save the date November 19 in your calendar as the Westwood choir will be singing O Canada at the Storm game!!



SCHOOL PHOTO DAY:

School photos will take place on Wednesday, October 4.

OCTOBER PD DAY:

There is a PD Day on Friday October 27th - there will be no school for students on this day as staff will be participating in professional development activities for the day.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Oct 3 Intermediate Cross Country Run at Rockwood
- Oct 4 Picture Day & National Walk to School Day
- Oct 5 Homework Club begins (Grade 3s)
- Oct 5 School Council Meeting (6:45pm)
- Oct 6 Orange t-shirt day & QSP Kick off Assembly

Oct 9	Thanksgiving Monday - No School
Oct 17	IEPs go home
Oct 27	PD Day - No School for Students
Oct 31	Halloween Parade and whole school assembly

First Nation, Métis, Inuit Self-identification:

If your child is a member of a First Nation, the Métis or the Inuit, then please consider having him or her self-identify. Self-identification helps in several ways:

1. Students will have access to more culturally relevant programming and opportunities for unique cultural and academic experiences.
2. The school system will have an opportunity to focus efforts and resources, as well as an increased awareness of the diverse needs of indigenous families.
3. The school community will have an opportunity for building relationships to increase student success and well being.

Share your pride in your heritage! Please come to the office (or have your child do so) to get a card that can be filled in and submitted if you wish to self-identify

Individual Education Plans (IEPs):

Individual Education Plans, or IEPs, are developed by schools when assessments show that a student needs special education programming and/or services. The development of the IEP should be a collaborative process that includes parents and the student (if possible). During the development phase, schools are required to seek feedback through consultation with parents. This is your opportunity to discuss and share information with the classroom teacher and/or special education teacher regarding your child's education. If your child had an IEP last year, you will see a copy of this working document come home within the first 30 school days.

When the IEP is sent home, you will also receive a booklet titled, Parents' Guide to the Individual Education Plan. This booklet is a resource to help parents understand how an IEP is developed, what is included in an IEP, and how an IEP supports your child. It also includes definitions and explanations to help parents understand some of the language that is part of an IEP, such as accommodations and modifications.

One more item that will accompany your child's IEP this year is a Parent/Guardian IEP Questionnaire. We want to know your ideas about your child's Individual Education Plan (IEP). Your ideas will be used to help us improve the IEP processes in our schools, and help us provide parents/guardians with the special education information they are looking for. Please take a few moments to share your ideas and return the questionnaire to the school office. If you need any help with completing this questionnaire, your child's classroom or special education teacher can assist you.