

Westwood Public School Newsletter – March 2018



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:

The Westwood Boogie-a-thon is almost here! Our dance team has been preparing and will be teaching the dances to students so they will be ready to boogie down on March 9th. Please continue to get pledges from family and friends. This is our biggest school fund raiser and all of the money goes directly to materials and technology for student use in the classrooms.

The Live Free from Hunger Campaign is running this week. We are encouraging students to bring in toonies as donations to our Breakfast, Snack and Lunch program. Each day at Westwood, over 55 students take from our food programs. Although we receive some funding for the program, we rely on donations as well to ensure we have enough food for our students. Please consider contributing if you can, by Friday, March 9 either with cash at the school or on-line at www.livefreecampaign.ca

As you have likely noticed, there is no shortage of mud on the school yard! Please remind your children to continue to wear their boots when playing outside. You may also want to check to see if they have an extra change of clothes in their backpack. Although we try to keep them away from the muddier areas, we have had several slips and falls this week and have had to make phone calls home for a change of clothes. Sorry for the inconvenience.

We will be practicing our annual Lockdown drill on Wednesday, March 7 in the afternoon. This is just a drill but students will be talking about it in their class. The Guelph Police will be running a Lockdown drill with our staff and students on Thursday, April 5. Again, this is only a drill and is a requirement of all schools to complete annually.

Please don't hesitate to contact the office or your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

I hope everyone has a wonderful and safe March Break!

Sincerely,

Tara Topping
Principal

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- March 2 Spread the Word Launch Grade 7/8
- March 2 Street Patrols to the Guelph Storm Game (7pm)
- March 6 Grade 6 VIP program
- March 6 Grade 7/8 Police Visits
- March 7 Lockdown Drill Practice
- March 9 Life Free Campaign ends

March 9 Westwood Movie Night 6:30pm in the gym
March 12-16 March Break
March 19 School back in from March Break
March 21 River Run Trip Grade 7/8
March 23 Social Change Maker's Leadership Program Grade 7/8
March 26 Grade 8 Graduation photos and Sibling photos
March 27 Divisional Assemblies
March 30 Good Friday- No school for students

CLIMATE SURVEY:

- This is an anonymous survey that is completed every two years
- Allows the School and Board the opportunity to assess the perceptions of safety from students, staff, and parents
- The data is then used to make informed planning decisions and to determine the effectiveness of programs

Below is a link to the Parent Climate Survey. Your input is greatly appreciated! Survey closes March 9th.

Parent survey link: https://uoguelph.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9NxSF6jZm5l11Hv

MOVIE NIGHT:

School Council is hosting a movie night on March 9 in the gym. You are invited to watch **FERDINAND!** The movie begins at 6:30pm. Bring a lawn chair or blankets to sit on. We will have popcorn and drinks for purchase in the gym. Hope to see you there.

PIZZA ORDERS:

If you are having difficulty ordering pizza on-line, please come in and see Ms. Bulmer in the office. She is happy to assist if you don't have a credit card and need to pay for the month using cash. Orders must be paid for by the month and need to be ordered prior to the start of the month. For example, if you want to buy pizza for April using cash, please come and see Ms. Bulmer on or before March 27.

SAFETY PATROL NEWS:

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 & Westwood's Parking Lot at 8:35-8:50 & 3:20-3:35.

Upcoming Patrol Events:

Hot Chocolate Program - December to March 11th (Bring a mug on Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays)

Guelph Storm Game- Friday March 3

Winter MVP Award - Congratulations Brogan M.

Information from Public Health:

March is Nutrition Month! Starting from a young age, inspiring children to shop, cook and prepare food can set them up for a lifetime of healthy eating. A great way to teach kids about food is to let them shop and cook with you. Kids are also much more likely to eat what they make, so cooking at home is a great tip if you have picky eaters.

Here are four tips to get your kids involved in cooking:

1. **Pick a recipe together:** Children need to be part of the plan from the beginning, and it helps if they prepare something that they love to eat. Shop for groceries together too!
2. **Keep it fun!** Imaginative play helps kids get deeply involved. Make a theme night or turn your kitchen into a restaurant or reality cooking show.
3. **Be a role model:** If you're excited, they will be too. Try a new food, describe the flavour and be adventurous to inspire your eaters to do the same. Get other members of the family involved.
4. **Be cool about the mess:** Spills and accidental messes happen, and it's important to remain calm about little mishaps. Keep kitchen towels handy for cleaning up spills.

For more information and fun healthy recipes, visit www.nutritionmonth2018.ca.

Monthly environmental activities to help celebrate our planet:

March 24th is Earth Hour!

*This Earth Hour, help shine a light on climate change
Switch off your light and switch on your social power!*

Join the global Movement! Celebrate Earth Hour on March 24th at 8:30pm.

Earth Hour's mission is uniting people to protect the planet by raising awareness of about climate change and encouraging positive action.

Earth Hour is more than an event. It is a movement that has achieved massive environmental impact, including legislation changes by harnessing the power of the crowd.

Ideas for your family to do for Earth Hour!

A simple event can be just turning off all non-essential lights on March 24th from 8:30-9:30 pm. For one hour, focus on your commitment to our planet. To celebrate, you can:

- prepare a candle lit dinner
- talk to your neighbours, or invite people over
- stargaze, or go camping in your backyard
- play board games, or charades
- host a concert, or a sing-a-long
- create or join your own community event
- have an Earth Hour every month!

The possibilities are endless!

(Select information taken from: www.earthhour.org)

Feedback Welcome on Draft Board Policies:

The Upper Grand District School Board is welcoming public input on draft policies. Currently under review is **Policy 517 – Service Dogs for Students**.

This policy is important to students, parents, staff, school councils, community partners and members of the local community because the use of a service dog by a student with a disability in the school requires the cooperation of the entire school community.

You are invited to review the draft documents and submit online feedback at

www.ugdsb.ca/board/policy. **The deadline for public input is March 29, 2018** at 4 p.m. EST.

Persons without internet access may call 519-822-4420 (or toll-free 1-800-321-4025) ext. 723 to request a printed copy of the draft documents