

# Willow Road Public School

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## March News

### From the Vice-Principal...

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It's hard to believe that Spring is around the corner. With the warmer weather comes melting snow and ice, so please have your child dress assuming they may be playing on wet grass. Packing an extra pair of gloves (or pants for younger students) is never a bad idea in the event of a slip on the wet grass. Wearing light splash pants and boots is still a good idea until grass areas are completely dry.

March break this year is from March 14-18, with the Easter long weekend shortly after this (March 25-28<sup>th</sup>). Please be safe during the holidays and have children stay away from melting waterways, as the water remains cold and runs fast this time of year.

Take the time during March to enjoy the extra family time and sunshine – and bond as a family. Although we all live busy lives, there is nothing more precious than taking time to enjoy childhood and family.

Have a great month of March!

Sean Cameron

### Updated Website and Communication

We have recently updated our school website – which now includes an updated Google calendar with school events. We are also in the midst of reviewing our classroom communications, as more and more teachers are communicating digitally with parents. Check out our new website, and stay tuned for more updates:

<http://www.ugdsb.ca/willow/>

### GRADE 8 GRAD PHOTOS

Grade 8 Grad photos will be taken on Monday March 7<sup>th</sup>. A proof sheet with ordering options for individual pictures will be sent out at a later date. If you wish to order the class composite, the order form with \$30 cash or cheque (made out to Lifetouch Canada) is due at the camera on March 5<sup>th</sup>.



### GRADE 8 GIRLS

Are you planning to wear heels for graduation? If you have never worn heels before, now is the time to start thinking about it and practicing. Start small and work your way up! Never wear brand new shoes to an event, always break them in first! Your feet will thank you! Remember, being able to walk properly in a smaller heel is better than a really high heel and not being able to walk.

### PROVINCE-WIDE ASSESSMENT

In the spring, our Grade 3 and 6 students will once again participate in the province-wide assessment of student achievement. This testing is being conducted by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO), an agency of the provincial government. The testing will provide valuable information on how well our children are learning. Our assessments will be at the end of May and early June with reading, writing and mathematics tasks and activities, based on the expectations in our Ontario curriculum. If you have a child in Grade 3

or 6 who will be away during this time, please let the office know so that we can accommodate this.

### PUBLIC HEALTH

Important Information from Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health:

For school attendance, parents are required by law to provide proof of their child's immunization to Public Health. To find out what vaccines are required and if your child's immunizations records are up-to-date, please call 1-800-265-7293 ext. 4396. You can also book an appointment for your child's immunization at any Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health Location.

If you've chosen not to immunize your child, you must have a notarized statement of medical exemption or a statement of conscious or religious belief on file with Public Health. Please contact Public Health at 1-800-265-7293 ext. 4396 to arrange for your child's exemption to be on file if you have not already done so.

If the Medical Officer of Health declares an outbreak of a disease in your child's school and his/her immunization record is not up-to-date with Public Health, or you have an exemption on file, your child will not be allowed to attend school for the entire duration of the outbreak.

### PUBLIC INPUT SOUGHT FOR DRAFT POLICIES

The Upper Grand District School board has adopted a new approach to the development of policies and procedures, important documents that guide the board, staff and activities of our school system. Our goal is to improve policies and procedures at the draft stage, with your help. By providing an opportunity for input from parents, the community and stakeholders we are aiming for greater openness and transparency in our governance.

The first policy, procedures and guidelines to be posted for public consultation are related to "Equity and Inclusive Education". You are invited to review the draft documents and submit online feedback at [www.ugdsb.on.ca/policy](http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/policy). The deadline for public input is April 13, 2016. Persons without internet access may call 519-822-4420 ext. 723 to request a printed copy of the draft documents.

### FIT SPIRIT: GIRLS IN MOTION

#### ATTENTION INTERMEDIATE GIRLS:

Fit Spirit helps teenage girls discover the advantages and the enjoyment of taking part in physical activity in an environment that is positive, promotes a healthy self-image and is open to everyone. Ms. Leach (Teacher-Librarian) and Janine Costello (Child and Youth Worker) will be running a Fit Club beginning after March Break. It will kick off with an inspiring presentation during Wellness Day on Friday, March 4, 2016. A Fit Spirit Ambassador will share her personal experience of living an active lifestyle and eating right. The girls then

train for 8 to 10 weeks—just among girls—with the support of their program leaders (Ms. Leach and Janine). Fun and informative workshops, such as healthy eating and zumba, are also offered to change up the regular training routine. Fit Club concludes with a running event in Toronto that brings together all participants for one special day. Last May, more than 10,000 teenage girls ran their first 5 or 10 K. All intermediate girls are welcome!

## **TOASTER FUNDRAISER FOR SYRIAN FAMILIES**

Willow's Social Justice Team will be fundraising for toasters for 50 Syrian families due to arrive to Guelph in the coming weeks through a private sponsorship group. If you are interested in donating a toaster, please contact Ms. Pitman or send one in one with your child. We will also be doing some fundraising through bake sales and a \$2 Toaster Tuesday on March 8th. Please send in a toonie with your child!

## **Intermediate Health & Wellness Day at Willow Road Public School**

Hello Everyone! We would like to take this opportunity to share with parents a wonderful opportunity for all our Intermediate Students at Willow Road. On Friday March 4th we will be having a Health & Wellness Day at Willow. It will be a full day of inspiring motivational speakers, interactive workshops and volunteers from our community sharing talents and knowledge with all of our Grade 7 & 8 students.

To kick off the day we are lucky to have Rick Osborne come to Willow and share his story to all our intermediate students. Rick Osborne didn't start out to be a bad boy but by the time he was 19 he was one of Canada's most dangerous men. By age 20 he had graduated to one of Canada's most wanted. Rick Osborne will speak to our students about the strange twists of fate that led him to spending almost 25 years in a number of different prisons across Canada, most notably the Kingston Penitentiary. Osborne has founded Truth 4 Teens and speaks to schools and organizations across the country to help get his message to as many teens as possible to address challenges associated with making poor choices and how someone's life can change in a split second. If you would like more information on Rick Osborne and Truth For Teens please check him out at [www.truthforteens.com](http://www.truthforteens.com). Rick will be presenting on Friday morning from 9:10-10:20 if you would be interested in hearing his story.

Please contact the school to let us know so that we can have seats waiting for you!

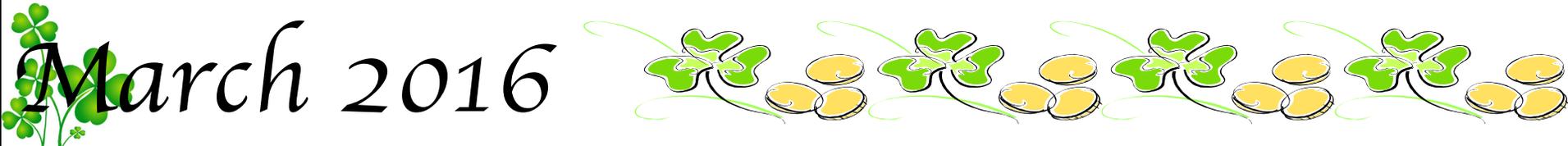
We are also very lucky to have community volunteers take time out of their busy day to come and run workshops in the afternoon for all our students. Our intermediates will have the opportunity to pick from 15 different workshops ranging from Knowledge is Power & Self-Care Workshops. Please see below all the workshops available to our students.

We are asking all Intermediate students to contribute \$2 towards Wellness Day to help cover costs to run this event. If you would like further information regarding Wellness Day or would be interested in presenting next year please feel free to contact me!

Have a wonderful day,

Smiles,  
Janine Costello

Child & Youth Counsellor

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <h1>March 2016</h1>						
		1 – Day 1	2 – Day 2	3 – Day 3	4 – Day 4 	5
			Wrestling Practice 3:20-4:45pm	Glee Club UGEMTA Festival Performance at Harcourt United Church 9-11:30	Intermediate Wellness Day  Wrestling Practice 3:20-4:45pm	
6	7 – Day 5  Grade 8 Grad Photo's	8 – Day 1  Toaster Tuesday Fundraiser	9 – Day 2  Wrestling Practice 3:20-4:45pm	10 – Day 3 Wrestling Practice 7:30 – 8:35am	11 – Day 4 	12  Have a safe and fun March Break. See you March 21 <sup>st</sup> !
13	14	15 	16	17	18	19
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">  <b>MARCH BREAK</b> </div>						
		St. Patrick's Day				
20	21– Day 5  TAB Assembly	22– Day 1  Fit Spirit 3:30 – 4:30	23 – Day 2  Wrestling Practice 3:20-4:45pm	24 – Day 3 Wrestling Practice  7:30 – 8:35am  Grade 4/5 Scientists in School  Fit Spirit 3:30 – 4:30	25  Good Friday	26  
27  	28  Easter Monday	29– Day 4  Fit Spirit 3:30 – 4:30	30 – Day 5  Grade 1/2 St. Jacobs Sugar Bush Trip	31 – Day 1		

 Pizza Day