



WESTMOUNT PUBLIC SCHOOL

73 Ann Street, Thorold, ON

February 6, 2014

Volume 4 Issue 6

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Kindergarten Open House 4-6 p.m.-Feb. 6th
- Term 1 Reports go home on Feb. 6th
- Dance-a-Thon February 14th
Period 1 - JK/SK, Grade 1/2
Period 2 - Grade 2/3, Grade 4/5 and Fundamental Skills
Period 3 - Grade 6/7, Grade 7/8
- Early Release Day - Feb. 14th—students will be dismissed at 11:45 a.m.
- Family Day (No School)Feb. 17th
- Education Foundation of Niagara's Make Change for Children Campaign Feb. 24th—28th, 2014
- Monthly Assembly / Ugly Sweater Day Spirit Day - Feb. 25th

February NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

February is shaping up to be a busy month at Westmount! On February 6th we will be holding our Kindergarten Open House from 4-6 p.m. where families can register their child for our full day Early Learning Kindergarten Program starting in September, 2015!

We currently have a number of fund raisers under way at Westmount. Your support in any or all of these fund raisers is always greatly appreciated! Students are looking forward to the Dance-a-Thon which is scheduled for Valentine's Day, February 14th. Students will receive some pieces of nutritious fruit as a snack following their dancing session. Pledge forms have been sent home and the money raised will go towards the purchase of new playground equipment. Thanks to our School Council members and Mrs. Barker for your support in co-ordinating this fun event!

Our FUNDScrip Gift Card fund raiser launched just before the Christmas Holidays. It is an ONGOING fund raiser throughout the school year. Please refer to the flyer that is sent home each month and you will be impressed by the variety of businesses who participate. More information about it is also available on our school website. It is very likely that you are already shopping at some of the participating businesses. Purchasing a gift card through this program will help support our playground equipment fund raiser as a small percentage of the gift card value is given to the school when you purchase gift cards through this program. Orders for the month of February are due to the office by February 27th.

We have also started the Mabel's Label's fundraiser and a flyer about that is being sent home today with this newsletter! Labelling your child's belongings will help with organizational skills and hopefully decrease the number of items to make their way into our lost property bin!

We are holding National Sweater Day a little later this year...thanks to Mrs. Barker for co-ordinating Ugly Sweater spirit day on February 25th! It is always a nice way to save energy and to have some fun digging out some classics from the past!

On behalf of the Westmount Staff, I would like to wish you and your families a very happy Family Day on February 17th. We hope you spend some quality time together and have fun!

Sincerely,
Ms. M. Zwolak



School Council Update

At the January 28th School Council meeting we discussed School Council based fundraising initiatives as well as plans for a Community Night celebrating culture in our community. Some ideas we are currently exploring are multicultural stories, drumming break out room, yoga for families and multicultural math games, If you have a connection or a talent that you feel could contribute to this educational family event please contact the office.

***Our next School Council meeting will be on March 25th
at 5:30 p.m. All welcome!***

Contact us at:
Phone: 905-227-3827
Fax: 905-227-9728
E-mail: wmt@dsbn.org



January 2014	Student of the Month 	Athlete of the Month 
JK	Hannah Russell	Adam Crane
SK	Logan Baker, Nathan Carnegie	Hunter Ford
Grade 1/2	Cleo Talbot	Spencer Fluellon
Grade 2/3	Austin Mitchell, Max Steele	Jacob Shute
Fundamental Skills	Elijah Beamer	Brock Hilchey
Grade 6/7	Hunter Hildreth, Olivia Kostecki	Sara Davis
Grade 7 / 8	Melanie Hutchinson-Rodgers, Sursajan Thiara	Gauri Sharma
French	Hailey Brooker-Sherwood, Madison Cartmell, Raechel Davis, Kiara McIntyre, Rylan McMillan, Seth Winstanley	

WHEN YOUR CHILD IS ILL

It is common for your child to have a fever if they are sick with an infection (caused by either bacteria or a virus). Fever is a symptom not a diagnosis. If your child has a fever: keep your child comfortable and offer lots of fluids; remove extra blankets and clothing so heat can leave the body and help lower the body temperature; don't take off all the child's clothes, because they may become too cold and start shivering, which makes more body heat causing the temperature to rise again; do not sponge your child with lukewarm or cool water, alcohol baths, or rubs. A child with a fever should NOT be give aspirin. Taking aspirin can increase the risk of Reyes syndrome. This is a very serious condition that can cause damage to your child's liver and brain. Acetaminophen is an appropriate medication for fever. Ibuprofen is another choice.

Keep your child at home and away from others if he or she has any of these symptoms: fever, diarrhea, rash, vomiting, frequent coughing or sneezing, yellow or green discharge from the nose, ears, or eyes, sore throat.

PICKING UP STUDENTS FROM SCHOOL

Parents who pick their children up from school are encouraged to park on St. Charles Drive and to meet their children outside the entry doors at the back of the school. Children being picked up from school will return to their vehicle with their parent/guardian under the supervision of the responsible adult. Parents/Guardians are being discouraged from parking in the school parking lots and on Ann Street in the interest of safety for everyone. Parents/Guardians are reminded that we do not have staff supervision of our playground areas at the end of the school day and students are encouraged to head directly home following the routines and expectations that we as a school and you as families have of them at the end of the school day.

NEWSLETTER DRAW

YES, I/WE HAVE READ THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER. PLEASE ENTER OUR NAME(S) IN THE NEWSLETTER DRAW.

Student's Name / Family Name

Parent Signature



INCLEMENT WEATHER

Please listen to the radio for information about schools and bus transportation during inclement weather. If travel to and from school become dangerous for the school buses the Board will make an announcement on local radio stations on the 7:00 a.m. news. They will also announce whether the school will remain open to students who are able to get to school safely or if the school will be closed. Here is a list of radio stations that will broadcast school closures:

If it becomes necessary to close the school after classes have begun, there will also be an announcement made on the radio.

Please **do not phone** the school at this time. We require the phone lines to proceed with your instructions where to send your children. You provided us with this information on the Student Verification Form that you updated in September.

Websites:

www.dsbn.org

www.nsts.ca

Television Stations:

COGECO Cable 10

CHCH Television

City TV

Radio Stations:

KLite - 102.9 fm

EZRock 105.7 fm

Y-108 - 107.9 fm

Wave 94.7 fm

CHML 900 am

Htz 97.7 fm

CHSC 1220 am

CKTB 610 am

VACCINES AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

At this time of year, Niagara Region Public Health conducts an annual review of vaccination records for all elementary school children in the Niagara region. If the vaccination information we have on file for your child is NOT complete, you will receive a suspension letter in the mail from Public Health next month (March 2014).

Please take a moment to ensure that your child's immunizations are up-to-date and that you have reported your child's vaccinations to Niagara Region Public Health using ONE of the following:

WEBSITE: www.niagararegion.ca

TELEPHONE (Immunization Report Line): 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7459

FAX (a copy of your child's Immunization Record): 905-688-8225

In most cases, we are missing vaccination information about your child's: booster dose of diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus and polio (DPTP/Quadracel) between the ages of 4 and 6; **and**, second dose of the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine.

If you are a parent/guardian not wishing to immunize your child, you will need to provide Niagara Region Public Health with an original legal exemption document (i.e., a statement of medical exemption, or a statement of conscience or religious belief affidavit).

Please call the Vaccine Preventable Disease Program at 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425 if you have any questions or concerns.

TERM 1 REPORT CARD

On February 6, 2014 all Grades 1-8 students will bring home the Term 1 elementary report card. The Progress Report in November provided you with information about how your child was learning in the classroom and gave an indication of progress towards achieving the curriculum expectations for all subjects. Learning Skills and Work Habits are an important focus of this report card. These are critical life skills that students will work on from Grades 1 to Grade 12. Teachers evaluate how well students are achieving these skills for their grade level and include a comment about each student's strengths and some next steps for continued growth. For each subject being taught this term, your child will receive either a letter grade (Grades 1-6) or a percentage grade (Grades 7 & 8). If a subject is only being taught in Term 2, then the teacher will check NA (not applicable) for that subject on the report card. For each subject, there will be a comment that describes your child's strengths and some next steps that will support learning in Term 2.

Communication between teachers and parents/guardians is an important support for student success. We encourage all parents/guardians to discuss the report card with your child. All parents/guardians are invited to contact the school if you would like to schedule an opportunity to discuss your child's achievement and next steps for learning with his/her teacher.

A New Focus in Math

In today's rapidly changing world school's need to respond to these changes and provide meaningful mathematics for all students so that each is prepared for the modern day workplace and everyday life.

To be successful in today's technological world, students must be able to process and interpret data, communicate their understanding with others and be able to apply mathematical reasoning. To achieve this, the focus in math classes has shifted to:

- a greater emphasis on problem solving and less on number facts and procedural skills.
- students actively engaged in constructing their own understanding from generally teacher-directed instruction.
- student collaboration and sharing of ideas from mostly independent learning.
- a greater integration of computer & handheld technology to investigate new ideas and develop deeper conceptual understanding.
- assessing student understanding by means of observations and conversations as well as student generated products.
- student self-assessment and planning of next steps for personal growth.
- an emphasis on the processes associated with learning mathematics, such as analyzing, making conclusions and exploring alternative solution strategies rather than an emphasis solely on the final answer.

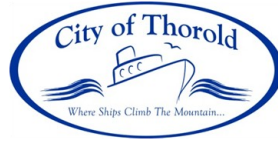
As a parent, talk to your child's math teacher to find out ways to support your child's learning and foster the importance of a sound mathematical foundation to ensure success in the 21st century.

AT HOME ACCESS TO DREAMBOX MATH NOW AVAILABLE

Students at Westmount have been using Dreambox at school for the last year. This program evaluates your child's INDEPENDENT math developmental stage in Number Sense and Numeration and builds a program unique to your child's math learning needs. Further information about Dreambox has been sent home to your family today. Students are to work without support or help from others and must not use a calculator. There is a help function and manipulative supports within the program so your child is challenged yet supported in practicing and learning math concepts. It is recommended that students use the program for 1-2 hours each week for maximum benefit.



FREE COMMUNITY SKATING IN FEBRUARY



Family Day Weekend Free Skates

Saturday February 15, 2014

12:45 PM to 2:15 PM

Frank Doherty Arena, 70 Front Street, Thorold

Sponsored by CUPE Local 151 - City of Thorold Employees

Family Day Free Skate

Monday February 17, 2014

10:00 AM to 11:30 AM

1:00 PM to 2:30 PM

Frank Doherty Arena, 70 Front Street, Thorold

Sponsored by The City of Thorold

PHONING THE SCHOOL

Please contact the office, 905-227-3827 when your child will be absent from school including contacting the school if your child will not be attending due to inclement weather. The whereabouts and safety of your child is of great concern to us and by letting us know of their absence from school helps us keep track of all our students. We have an answering machine for you to leave a message when we are not able to answer your call. Please visit the Board website or listen to local media to answer questions about inclement weather.



CPF Canadian Parents for French (Ontario)

Canadian Parents for French (CPF) is a national network of volunteers dedicated to the promotion and creation of French Second-Language (FSL) learning opportunities for young Canadians enrolled in core, extended or French immersion programs. Some of the supports offered by CPF Ontario are:

- keeping members informed of important issues and topics with regular newsletters;
- providing resource information through a frequently updated website;
- leading member workshops and conferences to stimulate learning and networking across the province;
- providing communication resources and financial assistance for Chapter-based programs;
- conducting public awareness campaigns about the benefits of FSL education.

Local Chapters can create and sponsor extracurricular French experiences for children and families such as French Classes for Parents, French Summer Camps, Parent Survival Night (homework help tips and tools), French Movie Night, French Concerts or Performances and Public Library Programs to name a few.

Please note: At this time, Niagara does not have a local chapter of Canadian Parents for French.

If you are interested in more info about becoming a member of CPF, please visit: www.cpfont.on.ca

If you are interested in being involved in creating a Niagara Chapter of Canadian Parents for French, please contact Julie Stapleton, French as a Second Language and International Languages Consultant at julie.stapleton@dsbn.org

CHARACTER IN ACTION FEBRUARY FOCUS: PERSEVERANCE

We demonstrate the effort and determination to complete a task to the best of our ability and to stick to that task even when it is difficult.