



February 1, 2018

WESTMOUNT PUBLIC SCHOOL

73 Ann Street, Thorold, ON

February NEWSLETTER

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Kindergarten Open House Thursday Feb, 1st 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
- Term 1 Reports go home on Friday Feb. 9th
- PD Day - Feb. 16th - no school for students
- Family Day (No School) Feb. 19th
- Skating 9:30 am and 11:00 am - Feb. 22nd
- DSBN Pink Shirt Day - Feb. 28th. Please wear pink.
- Yearbook deposits due \$13 - March 1st
- Monthly Assembly / Pyjama Day Spirit Day - March 1st 9:00 am
- School Lunch on Feb 28th - orders due on Feb 23rd.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

This is a busy time of the year here at Westmount! On Thursday, February 1st we will be having our Kindergarten Open House from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. If you know of any local families with a child turning 4 years old this year they can register their child for our **Full day Kindergarten Program** in September, 2018!

The first half of the school year is now finished and I would like to thank everyone for making the first half of the 2017/18 school year so fantastic. Over the last 3 years, I have been very impressed by how polite and kind the students are at Westmount. It is nice to see how respectful and helpful the students are to each other. I think that the way the kids behave is a true reflection of the wonderful families in our school community as well as the kind, caring and professional Westmount staff. I have never been at a school where the staff know the students so well. Westmount is truly an awesome place to be.

I also have been very impressed by the sense of community you feel in the school. I was so impressed how well our Fun Fair was attended last June. We have a number of very dedicated parents at our last School Council meeting on January 17th. During our recent trips to the Thorold Arena there was a dedicated team of parents and staff members there to assist with the students' skates and helmets. A big Westmount thank you goes out to all the parents who were there at the last 3 Westmount skating trips to assist with our younger skaters.

On behalf of the Westmount Staff, I would like to wish you and your families a very happy Family Day on February 19th. We hope you spend some quality time together with your family and friends!

Sincerely,
Mr. B. Butler

School Council Update

At the January 19th School Council meeting we discussed School Council based fundraising initiatives as well as plans for our June Fun Fair booked tentatively for Wednesday, June 6th.

Our next School Council meeting will be on Wednesday, March 20th

Mark your Calendar!

The elementary school year calendar has been tweaked slightly. As a result, your children will get to enjoy a PA Day on Friday, February 16, 2018. We wanted to give you a "heads up" so you can begin planning for the Family Day long weekend.



Contact us at:

Phone: 905-227-3827

Fax: 905-227-9728

E-mail: wmt@dsbn.org



January 2018	Student of the Month Optimism 	Athlete of the Month 
Kindergarten	Kai Golem, Chenneil Quamina, Mira Stewart	Samantha Diprose, Noah Sargeant
Grade 1	Ava Butterworth	Noah Radsma
Grade 2	Sienna Calder, Adele Golem	Rhys McNeil
Grade 3	Amy Jackson, Arianna McLaren	Declan McNeil
Grade 4/5	Abi Joy, Jessie Kish	Alicia Bailey, Spencer Fluellon
Fundamental Skills	Patrick Cheung	Kylee Cort
Grade 6/7	Alex Cuthbert, Hannah Johnson, Brentin Upper	Tiana Hicks
Grade 7/8	Jake Shute, Natalie Yarnell	Laura Walton
French	Alicia Bailey, Ella Steele, Victoria Stewart, Hope Hildreth, Bryan Turtle, Breanna Burgie, Shauntelle Marchan	

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.

KINDERGARTEN DROP OFF IN THE MORNING REMINDERS

The Westmount staff are kindly asking parents with children in kindergarten to drop off their children at the kindergarten doors closest to St. Charles Drive each morning. Please do not drop your kindergarten children off at the front doors and leave them unattended in the school yard. For the safety of your children please drop off your child(ren) to a Kindergarten staff member at the kindergarten doors. The safety of all our students is a priority at Westmount. Thank you for your cooperation!

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. The list of radio stations that will broadcast school closures is listed below. **If buses are cancelled please call the school if your child(ren) is going to be away.**

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

CHML 900 am

EZRock 105.7 fm

Htz 97.7 fm

Y-108 - 107.9 fm

CHSC 1220 am

Wave 94.7 fm

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 2018).

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 9th, 2018 all Grades K-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 Focus in Math

In today's rapidly changing world schools 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:

- more problem solving and less of a focus on number facts.
- students actively engaged in constructing their own understanding.
- student working in pairs or small groups, sharing ideas on how to solve a problem.
- a greater integration of computer technology to investigate new ideas and to confirm understanding.
- assessing student understanding using observations and conversations as well as student work.
- student self-assessment and planning of next steps.

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.

It is time to Register for [Kindergarten](#) at Westmount

Do you know a child who will be turning 4 or 5 before December 31, 2018?

Come visit Westmount and register anytime. If you would like to see the classroom we can set up an appointment for you to meet the teachers and tour the school. **Don't forget to visit our Kindergarten Open House on Thursday, February 1st from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm.**



Westmount Fun Fair

The Westmount School Council is happy to announce that we are going to have a Fun Fair on **Wednesday, June 6, 2018**. The School Council is looking for support from parents leading up to the Fun Fair. Letters will be sent home requesting items for the "Penny Sale" and for the "Silent Auction." Please keep an eye out for the donation letters and the "Thank you" letters coming home soon.

Callie Russell, Westmount School Council Chair

Cell Phone Expectations

This is a friendly reminder to all students who bring cell phones to school:

1. Cell phones must be kept in your backpack at all times during school.
2. Cell phones are to only be used in the classroom if the teacher asks you to use them eg for the calculator.
3. Cell phones are not to be taken outside during the recess breaks.
4. Cell phones are not to be used to take pictures of students at Westmount unless asked to by your classroom teacher.
5. Pictures should never be posted on the Internet from social media like Instagram or Snapchat etc. of kids at Westmount school.
6. If a student needs to make a phone call they can ask a teacher for permission to use the phones in the office.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Parking /Safety Concerns

We have had a number of complaints from parents concerned about parking before and after school. There have been a number incidents where our students have almost been hit by cars due to street congestion on Munro St and St. Charles St. **Please obey all streets sign and refrain from parking in no parking or no stopping areas.** This is a real student safety issue. Please take the time to park further down on Munro St. and St. Charles St. where parking is permitted. Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions please call the school at 905 227 3827.

CHARACTER IN ACTION FEBRUARY FOCUS: COURAGE

To face difficulties without fear. To be brave when we complete a task that is difficult or we do something that is right but not popular with our friends . That takes courage!