

Laurier Link

September and October 2015

**School Priorities: Healthy, Safe and Respectful Learning Environment, Programs and Pathways,
Literacy and Numeracy**

School Motto: 'On apprend et on s'épanouit ensemble'

Sir Wilfrid Laurier P.S. is a single track French Immersion School (Grades 2 to 8).

Principal and Vice Principal: Mme Laurie Finn and Mme Kathryn Gravill
Administrative Assistant, Secretary and Receptionist: Mrs. Carmen Lo
Telephone: 905 927-1452 Fax: 905 927-9591 Email: sir.wilfrid.laurier.ps@yrdsb.ca
Superintendent: Dr. Lisa Walsh Telephone: 905 940-7800
School Council Co-Chairs for 2014-2015: Ms Houri Awedikian and Mr. Jeevan Trehan
School Council Email: sir.wilfrid.laurier.ps@sc.yrdsb.ca
School Website: <http://www.sirwilfridlaurier.ps.yrdsb.ca>
School Twitter Account: #laurieryrdsb
Trustee: Billy Pang Telephone: 647 461-9965 Email: billypang@yrdsb.ca
Board Website: www.yrdsb.ca Ministry Website: www.edu.gov.on.ca
SWL Before and After School Child Care (Upper Canada): 905 887-7927

August 2015

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/sirwilfridlaurier.ps/NewsEvents/Pages/School-Calendar.aspx>

September 2015

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/sirwilfridlaurier.ps/NewsEvents/Pages/School-Calendar.aspx>

October 2015

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Welcome and Bienvenue from School Administration

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/sirwilfridlaurier.ps/NewsEvents/Pages/School-Calendar.aspx> Welcome back to all students and staff as we continue our new and exciting journey this school year at Sir Wilfrid Laurier P.S., single track French Immersion school. A special welcome is extended to students, their families and staff members who are new to our school community.

Our school newsletters, posted on-line on our school website on the last Monday of the month are sent by link through e-mail to members of our school community. Hard copies are also available in the front foyer.

As the Principal and Vice Principal of Sir Wilfrid Laurier Public School, we extend a personal invitation to all parents to drop in or call to simply say "hello" or to discuss any issue.

We hope you and your family have had an opportunity for a rest and a change of pace. We are all looking forward to a smooth start to a productive and exciting school year. Information on what school supplies your child will need for September is posted on the school website. More information will be sent home during the first week of school by your child's teachers.

The York Region District School Board has provided the "Guide to the 2015-2016 School Year". It provides comprehensive information on School Life, Health Information, Safety Information, Board Policies and Procedures and one form for parents to sign and return to Sir Wilfrid Laurier Public School (Information Technology Acceptable Use Agreements and Safe, Caring and Supportive School Policy).

School Organization – 2015-2016

| <i>Staff Member</i> | <i>Homeroom</i> | <i>Phone and Voice Mail Extension</i> |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| <i>Mme J. Cloutier</i> | <i>2A</i> | <i>124</i> |
| <i>Mme L. Shepherd</i> | <i>2B</i> | <i>123</i> |
| <i>Mme J. Cohen</i> | <i>2C</i> | <i>106</i> |
| <i>Mme N. Reid</i> | <i>2D</i> | <i>130</i> |
| <i>Mme J. Dhingra</i> | <i>2E</i> | <i>132</i> |
| <i>Mme K. Coombs</i> | <i>2F</i> | <i>131</i> |
| <i>Mme A. Balinda</i> | <i>23A</i> | <i>112</i> |
| <i>Mme K. Hill</i> | <i>23B</i> | <i>125</i> |
| <i>Mme M. Gidaris</i> | <i>3A</i> | <i>218</i> |
| <i>Mme M. Saleh</i> | <i>3B</i> | <i>217</i> |
| <i>Mme K. Cannon</i> | <i>3C</i> | <i>115</i> |
| <i>Mr. J. Perret</i> | <i>3D</i> | <i>116</i> |
| <i>Mme P. Komguem</i> | <i>3E</i> | <i>120</i> |
| <i>Mme J. Ly</i> | <i>3F</i> | <i>114</i> |
| <i>Mme D. Balinsky</i> | <i>3G</i> | <i>113</i> |
| <i>Mme J. Simonelli</i> | <i>4A</i> | <i>226</i> |
| <i>Mme J. Tan-Yan</i> | <i>4B</i> | <i>221</i> |
| <i>Mme L. Kheir</i> | <i>4C</i> | <i>234</i> |
| <i>Mme A. Locke</i> | <i>4D</i> | <i>235</i> |
| <i>Mme K. Chung</i> | <i>5A</i> | <i>229</i> |
| <i>Mr. S. Osman</i> | <i>5B</i> | <i>230</i> |
| <i>Mme S. Stephen</i> | <i>5C</i> | <i>220</i> |
| <i>Mr. C. Harris</i> | <i>5D</i> | <i>219</i> |
| <i>Mme R. Didone</i> | <i>6A</i> | <i>212</i> |
| <i>Mme S. Rossel</i> | <i>6B</i> | <i>213</i> |
| <i>Mme J. Pereira</i> | <i>6C</i> | <i>216</i> |
| <i>Mme M. DiTullio</i> | <i>6D</i> | <i>211</i> |
| <i>Mme N. Mendoza</i> | <i>7A</i> | <i>209</i> |
| <i>Mme L. Sadaka</i> | <i>7B</i> | <i>236</i> |
| <i>Mme M. Perekoppi</i> | <i>78A</i> | <i>203</i> |
| <i>Mr. A. Messiha</i> | <i>8A</i> | <i>205</i> |
| <i>Mr. P. Gratton</i> | <i>8B</i> | <i>208</i> |
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| | | |
| <i>Specialty Staff</i> | | |
| | | |
| <i>Mme A. Clement</i> | <i>Primary Prep</i> | <i>Tbd</i> |
| <i>Ms. K. Crawford</i> | <i>Junior Prep</i> | <i>317</i> |
| <i>Mr. M. Feldman</i> | <i>CYW</i> | <i>Tbd</i> |
| <i>Mr. F. Hamelin</i> | <i>Teacher Librarian</i> | <i>188</i> |
| <i>Mme S. Jones</i> | <i>Primary/Junior Prep</i> | <i>306</i> |
| <i>Mme N. Lo</i> | <i>Primary/Junior Prep</i> | <i>306</i> |
| <i>Mme L. McBride</i> | <i>Phys Ed/Junior Prep</i> | <i>324</i> |
| <i>Mme D. Rock</i> | <i>SERT/Primary Prep</i> | <i>214</i> |
| <i>Mme H. Skead</i> | <i>Junior Prep</i> | <i>108</i> |
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The start time for Sir Wilfrid Laurier Public School is 8:30 a.m. and the dismissal time remains 3:00 p.m. Prior to 8:15 a.m. and after 3:00 p.m., arrangements for the supervision of children are the responsibility of parents. Children are not to be dropped off before 8:15 a.m. or picked up after 3:00 p.m. The office staff will phone parents each morning and afternoon to discuss an unaccounted for student absence. You can help to reduce the number of phone calls by informing your child's teacher in advance. You may also leave a message on the school's answering machine in the general mailbox. Students arriving late are to come to the office for a late slip before going to class. The practice of having students arrive late for class or leaving school before dismissal time is strongly discouraged due to the disruption caused to instructional time for the student and class involved and its impact on programming. It is important that students arrive in time for the 8:15 a.m. bell in order to begin instruction on time with the rest of the class and to minimize disruption to instructional time; this has been identified as a key indicator of student success.

2015-2016 School Year Calendar for the York Region District School Board

The school year calendar for 2015-2016 consists of 194 days, with classes commencing on Tuesday, September 8, 2015, and ending on Wednesday, June 29, 2016. We are on a five day rotating schedule starting with Day 1 on Tuesday September 8, 2015. All Professional Activity Days are Day 0s.

The school holidays are as follows:

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Labour Day | Monday, September 7 |
| Thanksgiving Day | Monday, October 12 |
| Winter Break | Monday, December 21 to Friday, January 1 inclusive |
| Family Day | Monday, February 15 |
| Mid Winter Break | Monday, March 14 to Friday, March 18, inclusive |
| Good Friday | Friday, March 25 |
| Easter Monday | Monday, March 28 |
| Victoria Day | Monday, May 23 |

Elementary Professional Activity Days:

Monday, September 28
 Friday, November 27 (Progress Report Student Led Conference)
 Monday, January 15
 Monday, February 1
 Friday, June 3
 Wednesday, June 29 (p.m.) (to be confirmed)
 Friday, June 30

Classroom Organization for September 2015

Sir Wilfrid Laurier Public School's projected enrolment for the 2015-16 school year is approximately 730 Grade 2 to 8 French Immersion students. The staff allotment is approximately 52, which includes all teaching staff and two full time administrators, Principal Laurie Finn and Vice Principal Kathryn Gravill, one full time office Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Carmen Lo, and one full time office secretary and receptionist.

While the school organization is potentially subject to change in September as the need arises, for school start up it is as follows:

Primary Division (Grade 2 to Grade 3):

6 classes of Grade 2
 2 classes of Grade 2/3
 6 classes of Grade 3

Junior (Grades 4 to 6) and Intermediate (Grades 7 to 8) Divisions:

4 classes of Grade 4
 4 classes of Grade 5

4 classes of Grade 6
 2 classes of Grade 7
 1 class of Grade 7 / 8
 2 classes of Grade 8

Non Homeroom Assignments: Prep Coverage; Teacher Librarian; Technology Lead Teacher; Literacy Teacher; Numeracy Teacher; Special Education and Resource Teacher (SERT); English Language Arts; Instrumental Music; Receptionist, Secretary, EOAA (Elementary Office Administrative Assistant); Lead Caretaker; and three Caretakers.

Please note that the class size ratio for Grades 2 and 3 classes will be 20:1, for Grades 4 to 6 (the Junior Division) classes 25:1 and Grades 7 to 8 (Intermediate Division) classes 27:1 on average across the system. As new students continue to register or move out of the area, a new school organization may need to be considered for September. We will continue to keep you informed.

School Schedule 2015-2016 for Sir Wilfrid Laurier PS

There will be no change to recess and lunch times at Sir Wilfrid Laurier PS in September. Instructional time is 300 minutes per day; breaks for students total 75 minutes. Please note the entry time is 8:25 a.m.; lunch dismissal is at 12:20 p.m.; afternoon entry bell is 1:20 p.m. and the dismissal bell is at 3:00 p.m. Instructional time begins promptly at 8:30 a.m. and 1:20; families are asked to adjust their schedules so that instructional time is not disrupted by late arrivals to class.

Please note the following schedule for all students at Sir Wilfrid Laurier Public School:

| Period: | Time: |
|--|----------------------------|
| Entry: | 8:25 a.m. |
| Block 1 Announcements and snack at 10:00 | 8:30 a.m. – 10:10 |
| Refreshment Break | 10:10 to 10:40 a.m. |
| Block 2 | 10:40 a.m. – 12:20 p.m. |
| Lunch Break | 12:20 p.m. |
| Lunch Recess | 12:45 p.m. |
| Block 3 | 1:20 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. |
| Dismissal | 3:00 p.m. |

First Day Entry Procedures

On Tues., Sept 8, all Grade 2 students will be directed to the gym where they will be met with their teachers. Grade 3 to 8 students will be directed to the back of the school where they will be met by their teachers.

Regular busing schedules will apply, and families are strongly encouraged to send their children on their regular school bus in the morning and after school. Staff supervisors are always on duty to supervise students as they arrive on school buses and they will supervise them as they move from the buses to the school yard. Grade 2 students will meet in the gym and Grades 3 to 8 students will meet at the back of the school on the tarmac. Staff will be in the yard area to assist families as they arrive on the first day. Students will not know who their specific teacher is until they arrive on the first day of school in September. As students and families arrive at school, staff members wearing orange vests will be in front of the school and in the yard to help direct families. Children will be directed by staff members to areas in the yard where they will be organized by grade level. Once organized by grade, the students will be divided into their assigned classes and will meet their specific teachers. If rain requires us to move indoors to get organized then staff outside will direct families into the school through specific doors. Parents will not be allowed to enter the school to visit classrooms. If your child does not attend school on Tuesday, September 8 we will contact you to confirm your plans to attend school. Parents who pick up at the end of the day are not to enter the school but either use the Kiss and Ride or park in the parking lot (not the Kiss and Ride) or the street and wait by the doors to Stairwell A or D.

Should your child be absent on the first day as a result of an extended family vacation, e-mail sir.wilfrid.laurier.ps@yrdsb.ca or phone in your child's absence (905 927 1452) to inform the school office of the student's name, grade and return to school date.

School Improvement Plan: Literacy and Numeracy

School Improvement Plan

The SWL School Improvement Plan is aligned with the Trustees' Multi Year Plan, the Director's Plan and the Board Improvement Plan. It has been developed to support areas of identified need resulting from our school profile as well as the identified areas of needed focus. Our school is a member of a learning network. As such we work with our colleagues in the network and the Board to implement innovative learning experiences for students in keeping with critical thinking, assessment, evaluation and communication, differentiated instruction, student engagement and digital literacy.

School Improvement Plan: Programs and Pathways

Working with our colleagues in our learning network of feeder schools to Pierre Elliott Trudeau H.S. further strengthens our partnership with those involved in students' educational journey from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12.

ISE Student Exchange

For more information on Student Exchanges during the School Year for two or three months to French speaking countries in Europe or during the Summer to Europe or Quebec, please visit www.iseontario.on.ca.

School Improvement Plan: Community, Culture and Caring

As per our School Improvement Plan, we have much to celebrate and communicate about the positive climate for learning at Sir Wilfrid Laurier Public School as we work every day with your capable children. This positive climate for learning results from strong partnerships between school staff and home, the work of the School Council to support the school, student leadership, initiatives through the Student Council, and partnerships with community organizations. We are a Silver Certified Eco School and are designated a Healthy School. We implement anti-bullying strategies and are committed to student well-being. We support the Arts and are active in sports and physical activity. We provide a safe and supportive school environment.

Character Matters

As do all schools in York Region, Sir Wilfrid Laurier P.S. staff and students will continue to highlight the ten Character Matters attributes this year. Each day, morning announcements will address qualities of each attribute. Students will regularly participate in monthly or bi-monthly Character Matters Assemblies. We will focus on one attribute each month as follows:

- **Respect** (September)
- **Responsibility** (October)
- **Courage** (November)
- **Empathy** (December)
- **Fairness** (January)
- **Honesty** (February)
- **Optimism** (March)
- **Initiative** (April)
- **Integrity** (May)
- **Perseverance** (June)

Beginning this month, students will be encouraged to focus on **Respect** by:

- Respecting themselves
- Respecting others with courtesy, dignity, and positive regard
- Honouring the rights of others, respecting their belongings, the environment, and the world around them
- Treating others the way you want to be treated
- Having consideration for others

- Being accepting of differences
 - Solving problems without violence, ridiculing, or embarrassing others
- Remember to never look down on anybody unless you are helping him up.
-Jesse Jackson, Political Activist/Preacher

Thank you to parents for reinforcing the monthly Character Matters traits at home. Parents whose children will receive a Characters Matters certificate will be contacted by the homeroom teacher to share in the celebration at that month's Character Matters Assembly.

Sir Wilfrid P.S. Student Drop-Off Routine for 2015-2016

Our student drop-off routine beginning on Tuesday, September 8 remains the same as this year at Sir Wilfrid Laurier Public School.

Morning Routines (unchanged):

- Only school buses and school taxi/vans use the 'Bus' lane; parents drop off in the Kiss and Ride only or park on the street and use the crosswalk; there is no parking in the Kiss and Ride.
- Cars are not to enter school property using the bus lane off Stoney Hill.
- Students do not get dropped off in the bus lane off Stoney Hill
- Parents enter the Kiss and Ride lane and drop off children to a staff member supervisor at the Kiss and Ride.
- Parents who park on the street use the crosswalks that are provided.
- After dropping off children in the Kiss and Ride, cars drive through the parking lot, and exit onto Hazelton Avenue.
- Cars to give buses the right of way when exiting the 'Bus' lane.
- Parents are encouraged to park on a neighbouring street and use the crosswalks.
- All students go to the playground prior to the 8:25a.m. entry bell.
- After the 8:25 a.m. entry bell, students enter through the front doors.

Dismissal Routines at Sir Wilfrid Laurier PS (unchanged):

- Buses will be given the right of way leaving the 'Bus' lane (south east side of the school).
- Students and parents are to use the two crosswalks to cross the bus lane.
- Three parking spots have been designated for the Upper Canada Child Care Staff at the end of the day.
- Parents wait for children outside the building at a pre-arranged pick up point (door near the Kiss 'n Ride).
- Cars do not park or wait in the Kiss 'n Ride.

Thank you for your support in our endeavours to make the arrival and dismissal of your children as quick and safe as possible.

Student Transportation Services

Parents of all bus students are to check www.schoolbuscity.com to determine the bus number, route and pick up/drop off time for their child. Priority for service requests during the first three weeks of school are school bus overloads, eligible students with no transportation and late bus routes. All other requests will not begin to be processed until the third week of September. Should parents wish to request a change to their child's bus stop or route, please do so by forwarding the information to the school through e-mail(sir.wilfrid.laurier.ps@yrdsb.edu.on.ca).

These will be forwarded to the Transportation Department by the school and parents will hear back from the school. Parents of students in Grade 4 are asked to verify that their child is eligible for busing (ie. live further than 1.6 km from the school).

Students will participate in the annual Bus Evacuation Safety Program in October.

Student Busing Eligibility

Did you know that students' eligibility changes throughout their school career? Your son/daughter's eligibility to ride the school bus may change according to their grade and distance from home to school. Below are the provisions for eligibility identified in the Board's Transportation Policy #680:

- All YRDSB students in Grades JK-3 who live within 1.2 km of their school are not eligible for transportation
- All YRDSB students in Grades 4-8 who live within 1.6 km of their school are not eligible for transportation
- All YRDSB students in Grades 9-12 who live within a transit served area are not eligible for transportation.

To view Board Policy #680 Student Transportation, please visit www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca. For more information about bus transportation and to determine your son/daughter's eligibility please visit www.schoolbuscity.com.

Safe Schools

1. Visitors to the School

Doors to the school are locked with admittance provided through the office by means of the door bell provided. All visitors are to report to the **main office** upon entering the school through the front door. Visitors will be asked to wear a 'Visitor' or 'Volunteer' lanyard while in the building and to sign in. Parents are not go to their children's classrooms at any time during the day (including the 12:20 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. dismissal times). When picking up your child during instructional time, please announce your arrival at the office, and your child will be called to the office as needed. Parents are asked to meet their children outside the building at a prearranged meeting place (near the Kiss 'n Ride door) or in the front foyer and not at classroom doors. We also ask that you please respect the preparation time of your child's teacher before and after school. Appointments can be made with the teacher by telephone if you have questions or concerns.

2. Fire Drills and Lock Downs

To ensure the safety of our students and staff, fire drills will be conducted a minimum of six times, shared between Terms 1 and 2. Our first drill will be during Safety Week in September. Two lock down drills and a hold and secure drill will be held during the school year, with one occurring during Safety Week in September.

3. Safety Week and Code Red Drill

The YRDSB has designated one week at the beginning of the school year (to be the week of Sept 28) as our eleventh annual "Safety Awareness Week". During this week all schools will conduct a Code Red or Lock Down **drill** in order to prepare students for an emergency in the school. A Code Red or Lock Down response would be typically called in the event of an armed intruder entering the school, a fatality, or a violent storm. Our practice during this week will be a **drill** only.

4. Information Technology Acceptable Use Agreement and Safe and Supportive Schools Pamphlet

Parents are requested to read, become familiar with, and retain the Safe and Supportive Schools brochure included in the Guide to the 2015-2016 School Year booklet sent home on the first day. Please review the information with your child(ren).

5. Locker Checks

The following is an excerpt from the York Region Police protocol (August 2001):

Administration has the right to search school property, such as lockers and desks, without notice or permission of any person. In addition, police may from time to time be invited onto school property to conduct their own searches. These searches may be conducted without notice or permission from any member of the school community. Teachers will review with students the appropriate care of lockers expected for this Board property.

6. Food Allergies

Please remember that there are children and staff at Sir Wilfrid Laurier P.S. who have food allergies. Parents are asked **not** to send any food from home that may contain nuts/peanuts or nut/peanut products (including peanut oil, peanut butter, peanut sauce, peanut flour, peanut meal, mixed nuts, ground nuts, mandolin nuts, and some vegetable oils and shortenings). Any food sent in needs to be in an individually wrapped package. Your diligent support in this matter is greatly appreciated as nut/peanut allergies are

usually severe and can be fatal. Staff participate in refresher training on school board protocols and the administration of the epi-pen each fall.

All parents are encouraged to complete and return the forms sent home on the first day of school. Parents whose children have allergies/use an epi pen® are to complete the Student Information Form and the Anaphylaxis Protocol Sheet and return them to the school as soon as possible. It is extremely important that we have been informed of this information for your child in case of an emergency Students are required to have their epi-pen with them at all times and will need to do so using a pouch. Thank you for your co operation.

In view of the variety and extent of food allergies experienced by students and staff, we encourage parents to provide an alternate to food as birthday treats for your child's classmates (prearranged with your child's classroom teacher) and will not be able to support the practice of parents dropping off food such as birthday cakes and cupcakes. This practice will also ensure our school is in compliance with the Healthy Schools Act.

7. Students Leaving School Property During the Lunch Hour

Parents are asked to note that students may not leave the school property during the lunch hour (or any time) unless written parental permission has been provided. Parents are requested to sign the **Lunch Supervision Form** (on the back of the Student Information Sheet) giving their child permission to leave the school property when lunch begins at 12:20 p.m., or to remain on school property during the entire lunch hour. If your child stays for lunch, and occasionally you allow him/her to go to a friend's house, local store, or eatery, kindly send a note to your child's teacher the day of/before the requested outing. Students are to provide the teacher with the note who will send it to the office with the morning attendance. Office staff then notify the School Assistants supervising at lunch time of those students having notes of permission to leave at 12:20 p.m. Students without written permission are requested to stay on school property. Your co operation and support in this safety matter is appreciated. Parents are asked to sign their child out if taking him/her home for lunch.

8. School Bus Safety Programme

All YRDSB students participate in a Board sponsored "School Bus Safety and Evacuation Programme". Students in JK to Grade 5 will participate in a thirty minute safety presentation (video and discussion) by a Transportation Representative. All students from Grade 2 to 8 will participate in a thirty minute instructional period on a school bus, which will be parked in front of the school. Your child will be involved in this program in October.

9. Media Coverage of Group

Activities throughout the school year may require the use of student names, age, grade, etc. On occasion, a photograph could be taken for publication by a newspaper such as the Markham Economist and Sun with students in the background (such as a group picture in the gymnasium). Parents not wanting their child's photo or name published in a newspaper as such or mounted on a school hall bulletin board or electronic device (internal use only), have the opportunity to indicate their wishes on the form sent to parents on September 4, 2012, titled, 'Student Information Sheet'.

10. In the Community

Parents greeting children at their school bus are asked to please watch for all children as they disembark. If a youngster appears alone, is locked out of his/her house, or is experiencing difficulty/something unusual, please offer support and contact the school office. Together we can make the school and community a safe place for students.

11. Cell Phones, Ipods, Smart Phones and Cameras

Parents who choose to provide their children with cell phones for emergencies before/after school, are asked to note that cell phones are not permitted to be used on school property between the hours of 8:15 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. and are to be kept in the locked locker during instructional time. Students are not to use cameras at school.

12. Student Items of Value

Students who choose to bring items to school of value (both monetary and sentimental) that are not related to his/her programme, do so at their own risk. We recommend that parents ensure that students do not bring items as such to school. The school is not responsible for the repair or replacement of any such items. The use of iPods, smart phones, etc. is not allowed during instructional time or any time in the school, should parents allow children to bring them, unless directly supervised by the teacher, as per the Appropriate Use of Technology Agreement.

13. Safe Schools Review

The YRDSB periodically reviews its Safe School Procedure and guidelines and solicits the views of all stakeholders involved in the school community including students, teachers, staff, parents/guardians, School Councils, and trustees. For further information, please contact Area East Superintendent, Mrs. Rashmi Swarup.

14. September Assemblies: On the first day of school, Mrs. Finn and Mme Gravill will address safety issues at school with all students as part of our start up routines at the "Welcome Back Assembly".

15. Immunization Clinics: Grade 7 students will receive immunization against Hepatitis B and meningitis on this school year. Grade 8 Girls will receive the HPV vaccine. Information and consent sheets to follow.

16. Principal's Designate: Any time Mrs. Finn or Mme Gravill are attending meetings/workshops outside of the school, a Principal's Designate is left in-charge. Teachers will be volunteering shortly for this role.

17. Dog Walking

Please refrain from walking your pets on school property when students may be on the playground (8:15 to 8:30 a.m., 10:10 to 10:40 a.m., 12:45 to 1:20 p.m., and 3:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.). Your co operation in this matter is appreciated. Please clean up after your pets.

Parent E-mail Addresses

Communication from the school by e-mail is done using the e-mail addresses provided by parents for this purpose. Parent e-mail addresses used by School Council are restricted for the purpose it was collected (pizza, sub lunch, Lunch Lady, Extreme Pita, School Council news) for one school year and are to comply with school board regulations.

School Assistants

School Assistants are an essential part of keeping our students safe during the lunch hour. They provide supervision while the students eat and then play. We are in need of school lunch assistants, either on a full or part-time basis. This is a paid position. If you or anyone you know might be interested in this paid position, from 12:20-1:20 p.m., please call the school at 905 297-1452.

Volunteers

We highly value our volunteers at Sir Wilfrid Laurier Public School and are optimistic that we will continue to have a great show of support for our students and teachers.

Volunteers work in many capacities in the school. They can work directly in the classroom, in the library, in the office, or helping with special functions.

If you are interested in volunteering at Sir Wilfrid Public School, please fill out the volunteer form sent home on Tuesday, September 8, and return it to the school.

School Council Election

A nomination form was forwarded home with this newsletter for parents who wish to indicate their interest in serving a one year term as a member of the 2015 - 2016 Sir Wilfrid Laurier Public School Council. The nomination form is also posted on the school website.

The School Council meets four to five times a year and serves as an important advisory role in the operation of the school. It provides an opportunity for parents to keep informed on current issues in education and to provide input to the school administration on issues of concern in the community.

If you are able to share your time and expertise for the benefit of the school community, please complete the nomination form and return it to Mme Finn no later than **Tuesday, September 22, 2015**. Receipt of your nomination form will be acknowledged. There are a maximum of twelve parent spaces on the School Council. Should the number of self-nomination forms exceed the number of available openings on the School Council, biographies provided by the candidates will be posted on the Sir Wilfrid Laurier PS website after September 22 for parents to view when voting. Ballots (one per parent) will be sent home on Friday, September 24 to be returned in a sealed envelope on Election Day, Tuesday, September 29. The members of the 2015-2016 School Council will be posted on the school website on Thursday, September 25.

The first meeting of the 2015-2016 Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Council will be held on **Wednesday, October 7, 2015 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** At this initial meeting, elections for the Council executive will be held. The elected executive consists of the Council Chair, Vice or Co-Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary. There will be opportunities for all School Council members to serve on sub-committees. Please plan to attend this

and other School Council meetings throughout the school year. The dates for School Council meetings are Wed., Oct 7, Wed., Nov 25, Wed., Feb. 3, Wed., Apr. 6, Wed., May 25.

Child Care

A before and after school programme is available at Sir Wilfrid Laurier Public School operated by Upper Canada Childcare (905 726-3460). Please contact them directly for more information.

Celebrating Multiculturalism

The following events may be celebrated by some students in our school in September and October and are recognized by the District School Board as Significant Faith Days:

BAHA' I FAITH:

October 20: **The Birth of the Bab.** The Bab was born Siyyid' Ali Muhammad in Shiraz in southwestern Iran in 1819 C.E.. His title, in Arabic, means "The Gate". Work and academic studies are suspended on this day.

BUDDHISM:

September 28: **Pavarana** signals the completion of the Rains of Retreat.

September 29: **Kathina** marks Buddha's "descent from heaven. The day is dedicated to remembering the dead and respecting elders.

CHRISTIANITY:

September 12: **Coptic/Ethiopian Orthodox New Year.** This is the day for Copts (Christians of Egyptian origin) to celebrate the New Year and the Feast of Martyrs. For members of the Ethiopian Orthodox community, the New Year is a chance to celebrate the new month as well as the Feast of St. John the Baptist.

October 4: **World Communion Sunday** is observed worldwide. Communion is the most fundamental of Christian rituals.

HINDUISM:

October 13 – Oct 21: **Navaratri** is a nine-day celebration. The festival marks the victory of good over evil.

November 10: **Diwali** (Deepavali) both names mean a row or garland of lights. Also known as the Festival of Lights, Diwali is probably the most widely celebrated Hindu festival. This festival may be celebrated over a five-day period. The diwas (clay pots filled with oil and a wick) herald the start of the new year and symbolize the triumph of good over evil, of light over darkness. For many Hindus, October 24, New Year's Day, is also very important. Tamil Hindus may celebrate Diwali on October 22.

November 12-14: **Skanda Shashti Vratam** is a six-day fasting period. It commemorates the destruction of evil by the Lord Murugan (Subramanya), who is the second son of Lord Siva and is celebrated with the dramatic enactment of Soora Samhaaram.

ISLAM;

September 22: **Day of Hajj (Day of Arafat)**, or Pilgrimage to Mecca, is undertaken once in a lifetime for those who can afford it. Hajj is the fifth pillar of Islam after the Belief in One God, daily prayers, fasting and charity. On the Islamic calendar, it falls on the 9th day of the last month of Zul-Hijah.

September 23: **Eid-ul-Adha** is the Festival of Sacrifice. It honours Prophet Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son Ishmael to God. In commemoration, Muslims sacrifice a sheep or goat and donate the meat or its equivalent value in cash to charity. This is the "minimum" requirement for those who can afford it.

October 14: **Muharram** (New Year's Day) begins the new Islamic year. This is the year 1436.

JAINISM:

September 27: **Ananta Chaturdasi** is regarded as the holiest period of the year. Fasting, worship, meditation and confession characterize this period.

November 11: **Mahavira Nirvana.** The Jain year begins with Moksha (attainment of final enlightenment and release) by Lord Mahavira. It is popularly known as Deepavali, festival of lamps. Lamps symbolize the light of knowledge.

October 16: **Jnana Panchami**, the day of knowledge, observed with Pooja (ritualistic offering) to pay homage to Saraswati Devi, the deity of knowledge and learning.

JUDAISM:

September 14-15: **Rosh Hashanah**, the Jewish New Year, marks the start of a ten day period of spiritual self examination and repentance which ends with Yom Kippur. Families celebrate with a festive dinner at which apples dipped in honey are eaten. (New Year's Day, 5773).

September 23: **Yom Kippur**, this day of Atonement, is the most solemn of the Jewish Holy Days. At synagogue, the evening service is called Kol Nidre. People ask for forgiveness for their sins and forgive others. Jews refrain from eating and drinking on this day.

Sept/Oct 28-4: **Sukkot** is a harvest festival or thanksgiving. Small huts are constructed in which meals are eaten, weather permitting, to commemorate the time when the Israelites dwelled in booths in the desert for 40 years.

October 5: **Shemini Atzeret** is a festival marking the end of the holiday of Sukkot on which a special prayer for rain is recited.

October 6: **Simhat Torah** is marked by singing and dancing which celebrates the end of public reading of the Torah in the synagogue and the beginning of its reading anew.

SIKHISM:

September 1: **First Parkash** observes the installation of the Guru Granth Sahib, the first edition of the Sikh Scriptures, in the Golden Temple by the fifth Guru, Arjan Dev, in 1604 C.E.

WICCA: September 22: **Mabon** Autumn Equinox and the second harvest. Wiccans take a moment to pay their respect to the impending dark. They celebrate the aging Goddess as she passes from Mother to Crone, and her consort the God as he prepares for death and rebirth.

October 31: **Samhain**. The third harvest, meaning "summer's end", is when the ancestors are honoured. It is a magical interval when the mundane laws of time and space are temporarily suspended, and the thin veil between the two worlds is lifted, symbolized by the Crone and her aged Consort.

Terry Fox National School Run Day

This is the 35th anniversary of the Terry Fox Marathon of Hope. The Terry Fox Foundation is asking for support for a National School Run Day. Sir Wilfrid Laurier Public School staff and students will participate in this national run, on Fri., Sept 25 (raindate also to be determined) in the afternoon. Pledge forms will be sent home with students in early September, with all proceeds given to the Canadian Cancer Society.

Hallowe'en is Coming

The YRDSB's **Safe School Policy** strictly prohibits weapons and replica weapons on school property. We do not make a distinction according to how realistic a replica may appear. Keep this in mind as you help your child select a Hallowe'en costume, and make sure that all toy weapons (i.e. plastic swords, staff, whip, spear, gun, rattle, knife) are kept at home. Please remember that Sir Wilfrid Laurier Public School is a peanut/nut free school and we are promoting Healthy Eating.

The following tips for a safe and fun Hallowe'en are from the York Regional Police:

- Plan costumes that are bright and reflective. Make sure costumes are short enough to prevent tripping, entanglement or contact with flame.
- Add reflective tape to costumes and trick-or-treat bags for greater visibility.
- Consider using face paint or make-up rather than a mask so vision is not impaired.
- Remove any masks before crossing a street.
- Purchase costumes and accessories that are flame resistant.
- Use flashlights with fresh batteries for all children and their escorts. This is also a good time to replace the batteries in home smoke detectors.
- Teach your children how to stop, drop and roll should their clothing catch fire.
- Eliminate tripping hazards on your property.
- Feed your children a good, healthy meal before they go out. This will discourage them from filling up on Hallowe'en treats that have not yet been checked.
- A parent or responsible adult should always accompany young children on their rounds. Parents should know the route that older children are going to take.
- Stay in a group, walk slowly and communicate where you are going.
- Remain on well-lit streets and use sidewalks.
- If no sidewalks are available, walk facing traffic and as far from traffic as possible.
- Never cut across yards; shrubs may trip you.
- Obey all traffic and pedestrian laws. Do not assume that drivers can see you.
- Eat treats only checked by a trusted adult.
- Never enter a stranger's home/car.

After Trick-or Treating:

- Sort and check candy upon arrival home. Although tampering is rare, throw away any suspicious or unwrapped items.
- Remove items that cause choking, especially in younger children, or treats that can remove dental work.

The York Regional Police wish the residents of York Region a safe and happy Hallowe'en. By working together, children can be provided a memorable and safe Hallowe'en. For more information, contact www.police.york.on.ca.

And Finally...

Please return forms sent home on Tuesday, September 8 to your child's teacher by Friday, September 11 (Emergency Form). Look for the November / December copy of the Laurier Link on Monday, October 26, 2015 on the Sir Wilfrid Laurier school website. Please contact Mme Finn or Mme Gravill if you have any comments or questions regarding our monthly newsletter. Enjoy the months of September and October!

We are looking forward to another great year at Sir Wilfrid Laurier Public School!

Mme Gravill and Mme Finn
Vice Principal and Principal