



# Vellore Viewpoint

## OUR MISSION:

To advance student achievement and well-being through public education, which motivates learners, fosters inclusion, inspires innovation and builds community.

NOVEMBER 2015  
VOLUME 3

## Vellore Woods PS

115 Starling Blvd.  
Woodbridge, ON  
L4H 2T9

www.vellorewoods.ps.yrdsb.ca  
vellorewoods.wordpress.com  
@VelloreWoods

### Principal:

Ms. S. Gates  
905-417-9211 x155

### Vice-Principal:

Ms. E. Lau  
905-417-9211 x154

### Elementary Office

#### Administrative Assistant:

Ms. C. Labate  
905-417-9211 x151

### Secretary:

Mrs. G. Zuzek  
905-417-9211 x150

### Superintendent:

Mr. C. LaTouche  
905-764-6830

### Trustee:

Mrs. L. Aversa  
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## Administrator's Message

Dear Families,

Fall has arrived! As the weather sometimes fluctuates throughout the day, please ensure your child is dressed appropriately. She/he may need some reminders to bring home jackets and sweaters at the end of the day!

We are so proud of the Junior and Intermediate students who represented Vellore Woods at the West Area and Regional Cross Country Meets. Congratulations! Thank you to Mrs. Gelfand and Mr. Oberoi for coaching the team and to all the students who came out regularly for practice.

Congratulations also goes out to Mr. McInnis and our Intermediate Girls and Boys Volleyball teams who showed true Vellore Woods Wolves spirit when they participated in two after school tournaments.

At our October School Council meeting, we welcomed many parents/guardians. At that meeting, a new School Council Executive was formed:

- ◆ Ann Chambers-Smith (Co-Chair)
- ◆ Lynette Katsivo (Co-Chair)
- ◆ Sandra Borzellino (Secretary)
- ◆ Alexandra Balasoiu (Treasurer)

We would like to thank last year's Executive for all their hard work and dedication. If you would like to reach the School Council, they can be contacted via email at:

[vellore.woods.ps@sc.yrdsb.edu.on.ca](mailto:vellore.woods.ps@sc.yrdsb.edu.on.ca)

Thank you to the School Council and all of our parent volunteers who made our first movie night a success. We had a great turn out for Minions...stayed tuned for information about our next Movie Night in December!

Shawna Gates, Principal and Elizabeth Lau, Vice-Principal



# November 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 <i>Day 3</i> Bboyism Gr. 7&8	3 <i>Day 4</i>	4 <i>Day 5</i>	5 <i>Day 1</i> Bus Evacuation Training	6 <i>Day 2</i> Gr. 8—Bill Crothers Appli- cations due	7
8	9 <i>Day 3</i>	10 <i>Day 4</i> Diwali	11 <i>Day 5</i> Remembrance Day Assembly	12 <i>Day 1</i>	13 <i>Day 2</i> Director's Cut— Gr. 8 (in school)	14
15	16 <i>Day 3</i>	17 <i>Day 4</i>	18 <i>Day 5</i>	19 <i>Day 1</i> Photo Retakes	20 <i>Day 2</i>	21
22	23 <i>Day 3</i> School Council (7-8 pm, library)	24 <i>Day 4</i>	25 <i>Day 5</i> Gr. 8 Parent Info Evening— Tommy Douglas @ 7 pm	26 <i>Day 1</i>	27 PA Day (no school)	28
29	30 <i>Day 2</i>					

## Upcoming Dates and Events

Monday, December 7      School Council, 7-8 p.m., library  
 Thursday, December 10      Movie Night  
    doors open at 5:15 p.m. and movie starts at 5:45 p.m.  
 Friday, December 18      School Assembly

Monday, December 21 to Friday, January 1      Winter Break—Happy Holidays!  
 \*School resumes on Monday, January 4, 2016



# Hansel and Gretel

On Thursday, October 22nd, Vellore Woods students from Kindergarten to Grade 2 had the opportunity to watch a performance of Hansel and Gretel by the Shoestring Opera.

Here are some of the comments from Mrs. Gold's Grade 2/3 students on the performance



The Hansel and Gretel performance was very good. I really liked the part where they were dancing. I didn't like the part where they got captured by the witch. I kind of didn't like when they were singing high notes because it kind of hurt my ears. But I do admire that they can reach the high notes and that they could sing and dance in their costumes. I also think it was really funny. The funny part was when they were under the witch's control and were dancing to her song.  
~Ella

It was funny when Gretel said to Hansel but you peed in your pants. I liked the part when Hansel and Gretel put the witch in the pot. I liked the part when the candy house came because I wanted to eat the candy. I like the end when the neighbour next door said that she is not a witch. The characters were Hansel and Gretel. I liked Hansel's costume because he was an alligator.  
~Larujan



I think it was mad, like funny-mad because Hansel called the witch you smell like a rotten egg. I liked the Halloween theme. I didn't like the part when the witch came. I liked their costumes. I mean Hansel's costume. I think it was funny because Hansel was sleeping when Gretel tried to wake him up. I think it is about trying to escape the witch.  
~Christopher



I liked the performance of Hansel and Gretel because it had a lot of emotions like scared, funny, silly. I think it was silly when they were stuck in the forest singing about each other. The play made me giggle and it made me giggle because they were fighting. They were wearing Halloween costumes.  
~Nour

I like the play because it was funny because Hansel peed his pants and ran with the costume and Gretel took the costume away and they were both scared.  
~Lucas

The Shoestring Opera was hilarious. The play made me laugh a lot. It made me a little scared. Hansel was more funny than Gretel to me. The play was different from the book. I love all the songs because some songs were funny. I liked the show because it was ridiculous.  
~Chelsea

I liked it when Hansel and Gretel got lost in the forest because they asked Ms. Zigah and it was funny. I think it was funny because when they saw the neighbour they were screaming and the screaming was funny. Gretel was my favourite character because I think that she was funnier than Hansel. The play made me laugh when Hansel and Gretel were taking candy off the candy house.  
~Denicka



## How Students are Assessed...

Teachers engage in collecting assessment information throughout a unit of study in math.

At the beginning they will begin with a diagnostic assessment or **assessment for learning** to figure out what concepts and skills students are already familiar with.

During the unit a teacher will continue to gather **assessment for learning** from quizzes, observations, interviews, performance tasks, etc., to help them understand how well students are learning the concepts. Students will also engage in **assessment as learning** where they will not only self-assess their progress, but they will use their reflections and feedback to improve their work.

At the end of a unit of study a teacher will conduct **assessment of learning** and use this information to arrive at a grade or mark.

Throughout a unit of study, your child will receive feedback in a variety of ways:

- ◆ Written or oral feedback from the teacher
- ◆ Self assessment
- ◆ Peer assessment

# Monthly Math Insert

There are many resources available to help parents/guardians understand how to support their children in Mathematics. Below are some tips from the Ministry resource “Doing Mathematics with your Child, Kindergarten to Grade 6—A Parent Guide”. <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/parentGuideNum.html>

The resource is also available in many languages at this website: <http://www.edugains.ca/newsite/math/offeredotherlanguage.html>

Literacy and Math on the Fridge:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/abc123/eng/podcast/onfridgePod.html>

Math Homework Help:

<https://homeworkhelp.ilc.org/>

Partnering with your Teen in Math:

<http://doyle.wcdsb.ca/parents/docs/PartneringWithYourTeen.pdf>

Sorting, Matching and Making Patterns:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/abc123/eng/podcast/sortingMatchingPod.html>

Mathies: Interactive Online Resources

<http://oame.on.ca/mathies/>



## Mathematical Processes

There are 7 mathematical processes outlined in the Mathematics Curriculum. They help students build new mathematical knowledge and skills in the 5 strands in math. Over the next few months, we will explore these mathematical processes in greater depth.

5 3 8 7 6 4

### Mathematical

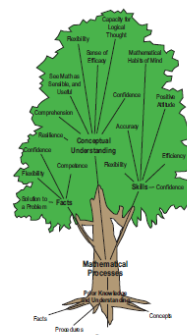


Problem Solving and Communicating are central to doing and learning mathematics

Mathematical thinking is communicated orally, visually, kinesthetically, and in writing

Interrelated aspects of Problem Solving include:  
Representing, Reflecting, Connecting, Reasoning and Proving, Selecting Tools and Computational Strategies

### Processes



Life-long learners of mathematics build new knowledge and skills in prior knowledge using the mathematical processes

Confidence and flexibility results from conceptual understanding

Accuracy and efficiency results from knowing facts and procedures

# Figure This! Math Challenges for Families

There are many ways to engage your family in math activities at home. This math challenges come from the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics website (<http://figurethis.nctm.org/>)

Try this math challenge with your family...we will share the answer in December's newsletter!

**Math Challenge #1 LINE UP**

**Figure This!**  
Math Challenges for Families

How **long**?  
do you have to stand in line??

**Figure This!** How long do you think you would have to wait in this line if you hold number 300?

**Hint:** Estimate the amount of time it would take for one person to buy a ticket. Use this estimate to find the amount of time you will have to wait in line.

Estimation and measurement of time are basic skills for all. Businesses such as banks, fast-food restaurants, ski areas, and airports need efficient ways to minimize time spent waiting in line.

You may want to try variations of this question depending on how challenging you would like this to be. Have some fun with this!

- ◆ How long would it take if you were number 10, 50 or even 500 in line?
- ◆ What if you were not waiting to buy a ticket, but, you were at the grocery store. How long would it take if you were third in line and each person had 6 items?



## Birthday Treats

For many of our Vellore Woods families, birthdays are wonderful celebrations!

As part of the *Ontario School Food and Beverage Policy*, Vellore Woods PS and other YRDSB schools encourage healthy eating and food choices at school.

Please do not send in any sugary or unhealthy snacks (e.g., candy, cookies, cupcakes, etc.).

If you would like to acknowledge your child's birthday at school, you may wish to send in other treats such as pencils, erasers, or stickers, etc.

# Lates/Absences

## Absences

Please remember to let the school office know if your child is going to be absent. The office number is (905) 417-9211.

## Lates

Vellore Woods Staff begin outdoor supervision at 8:25 a.m. so you may drop off your child at that time.

## Arrival after 8:40 a.m.

Doors are locked at 8:40 a.m. If your child arrives after 8:40 a.m., she/he will have to **sign in at the main office** and get a **late slip**.

Students will then head to class on their own or with a staff member if in Kindergarten.

**Parents/Guardians should not be walking students to their classrooms.**

## Early Pick Up

Always start your visit in the office.

The office staff will call your child/children to the office where you will need to sign them out.

Parents/Guardians should not be walking students to or from their classrooms.

*Character Trait for the Month of November*

# HONESTY

We behave in a sincere, trustworthy, and truthful manner.

YRDSB offers several free classes for adults.  
For more Information please go to the  
YRDSB website ([www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca)) or call (905) 731-9557



**BUILD A BETTER FUTURE!**  
FREE CLASSES FOR ADULTS

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[www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca)

# UPGRADE YOUR SKILLS FOR EMPLOYMENT



FREE Computer Clinic on Fridays at Uplands Learning Centre!

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[www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca)

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 YRDSBMedia



# How Well Can Your Child See?



Give your children the chance to be the best that they can at school – schedule an eye exam with a participating **Eye See... Eye Learn®** Doctor of Optometry today.

## Excellence in School Starts with Excellent Vision

### Did you know?

- **60%** of children who have learning difficulties have an undiagnosed vision problem
- **80%** of classroom learning occurs through the eyes
- **1 in 4** school-age children suffers from some kind of vision problem
- Children with vision problems may have a short attention span (for their age) and can be wrongly diagnosed with **Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)**
- Vision problems that go undetected can cause children to become **frustrated with learning**, suffer from **low self-esteem** and develop **behavioural problems**
- The **only** way to be sure your child's eyes are healthy, seeing well at all distances and working together as a pair is through a **comprehensive eye exam** by a Doctor of Optometry.  
*(See "Eye Did Not Know That..." on the reverse side to test your knowledge of children's eyes health.)*

## Children's Eye Exams are Covered by OHIP

Every child in Ontario who has an Ontario Health Card is entitled to an annual OHIP-insured eye exam by a Doctor of Optometry, up to and including age 19.

## Eye See... Eye Learn® Offers Prescription Glasses at No Charge

Children born in 2011 are eligible for one complimentary pair of glasses with their annual eye exam, if prescribed, through participating Doctors of Optometry.

Offer available July 1, 2015 until June 30, 2016.

## Book an Eye Exam for Your Child With an Eye See... Eye Learn® Doctor of Optometry

To find an optometrist in your area or to learn more about the Eye See... Eye Learn® program, visit [www.EyeSeeEyeLearn.ca](http://www.EyeSeeEyeLearn.ca) or call 1-855-424-ESEL



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Funded in part by the Government of Ontario



## Eye Did Not Know That... Myths & Misconceptions about Children's Eye Health

**Myth:** "I'll know if my child can't see well, because they'll tell me."

**Fact:** A child born with a vision problem doesn't know what normal vision looks like because they have nothing to compare it to and, therefore, are unlikely to complain.

**Myth:** "I can tell if my child has a vision problem by looking at their eyes."

**Fact:** Eye-related conditions cannot always be detected by simply looking at your child's eyes.

**Myth:** "I don't wear glasses and no one in my family has ever had an eye problem, so my child won't have one."

**Fact:** Regardless of family history, children can have eye problems that can go undetected if not examined by a Doctor of Optometry.

**Myth:** "My family doctor already checked my child's eyes, so they're fine."

**Fact:** Most family doctors only test how well your child reads or can see objects from a distance. By contrast, during an exam, a licensed Doctor of Optometry will check your child's eyes for:

- Nearsightedness, farsightedness and blurred vision
- Amblyopia ("Lazy Eye")
- Eye co-ordination and tracking
- Depth perception
- Colour vision
- Eye health and eye diseases
- Additionally, a Doctor of Optometry will review family history, overall health and lifestyle and assess how each may impact your child's vision



### Want to Learn More About Children's Eye Health?

Take the EyeQTest by scanning the above QR code with your smartphone or tablet.

To locate an optometrist near you and to find out more about the Eye See... Eye Learn® program, visit [www.EyeSeeEyeLearn.ca](http://www.EyeSeeEyeLearn.ca) or call 1-855-424-ESEL.

### About Eye See... Eye Learn®

Eye See... Eye Learn® is a not-for-profit program designed to detect, diagnose and treat children with vision problems when they begin junior kindergarten, so that every child can see and learn to the best of his/her ability. The Ontario Association of Optometrists (OAO) and the Government of Ontario are pleased to bring you this program, in conjunction with your school board and industry partners, OGI and Nikon Lenswear.





# From York Region Public Health



## What parents need to know about the flu

### What is influenza (Flu)?

Influenza is a serious, highly contagious, acute respiratory infection that is caused by a virus.

### How does the flu spread?

The flu spreads easily from infected people through coughing and sneezing. It also spreads through direct contact with contaminated surfaces, unwashed hands, or objects such as eating utensils that have been contaminated by the influenza virus.



### How can you help prevent your child from getting the flu?

- Get your family immunized
- Teach your child to wash their hands with soap and water thoroughly and regularly before meals
- Teach your children to sneeze or cough into their upper sleeve or a tissue, not their hand
- Keep your children at home when they are sick and limit contact with others

For more information on clinic dates, times and locations, visit [www.york.ca/flu](http://www.york.ca/flu)

1-800-361-5653  
TTY: 1-866-252-9933  
York Region Health Connection

Community and Health Services  
Public Health

[www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca)



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## Hand washing

Children share many items throughout the school day and at home including: books, puzzles, computers, water bottles and sports equipment. During the cold and flu season, sharing can spread germs that can cause sickness. Correct hand washing is the best way to prevent the spread of infection.

To help keep the people in your home healthy, take these steps:

- Encourage children to sneeze into the bend of their arm rather than into their hands
- Make time for hand washing, especially before eating
- Always have soap, paper or hand towels within easy reach
  - Before eating, preparing food or visiting someone who is sick
  - After using the bathroom, blowing their nose, sneezing or coughing, handling garbage, touching animals, playing outdoors or visiting someone who is sick
  - When hands look or feel dirty



**Together we can make the healthy choice the easy one!**

For health-related information visit [www.york.ca/healthyschools](http://www.york.ca/healthyschools)

1-800-361-5653  
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*PEO York Chapter is Proud to Present:*

# AMD Mathletics 2015



## YORK REGION STUDENTS:

You are invited to exercise your math abilities in a contest and apply your math skills to solve engineering problems for fun & prizes.

**Saturday, November 14, 2015**

**Sir William Mulock Secondary School**

705 Columbus Way, Newmarket, Ontario L3X 2M7

**AMD Mathletics has two levels of competition:**

- Junior level **(9:30 AM to 1:00 PM)** – Open to students that are currently in grades 6 and below (intended for grades 5 and 6 – based on grade 5 curriculum)
- Senior level **(2:00 PM to 5:30 PM)** – Open to students that are currently in grades 7 or 8 (based on grade 7 curriculum)
- Each level includes an AMD session with an opportunity to win additional prizes

Registration fee is \$15 per entrant. Online registration starts on Sunday October 24 at 8 AM and ends when all seats are sold or Saturday November 7 at 5 PM whichever comes first.

For additional information and registration link go to the following link:

<http://www.peoyork.com/mathletics>

