

WELLINGTON NEWS

What's Going On at Wellington Public School | Fall/Winter 2018

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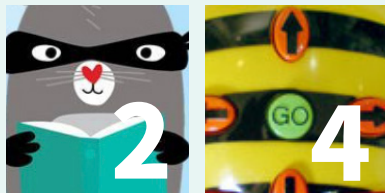
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Principal's Note

We say goodbye to 2018 and welcome 2019!

We hope that you and your family and friends have a new year filled with good health and success. As we finish the calendar year, we can look back and celebrate the many activities and events that have occurred this school year at Wellington. As we look ahead, the new year provides new opportunities for students to demonstrate responsibility and act on their personal goals and celebrate their achievements. At the recent Touchstone Assembly, we introduced "Responsibility" as our value we are working on as a school and community until March Break.

"We are individually and collectively responsible for creating the best possible school community to support the achievement and well-being of all individuals."

January also marks a time when we begin planning for the next academic year (2019/20). In order to staff the school appropriately, we need to accurately project our enrolment for September. Therefore, we would

appreciate knowing as early as possible, if you plan to move out of our area this year. On **Friday, January 18th**, we begin our registration for new kindergarten students for September. As well, registration forms for Grade 8 students attending Aurora H.S. and Dr. G.W. Williams S.S. will be delivered to families at the end of January.

In February, all Grade 8 students will be involved in selecting their courses for the following year, which will be due mid-February in Career Cruising. The first term elementary report cards will be sent home on **Wednesday, February 13th**. This report card will detail the academic achievement and learning skills for your child(ren) this term. Please look for and discuss the first term report card with your child when it is sent home. You are welcome to write a comment on the report card and sign and return it to your child's teacher as soon as possible. Remember to contact your child's teacher at any time if you have questions or concerns about his/her program.

Happy Holidays to you all and Happy New Year.

Jeff Laughlin, Principal

Introducing Our Outdoor Learning Centre

Thanks to our 2017/2018 fundraising campaign and the generosity of our Wellington families, we are thrilled to now have an Outdoor Learning Centre for our students. Completed this fall, it is located on the east side of the property amongst pine trees and mulch; some landscaping will also be added in the spring. This will be a fabulous place for students to engage in learning outdoors, have an opportunity to extend their play space during recess and provide an alternative learning space during extreme heat.



Wellington Turns 50: Fun Fact

Leading up to the school's 50th anniversary event on December 15, it was brought to our attention that a time capsule was left behind one of the bricks at the front of the school by students and faculty in the school's opening year: 1968. We uncovered the sealed copper box, which contained some fascinating finds, including letters from past students revealing what life was like at the school back in 1968.

The capsule contents, as well as Wellington memorabilia from across the decades, are now on display in our Learning Commons. We're also brainstorming ideas for our own time capsule or the students of 2068 to discover!



Wellington's 50th anniversary takes shape: Wellington students gather in the back field for our own 50-year tribute

Wellington Raises \$3,000 for New Books



This past fall, Wellington was adopted by Coles Upper Canada Mall through the Indigo Love of Reading Foundation's Adopt-a-School program.

Through the partnership and Indigo's online fundraising and story-sharing platform, Wellington raised **\$2,500** for new books! We also came first in Ontario in the online Story Contest. One of our submissions collected the most votes, earning the school an additional **\$500**.

In early 2019, the \$3,000 will be used to purchase books for our Learning Commons (library) based on need and student interest. Thanks to everyone who contributed funds and online votes! Mrs. Massimo, our teacher-librarian (this being her first year in the library) is excited to grow the library's book collection!



My Life Online: Key Takeaways for Parents

In November, we had a student presentation from the company My Life Online for Grades 4-8. Students were asked to consider these three things before posting anything online:
Is it true? Is it kind? Is it you?

We also had a parent presentation that same evening from the group. If you missed it, here are some helpful tips from the resource "The 4 Key Conversations To Have With Your Kids To Keep Them Safe On Social Media:"

- **Hurtful or helpful** (what impact will a post or comment have on someone else?)
- **Project or protect** (e.g., *project* your skills and interests, but *protect* your location and body)
- **Mindless or mindful** (assessing the amount of time your child is online and how they are using that time)
- **Handling the haters** (how to handle cyberbullying should it ever arise)

There are more great resources for students and parents available at this link:

<http://bit.ly/mloathome>



Fall Sports Highlights

We had three teams in action earlier this season: our Cross-Country team (grades 3-8) that took part in the area meet on a (hot!) day in October, our Flag Football squad and our Intermediate Girls & Boys Volleyball teams. Congrats to all our hard-working Wellington athletes on a great season!

We currently have three active teams that will carry into the new year: Intermediate Girls Basketball (grades 7 and 8), Intermediate Boys Basketball and Junior Mixed Volleyball. Wellington will be hosting the Volleyball areas on January 22. Come out to cheer on our Wellington Wolverines!



Wellington Book Fair a Big Success

Thanks to students and parents for supporting this year's Book Fair! Surpassing our \$2,500 goal, we realized just shy of **\$4,000** in sales. This in turn earned Wellington \$2,000 to purchase items from Scholastic, including books and materials for our Makerspace. Increasingly popular in schools, Makerspaces are creative spaces where students gather to tinker, create, invent, and learn.



GETTING EXCITED FOR 2019

Scientists in the School

Back by popular demand and thanks to the support of our School Council, Scientists in the School will be coming to Wellington classrooms K-8 in the New Year. Scientists in the School provides young scientists of all ages with hands-on classroom workshops led by presenters with subject expertise, discovery-based learning methodologies, and specialized materials and equipment. Stay tuned for your child's date and theme!



Artists in the School

The Artists in the Schools program is also coming back this year, and for the first time, all classes K-8 will have the opportunity to participate. In February or March, each class will have a unique art experience with a professional, making use of the program's great supplies and expertise that go beyond the scope of our standard art classes.

Chess Club

Led by Mrs. Granger and Mrs. McIvor, our popular Chess Club started up just before the holidays and will gear up for the tournament on February 28.



Robotics Club

Mrs Paraskevakos and the 40+ students in our Robotics Club are excited for the competition in January, in which they will have two minutes to complete specific tasks to earn points. Good luck team!



Introducing Coding Club

Thanks to the School Council's support for new coding supplies, Mrs. Massimo is starting a new Coding Club for grades 1 through 6. Intermediate students will guide and help the younger students as they learn the basics of coding and expand their skillsets.

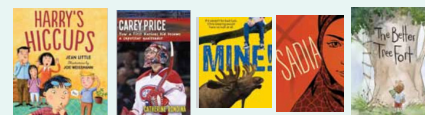


Aurora Public Library Partnership

We're happy to share that Aurora Public Library staff will be coming in the new year to run some coding activities and other events. We're also hoping to plan some walking tours in the spring to register students for the summer reading program and sign up for a library card.



Introducing the 2019 Forest of Reading Nominees!



Wellington is taking part in the Ontario Library Association (OLA)'s 2019 Forest of Reading program! Each year, the OLA chooses its top books by Canadian authors across various age groups (the **Blue Spruce Award** for Kindergarten to Grade 2, the **Silver Birch Award** for Grades 3 - 6 and the **Red Maple Award** for Grades 7 & 8). By being officially registered in the program, our students will be introduced to the nominated books for their grade category and have the opportunity to vote for their favourite pick with students from across the province.

Our students will have fun activities to engage with the books such as Lunch 'n Learns with some of the nominated authors. We'll even have the opportunity to take a group of students to the winners announcement at Harbourfront in the spring.

Thanks to the School Council's support, we have a copy of **all 40** titles nominated in the relevant categories. For a complete list of the nominated books, visit the [OLA website](#) or check out the posters in the school.

Wellington students, get ready to leave your mark! We will be having a **bookmark design contest** tied to the Forest of Reading program. Winning designs will be printed and made available for students to purchase. Stay tuned for details!

Key Dates

Back to School from Winter Break
January 7

Kindergarten Registration begins
January 18

PA Day
January 18

Wellington Spirit Day - Twin Day
January 25

PA Day
February 1

National Sweater Day
February 7

Valentine Cookie Sales
February 8 to 13

First-term Report Cards go home
February 13

Wellington Spirit Day: Red/Pink
February 14

Family Day
February 18

Winter Carnival
February 21

Have you logged on to Edsby lately?

Edsby is the school's primary platform for communication. Get the latest announcements, access information on your children's timetables, track and report absences, and more!
<https://yrdsb.edsby.com>.

Get the inside scoop!

Did you know Wellington has a school newspaper? Written and assembled by a team of Grade 8 students, *The Wellington Star* is available in the Learning Commons and outside our Main Office.

School Council Update

As we head into the holidays, here is an update on the Parent's Council efforts over the first few months of the school year.

The Council consists of our Principal Jeff Laughlin, teachers and parents, including the Council Chair Stephen Hartley. The Council meets on the first Monday of every month. (If you're interested in joining or sitting in, please let the Office know!) Council continues to work closely with the School administrative team and teachers to identify programs and areas that can use support. Effort is made to ensure that this is done in as equitable way as possible, with spending designed to help students in all grades and to address science and technology, the arts and literacy needs. So far this year, **\$12,750** has been committed to these programs:

Reading Initiatives - The Borrow-a-Book and Guided Reading programs are supported every year, enabling some new books to be purchased. Parents of Primary and Junior students will recognize these books as they come home each night in your children's knapsacks. Council is also supporting the Forest of Reading - a great program to get students of all ages engaged in new books (see page 4 for more).

Coding and Robotics has proven a very popular club in the school and under Mrs. Paraskevagos' direction, the program has been expanded this year. Council has provided funds for three more 'brains' to help the expansion, as well as for coding and Makerspace materials for the Learning Commons.

School trips – In an effort to reduce the cost of school trips to parents, Council has allocated funds to help pay for buses.

Scientists in the School and **Artists in the School** are both returning for another year (see page 4 for more). They are much-loved programs of students, teachers and parents alike and they reach so many students each year. Council provides funding in order to keep costs down.

Nutrition Programs/Food for Learning – This program has always relied on the generosity of grants, local grocer support and Council funding. Each classroom has a basket with fruit snacks in it. This year the school has been extremely fortunate as Bagel World in Newmarket has been donating bagels, allowing for another option when students are hungry.

Heads up on our 2018/2019 Fundraiser

This year's focus will be on technology. The Board encourages technology spending at the schools by providing a generous matching program (spend \$1, get an additional \$1.50). Council hopes to raise enough so that we max out the total technology spend for the school at \$12,500. Spending will be focused on both hardware (laptops, chromebooks etc) and robotics/coding. Stay tuned for details in the New Year!

