Administrators’ Message

In February, we celebrated our first one hundred days of school and held an assembly. We were cheered in to the assembly by students who danced and definitely got us all in the school spirit. There were class presentations recognizing all that has happened and celebrating our time together. Many of the presentations incorporated technology which highlighted the talents of our staff and students. We were also entertained by project runway where students modelled fashions that had 100 items on them! It was great to read the art work on the bulletin board displays where students reflected on their time at Wendat Village. We have so much to be proud of. The grade 8 students have just had their graduation photos taken and have been meeting with high school staff and choosing their courses for grade nine with the support of their teachers and parents. The partnership we have established with our high school has certainly supported the successful transition of our students from elementary to secondary.

All staff have also been busy planning our official school opening which will take place in the afternoon on Wednesday, May 1st. Due to capacity restrictions in our gymnasium, we will celebrate this occasion with students and special guests only. Our School Council co-chairs will deliver a message on behalf of parents. In order to ensure that we are able to share this occasion with our community, we will videotape the whole event and have a movie night in late May or early June where we will have a barbeque and enjoy the video in the gymnasium.

We are very pleased to have met with Dr. Ron Williamson from Archaeological Services Inc. This is the company that excavated the Mantle site. He is the co-author of the book The Mantle Site: An Archaeological History of an Ancestral Wendat Community that has just been released explaining the history of the site and the significance of the artifacts found and information learned as a result. He shared a lot of interesting information with us and is looking forward to learning more about our school and the work we are doing. He shared artifacts with us and will be coming to meet with staff on March 19th to share the story of this site and its significance. If you are interested in hearing Dr. Williamson speak, he will also be presenting at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum on Monday, March 11th at 7:00 pm.

We are also very proud of the contributions of our School Council. They have done a significant amount of work in a very short time and have established a professional atmosphere that supports our school goal of improving student achievement and well-being. Please consider joining us at a School Council meeting to learn more about the work that our parents are doing on behalf of our school. We are always looking to involve families. To date, our council has organized a number of sub committees that have effectively put into place a variety of things to support the work we do (i.e., playground equipment, pizza lunches, parent engagement, fundraising, volunteers, etc.). We would like to extend a special thank you to all of our families who helped us to reach our fundraising goal in the Much Music Video Dance-A-Thon. With this money, we will participate in the board’s cost sharing program which will enable us to purchase $15,000 of technology for the price of $7,500. Staff are currently putting together a list and prioritizing the items to be purchased. Please refer to the School Council section of our newsletter for more information and updates. Copies of our meeting agendas and minutes are posted on the community board at the main entrance.

Earlier this week we held assemblies with all of our students to review the expectations for the use of our school parking lot student drop off and pick up areas. A communication was sent home with all families. In order to ensure that our parking lot remains safe and efficient, everyone must follow the expectations as outlined.

Lastly, we would like to wish all our students, families and staff a fun, safe and enjoyable March Break. The last day of school before the break is Friday March 8, and we return to school on March 18.
**Scientists in the School**

Scientists in the school is one of my favourite activities that I get to participate in. I learn so much from each time I do it. The experiments that we do are so much fun! I can experience learning in a better way. Scientists in the school is a great way to use materials like pullies and gears that we don’t have in our classroom. Scientists in the school lets me explore new things and share learning with my friends. I can’t wait until the next Scientists in the school in our classroom.

By: Emily H. in Ms. Sinclair’s class

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**Earth Hour**

For the past few years, hundreds of millions of people around the world showed their support by turning off their lights for one hour. Earth Hour 2013 will continue to be a global call to action to every individual, every business and every community. A call to stand up, to show leadership and be responsible for our future. Pledge your support and turn off your lights for one hour, Earth Hour, 8.30pm, Saturday March 23rd, 2013. As a school we will recognize Earth Hour on Friday, March 22nd 9:30-10:30 am. **We can all participate.**

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**Moving?**

If you are planning to move prior to the beginning of September 2013, please let the office know as soon as possible. We are in the process of planning for next year and this information is extremely helpful when we make projections regarding student numbers. Also, if you know of anyone in the neighbourhood whose child was born in 2009, please remind them to come into the school as soon as possible to register for Junior Kindergarten.

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**EQAO**

Our grades 3 and 6 students will be participating in the EQAO primary and junior assessments from May 27th to June 7th. More information regarding this assessment will follow.

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**Student Lates/Absences**

There has been a lot of research on the importance of attending school on time and regularly. While in elementary school, children are developing habits and patterns which they may carry with them to secondary school and into their work environment. When a student arrives late and/or has several absences, there is an impact on learning. Research suggests that when students miss 15-20 days of school, they may become at-risk in their learning. Good attendance is directly linked to school success. When students are absent from or late for school, they miss out on important learning and, as a result, are often unable to make up for the time that is missed and fall behind. As a school, part of our responsibility is to support students who may be experiencing difficulty with attendance. Our first step is to send home a letter to families indicating the number of absences/lates. If the issue persists, we may involve our school social worker to see if there is further support that is needed.
Safe, Caring and Supportive Schools

Respectful Workplace and Learning Environment

This means that we create and maintain a healthy and productive working and learning environment that fosters respect for and is supportive of the dignity, self-esteem and fair treatment of everyone taking part in its activities.

Creating a respectful workplace and learning environment is integral in the creation of a community of character. Respect is foundational to the quality of relationships upon which working and learning are based. Strong relationships mean:

- knowing and trusting that we are being treated fairly and with respect;
- feeling welcome; and
- having rights validated through actions.

Good character is a cornerstone of a civil, democratic society of responsible, caring and contributing citizens. It ensures the ongoing development of a just workplace and learning environment.

For more information on this YRDSB policy, please visit the board website at www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca.

Lunch Procedures

If parents are home during the day, students are encouraged to go home for lunch as this allows them to have a break in the day. For students who stay at school for the lunch hour, lunch will be eaten in the classroom. We are fortunate to have a great team of adult School Assistants to supervise the classrooms and hallways, as well as the playground. Students who bring lunch to school may not leave the school property during the lunch hour unless they have a note from their parents and the office is informed. Students must have permission from their parents ahead of time if they are leaving over the lunch hour.

Safe Arrival

Just a reminder to please call the school if your child is going to be absent. You can leave a message on our answering machine. If we don’t receive a phone call and we are unable to verify the absence, the police may be called to ensure the safety of the student.

Change of Information?

If you have a change in home phone number, work number or emergency contact information, please be sure to contact the office so that our records can be updated.

Nutrition and learning...Is there a link?

The food choices children make can influence their health and learning ability. In Nova Scotia, grade 5 students who ate a healthy diet that included a variety of foods, with an increased fruit and vegetable intake and lower caloric intake of fat were more likely to pass reading and writing tests¹. Today, many children are eating too much fat, sugar and salt, and not enough vegetables, fruit and whole grains. This could be affecting how well they are doing in school.

To help get your family on the road to healthy eating, try the following:

- Encourage children to choose most foods from the four food groups in Canada’s Food Guide.
- Children are influenced by their parents’ eating habits and attitudes towards food— if they see you eating healthy foods, they will likely follow suit.
- Keep ready-to-eat, healthy foods on hand for the times when hunger strikes (e.g., fruit cups, yogurt, cheese strings).
- Involve children in planning meals, packing lunches and selecting snacks; use this as an opportunity to talk about healthy choices.


For more information about creating a healthy school environment, visit www.nutritiontoolsforschools.ca
For health-related information call York Region Health Connection at 1-800-361-5653, TTY 1-866-252-9933 or visit www.york.ca/healthyschools
School Council Information

Strategic Planning Meetings:
Tuesday, March 26 & Tuesday, April 9, 7:00 PM, school library—We all want the best for our kids. And we all want Wendat Village to be a school that our kids look forward to coming to each day. A place that is fun, exciting, safe; where they feel they belong and develop a passion for life-long learning. As parents and guardians, we want to work to support this kind of environment. We welcome all parents and guardians to come join our strategic planning meetings for school council on Tuesday, March 26 & Tuesday, April 9, where we will be working together to envision a shared future for our school and kids. This will be a time where we translate our vision into defined goals and objectives. We all need to come together to support our school and co-create a bright future for our kids.

School Council Meetings
All parents and guardians are welcome to attend school council meetings to provide input on and get informed about various initiatives within our school community. You don’t need to be a member to attend. Our next meetings for the 2012/2013 school year are Wednesday, April 3 and Wednesday, May 8 at 7:00 PM in the school library.

Dance-a-Thon
A huge thank you goes to our school community for your support of our first school fundraiser, the Dance-a-Thon, which took place on February 26. Through the Dance-a-Thon, we met our goal and raised a total of $7,500. These funds, along with some of the funds raised through the special lunch program will be met with the YRDSB Technology Cost Sharing Program. Therefore a grand total of $15,000 will go towards purchasing technology for our school and student use. Thank you to our fundraising subcommittee of Katharine Burnett, Julie Hassanali, and Scarlett Barnaby for their organization of such an outstanding event!

Volunteer Opportunities
Are you looking for a way to get involved in our school? Do you have one hour a month (or more) you can spare? We are in need of occasional volunteers for delivering pizza lunches and sub lunches to classrooms. Other volunteer opportunities exist for special events and help in other areas of the school. Please contact the school council volunteer coordinator, Amanda Kennedy, at wendat.village.ps@sc.yrdsb.edu.on.ca if you would like to get involved, whether it be a one-time event, or on an ongoing basis. We will contact you with specific details on opportunities as they arise.

Spring Plant Sale Fundraiser
We are excited to be selling a selection of flowers and hanging baskets from a local nursery, Valleyview Gardens, as a spring fundraiser for the school. Order forms will be distributed in advance, with the plants being delivered just before the Victoria Day long weekend. Funds raised from this fundraiser will go toward Play Equipment Purchase.

School council has recognized a need to add to our play equipment resources for all students, including Kindergarten, for use at recesses. A survey was conducted of our student body and staff to indicate where our priorities should be at this time. With the funds raised through the sale of pizza and sub lunches, $1,500 will be set aside for equipment purchase for this school year. We will be looking to expand and add to these resources over the coming years. Thank you to Mrs. Wood, Amanda Kennedy, and Sarah Fisher who have put forth an amazing effort to add some more fun to our kids’ recesses!

Upcoming Sub Sandwich Lunches
Due to the interest in Friday pizza lunches, beginning in the spring, we will also be offering submarine sandwiches for Monday lunches. Stay tuned for an order form and more details in the coming weeks.

Newsletter Prize Ballot/ Suggestion Box

My family has read the newsletter!
Name:_________________________ Teacher:_________________________

Please Return to the office by Friday, March 22nd, for the opportunity to Win!
Your Suggestions *** Concerns *** Comments
(please include your suggested solutions to your concern or problem & please print)

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
Please join the York Region District School Board Psychological Services Department for:

An Evening Presentation for PARENTS

with Dr. Wendy Craig

Parents as Partners in Preventing Bullying - Online and Offline

Dr. Craig is a Professor in the Department of Psychology at Queen’s University. She is co-leading PREVNet (Promoting Relationships and Eliminating Violence Network), a network to stop bullying in Canada. Her research focuses on healthy relationships, bullying and victimization. She has won many distinguished awards in recognition of her work. She regularly speaks to parents, educations, and professionals working with youth.

Bullying is a significant problem in our society and can have a significant impact on children's lives. In addition to traditional forms of bullying, online bullying through the use of technology is a serious concern. Technologies are changing the way we communicate, access, and share information. The Internet has opened the door to new learning and teaching opportunities. It has also raised issues about privacy, online respect, safety and appropriate uses for technology. Parents are critical in assisting their children in developing increased awareness, understanding and skills about being good digital citizens including an understanding of digital etiquette and appropriate use of the internet to promote safety online. Together with schools, parents can provide education how it affects others, to think and plan for using technology in the most appropriate way. The goal of this presentation is to empower parents in supporting their children by increasing their understanding about online and offline bullying and by providing concrete strategies to address it effectively in partnership with the school.

When: Thursday, April 11, 2013
Where: Riviera Parque Convention Centre
2800 Hwy. #7 West
(Hwy. #7 & Creditstone Road / between Keele and Jane, North Side)
Time: 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Registration Fee to reserve a seat: $10.00 per person or $15.00 per Family
(no refund if unable to attend)

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY
CONFIRMATION OF REGISTRATION WILL BE SENT TO YOU VIA YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS PROVIDED

Name(s): _______________________________ Contact Phone #: ____________________________
(Please list clearly, names of each Parent/Guardian attending)

E-mail: _______________________________ Number Attending: ______ Amt. Attached: $ _________

Please return this portion of the flyer with your CHEQUE only. (ABSOLUTELY NO CASH) made payable to York Region District School Board by April 5, 2013

By Mail: Elizabeth Iarocci, Psychological Services, York Region District School Board,
300 Harry Walker Parkway South, Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 8E2

By YRDSB Board Courier: Attn.: Elizabeth Iarocci - Psychological Services - C.L.L. - Newmarket

A confirmation of registration will be sent to you on receipt of payment.

Please note: THE E-MAIL CONFIRMATION IS YOUR TICKET FOR ENTRANCE TO THE SESSION.