



WESTMINSTER P.S.

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www.westminster.ps.yrdsb.ca www.wps.blog.ca

December 2015/January 2016

Family Movie Night! Dec. 10 at 6:30 p.m.

WPS School Council
presents another
community outreach
event for the whole family!!
Come and join us for dinner
and a movie to support our
school!



School Priorities:

Curriculum Implementation:
Effective Literacy, Numeracy and
Critical Thinking Skills

School Climate

Positive, Safe and Inclusive
Learning Environment and
School Community

Student Engagement:

Student engagement in explicit
and purposeful learning

Principal:

Micheline Joseph

Superintendent of Schools

CEC West:

Clayton La Touche
(905) 764-6830

Trustee:

Susan Geller

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Dec. 3 - Social Media Safety
Dec.10 - Family Movie Night
Dec.19 - Winter Holiday Assembly
Dec 20- Jan 1- Winter Break
January 4- Back to School
January 5-8—Jungle Sport

Principal's Message:

As we assess the progress of our individual students and share our observations with our families via our Progress Reports and Parent / Teacher Interviews, we also look at our progress as a school and how we are meeting our School Improvement goals. Our aim as educators is to help our children develop not only academically but socially and emotionally as well. To do this we continue to help our students develop a **Growth Mindset**; a mindset that builds on the desire to put forth the effort to improve even when something is difficult. It fosters the knowledge that through effort, perseverance and risk-taking, improvement will come. This year our work also includes teaching "**mindfulness**" to help our children become more aware of their own emotions and how to self-regulate to prepare themselves for effective learning and positive interactions with each other.

As we move into December, it is fitting that the character trait of "empathy" will be our focus. It is reinforced through the demonstration of our concern for others within the school, in our community and around the world through our ongoing Random Acts of Kindness campaign and our December Food Drive. We ask that everyone donate to our food drive to benefit our local food bank and show our caring nature and school spirit.

In December as well, thanks to the efforts of our School Council we have a variety of special events. On December 3rd, Paul Davis, a Social Media expert will be discussing internet safety with our grade 4-8 students. He will also give a **Parenting Seminar** on the topic to help parents become more aware of how their children can navigate safely when using the Social Media. All care-givers of children of all ages are invited and will find this information very interesting. See you then!

On December 10th, our ever popular **Family Movie Night** has returned! Come out for a dinner and movie night to support our school and meet your school friends. Come out to enjoy the company of other members of our community and build our school spirit together.

Finally, don't forget that our WPS spirit wear has arrived to Westminster! Order a beautiful WPS t-shirt, or sweat shirt for your child to show their pride in our school! What a great holiday present for the whole family too! Orders are due December 1st. So hurry!

Remember to subscribe to our blog for more school information and current school events at www.wpsblog.ca. Our blog will soon be replacing much of our School Newsletter so don't delay and check it out.

Respectfully yours,
Mrs. Joseph

Learning Commons/Library Corner: School Activities



Hour of Code

Westminster will be participating in our 2nd annual "Hour of Code" this December 13-17. This international initiative for all grade levels is a one-hour introduction to computer science. It is designed to demystify computer programming (coding) and show that anybody can learn the basics. Much of the learning will take place while using specialized games; a concept gaining momentum and known as #gamification. Our customized program will be delivered by our own Westminster teachers, many of whom are learning as much as your children through the process! Continue the learning at home by investigating www.code.org.



Forest of Reading

Westminster welcomes back the popular Forest of Reading program!

The Forest of Reading is Canada's largest recreational reading program! This initiative of the Ontario Library Association (OLA) offers several reading programs to encourage a love of reading in people of all ages. The Forest helps celebrate Canadian books, publishers, authors and illustrators. More than 250,000 readers participate annually from their School and/or Public Library. Students at Westminster will participate in one of three programs depending on their age (K-3 Blue Spruce, 4-6 Silver Birch and 7-8 Red Maple). New this year is Westminster's own digital extension of the program where students will take part in 'book talks' and online reflections using Google Apps. The program will culminate with students participating in a province wide electronic vote for their favourite books and winning author's announced! Stay tuned for the great books that you children will be bringing home to read or reading with their class nominated for these awards. Ask them which ones they like the best and think should win this prestigious Book Award this year.



Modern Learning Club

Modern Learning is authentic, relevant, deep learning that enables learners to create, to connect, to communicate, to share their learning with the world and to be future-ready. The library has started to provide student leaders with the skills and support to launch a teacher supervised/student driven club that models effective and safe use of a variety of digital tools. Problem Solving with Poptropica, Mindful Minecraft, Green Screening, Stop Motion Video, etc. are planned for this year. Club members are also responsible for tech. related support at assemblies and school events.



Genius Hour

Initially originating as a Google initiative to support employee creativity, Genius Hour is a movement that allows students to explore their own passions and encourages creativity in the classroom. It provides students a choice in what they learn during a set period of time during school. Teachers facilitate from the background by providing guidance and support accessing necessary tools that students use for their inquiry. Much of the learning takes place through the process rather than the end product. The library has started plans to host a regular school wide Genius Hour during selected recesses for those students interested.

Please Subscribe to our Blog @ wpsblog.ca

A reminder to please subscribe to our blog at wps.blog.ca for up-to-date and efficient communication about our school and school events. The School Newsletter is in the process of being phased out and we will be using our blog more and more to inform you of school events and initiatives. By subscribing to our blog you will receive our posts directly to your phone or computer through the **Feedburner**, our distributor. For this to work you must also verify or confirm your subscription. To do this, please check your email (or junk file) for a request from **Feedburner** and verify your subscription. Without verifying your subscription you are NOT subscribed and you will NOT receive our posts.

You are also welcome to visit our blog directly without subscribing at wpsblog.ca. See you there!

School Events—Posted on our Online Community Calendar

Our school calendar is going online as well so that you can access all upcoming dates and events at any time for any month. Please go to **Electronic WPS Community Calendar**: <http://bit.ly/WPSCommunityCalendar> to see our virtual community calendar which we will be updating throughout the year. We will try to keep it up to date and as far in advance as possible so you can see events coming up in the upcoming months. This will eventually replace the calendar attached to this newsletter as it is phased out. So check it out to keep informed.

We are trying to keep you informed in the most efficient way possible with today's technology!

ECO CORNER...

Boomerang Lunches, Recycling and Energy Conservation:

Our Eco Club is busy educating our school by going from class to class and giving them feedback on how to improve their recycling and energy conservation.

At Westminster we encourage students to participate in Boomerang Lunches. A Boomerang Lunch is when students return home items from their lunch to be disposed of or recycled at home in order to reduce the contents of our garbage at school.

We encourage students to refrain from throwing food waste in the garbage, but rather use our composters or bring their food back home to be properly disposed of in their residential compost bin. Remember, you can do your part for the environment by practicing the three R's: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

We are also monitoring our electricity usage. When we are out of our classrooms we must turn off the lights to help conserve energy. You can be more Eco friendly at home too! Everyone can do their part to Help our environment! Go Westminster!



School Council Corner

Westminster School Council has a new email address!

Want to volunteer? Have a question or an idea for a new program? Your School Council Co-Chairs, Ellen and Edna can now be reached at our new school email address: westminster.ps@sc.yrdsb.edu.on.ca

Also, all Parents/Guardians are encouraged to subscribe to the school blog at wpsblog.ca to get important information about school events and initiative. Remember to verify your subscription once you sign up!

**There are many exciting events taking place in December.
Read on and please join us!**

Paul Davis - Education Seminar - December 3rd, 7:00 pm

On Thursday, December 3rd, 2015, Social Media expert, Paul Davis will be presenting a session on Internet safety and how to stay safe when using social media. This event will take place at 7:00 p.m. in our school library. It is free of charge and open to all members of the community. Refreshments will be served. If you only come to out one event this year, this is the event you can't afford to miss. Let's educate ourselves together.

Westminster Movie Night - Thursday, December 10th, 6:00 pm

Back by popular demand, our first movie night of the school year will take place on Thursday, December 10th. Pre-ordered food can be picked up beginning at 6:00 pm, with movies beginning promptly at 6:30. Once again, two movies have been chosen through student votes: Minions for the JK - 4, and Tomorrowland for Grades 4 and up. Come in your PJ's and remember to bring your pillows to be comfy! Snacks and hot chocolate will be available for purchase during the event. If you would like to volunteer at this event please email Ellen and Edna at westminster.ps@sc.yrdsb.edu.on.ca

School Spirit Wear - On sale online and with order forms until Tuesday, December 1.

There's no better way to show your school spirit than wearing Westminster's spirit wear! Show your pride with four clothing options which have been chosen with quality and durability in mind - t-shirts great for gym class, long sleeved shirts for the colder days, non-zipper hoodies and zipper hoodies. All items are available in red with the school logo, and the zipper hoodies are also available in grey. Many sample sizes have been pre ordered for your convenience and are available in the school office to try on. Please make sure you order the correct size as returns will not be possible. Delivery before the winter break. Don't miss out on this order!

Thank you!

Families working together with our school staff and administration are what make Westminster a warm and inclusive place to be. We have a great school community - come out and be a part of it!

On behalf of your School Council, we want to wish everyone a safe and happy up-coming holiday season!

Family Movie Night—December 10th, 2015

WESTMINSTER MOVIE NIGHT

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Doors open at 6:00 pm Movie starts at 6:30 pm sharp

Admission \$2.00/person (at door) or order a dinner package!



Recommended for...

Minions - JK - Grade 4

Tomorrowland - Grade 5 - 8

POPCORN, HOT
CHOCOLATE AND
OTHER SNACKS
FOR SALE!

Dinner Package (Pre-Order): DUE MONDAY, DECEMBER 7 TH

Option A 1 slice pizza, fresh veggie sticks, water and admission to the movie... \$5.00

Option B 2 slices pizza, fresh veggie sticks, water and admission to the movie... \$7.00



NAME _____

TEACHER _____

DINNER PACKAGE _____ KOSHER _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____ OR ORDER ONLINE!

<https://yrdsb.schoolcashonline.com>

Inclement Weather and Dressing for the Weather

As the weather begins to change, please be reminded that **all our students will be expected to be outside before and during school in most weather conditions. Please make sure that your children come to school dressed properly for our invigorating winter days and play outside during recesses.** It is advisable for students to bring extra pants and socks. A change is often necessary due to the wet and cold weather of the winter months. To avoid adding to our clothing collection in the Lost and Found, please be sure to label all articles of clothing. Boots, jackets, hats, mitts, scarves, snow pants and a warm winter coat will make recess more enjoyable. (Please check our lost and found box in our lobby regularly to retrieve lost items)

In the event of **inclement weather** (rain, or a significant wind chill factor), students will be kept inside during all or part of the recess break. The principal will keep a close eye on weather conditions and make decisions based on what is best for the students.

To ensure the safety of students, school bus service may be cancelled from time to time due to inclement weather, extreme temperatures and/or poor road conditions. In these cases, parents and students should develop alternate care/transportation arrangements. Parents, students and school staff are asked to access the following radio and television stations after 6:00 a.m. to receive bus cancellation information:

RADIO and TELEVISION

590 AM 640 AM 680 AM 860 AM 1010 AM 1050 AM 1540 AM 1580 AM 88.5 FM 89.9 FM 92.5 FM 93.1 FM 94.9 FM 95.9 FM 97.3 FM 98.1 FM 99.1 FM 99.9 FM 101.1 FM 102.1 FM 104.5 FM 100.7 FM 107.1 FM

Television: CITY TV CTV Barrie CFTO TV CP24 GLOBAL NEWS

A bus cancellation message will also be available at www.schoolbuscity.com and by calling **1-877-330-3001**.



Message from our School Trustee—Susan Geller

Message From Our Trustee

It is that time of year when our schools brim with energy and excitement for the many diverse celebrations taking place across our region. I am always happy to join the festivities happening in our schools and appreciate the efforts of our students, staff and community members to bring the holiday season alive.

As we wind down 2015, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our parents and guardians for their support of our students and staff over the past few months. A school community is only as strong and welcoming as the people who make up that community. Our students, staff and community members have continued to demonstrate respect, character and commitment in their work and interactions over the last few months. As a trustee, I consider myself very fortunate to work with such supportive community and staff members.

On behalf of all of the trustees and staff of the York Region District School Board, I would like to wish you and your families a very happy holiday season.

All the best for 2016!

Susan Geller

Trustee

Character Assembly: November's Character Trait Recipients for "Respect"

Class	Students Recipients	Class	Student Recipients
JK/SK Sevel / Piso	Mia, Nicholas	4/5 Zuker	Bonnie, Sunny, Nicholas
JK/SK Schwartz/ Rosenfarb	Joshua, Emma, Sarah	4-6 CC List	Darren
SK/1Altman/Saccucci	Dennis, Emily, Gregory	5/6 Parekh	Anisha, Aylin
1/2 Einhorn	Ayda, Sarina, Bekhruz	6/7 Kaiman	Jonathan, Robert
2/3 Clark	Negin, Ian, Krish	7/8 Beckles	Simon, Shavangi
2/3Lazer	Chloe, Jia, Jordyn	Golden Dustbin Award— upstairs	Mr. Zuker's class
2/3 CC Croteau	Nicholas, Darren	Golden Dustbin Award— downstairs	Mrs. Einhorn's class
4 Basta	Abril, Ally, Lori		

Character Matters!

We encourage our students to display all positive character traits throughout the year and we celebrate their efforts at our monthly Character Assemblies.

December's focus "**Empathy**" Character Assembly: December 15, 2015
1:30 p.m. Hosting class: Ms. Basta's Grade 4 class

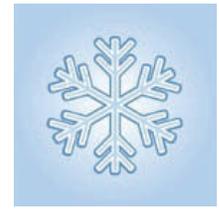
January's focus "**Initiative**" Character Assembly: January 28th, 2016
10:45 a.m. Hosting classes: Mrs. Schwartz/Rosenfarb and Mrs. Sevel/
Piso's JK/SK classes

Respect Honesty Fairness Perseverance Courage
Responsibility Empathy Initiative Integrity Optimism

Le Respect L'Honnêteté Le Justice La Persévérance Le Courage La Responsabilité
L'Empathie L'Initiative L'Intégrité L'Optimisme



Westminster Public School



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Nov 30-Dec 11 Food Drive Begins	Day 3 1 Gr. 7 Vaccine	Day 4 2	Day 5 3 Paul Davis Social Media Safety Gr. 4-8 Internet Safety Parent Sem. 7:00	Day 1 4	5
6 Happy Hanukkah!	Day 2 7 Grade 3 Gifted Screening	Day 3 8 Grade 3 Gifted Screening	Day 4 9 Grade 3 Gifted Screening School Council Forum	Day 5 10 Family Movie Night 6:00 Movies 6:30	Day 1 11 Progress Reports Coming Home Food Drive Ends	12
13	Day 2 14 Hour of Code Dec. 13-17	Day 3 15 Character Assembly "Empathy" 1:30	Day 4 16	Day 5 17	Day 1 18 Holiday Assembly 9:00 a.m.	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
WINTER BREAK BEGINS. BACK TO SCHOOL ON JANUARY 4, 2016						
27	28	29	30	31	Merry Christmas! Jan. 1	
					Happy New Year!	
Happy Holidays						

Westminster Public School



January



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Winter Break (cont.)	2
3	Day 2	4 Day 3 Jungle Sport	5 Day 4 Jungle Sport	6 Day 5 Jungle Sport	7 Day 1	8 Day 2 Jungle Sport
10	Day 2	11 Day 3	12 Day 4 Grade 8 Information Night Vaughan H.S.	13 Day 5	14 Day 1	15 Day 2 PA DAY
17	Day 1	18 Day 2	19 Day 3 School Council Meeting 7:00	20 Day 4	21 Day 5 BORC Outdoor Education Trip Grade 2	22 Day 1
24	Day 1 BORC Outdoor Education Trip Grade 4	25 Day 2 BORC Outdoor Education Trip Grade 7	26 Day 3	27 Day 4 Character Assembly "Initiative" 10:45	28 Day 5	29 Day 1
31						