



WESTMINSTER P.S.

366 Mullen Dr. Thornhill, ON, L4J 2P3 Tel: 905 731-2963
www.westminster.ps.yrdsb.ca and www.wpsblog.ca

November 2015

REMEMBRANCE DAY ASSEMBLY November 11th 10:45 a.m. Gym

Parents are welcome to
attend this special
assembly with student
presentations



Lest We Forget

School Priorities:

Literacy:
Assessment for Learning

Parental & Community
Engagement:
Supporting Student Learning
at Home in our Changing
Community

Effective Schools:
Creating a Safe and
Supportive School

Principal:
Micheline Joseph

**Superintendent of Schools
CEC West:**
Clayton La Touche
(905) 764-6830

Trustee:
Susan Geller

Principal's Message:

The **Progress Reports** will provide you with some important mid-term feedback on your child's progress as they work towards the expectations for Term 1. The Term 1 report cards with final marks for the term will go home in February. Your partnership with the school is invaluable to your children's academic and social success. We thank you for your efforts to work with your child's teachers to support their development.

One factor that is important to review is the impact that irregular attendance and punctuality has on our student's success in school. Please make every effort to schedule appointments and family events outside of the school day ensure your child arrive to school on time. The following are some of the ways that parents can help ensure student success in school:

- Check and sign student agenda for homework, assignments daily
- Communicate with your teachers via agendas, phone or meetings
- Support reading strategies at home – read with your child daily or ensure that your child is reading daily. Ask questions about their reading. Help them make connections between what they read and their real life.
- Help your child stay organized and focused when doing homework
- Ensure regular and punctual attendance

As always, we encourage appropriate student interactions and support the social and emotional well-being of our students. Although we reinforce bullying prevention through our character education and social skills with all our students throughout the year, **Bullying Prevention** is a focus for all schools in November and December. This year, to reinforce these important skills especially when using the internet and social media, our Grade 4-8 students will have a presentation on internet safety and cyber-bullying by Paul Davis. This is included in our **Arts and Athletics Enrichment Package** for the year. Thanks to our School Council, Paul Davis will also be providing a follow-up Parent Presentation on December 3rd which is a must see for all parents .

We were very happy to see so many of you participate in our very successful **Family Autumn Ball**. We want to thank our School Council for their hard work preparing this community outreach event and hope everyone had fun!

Respectfully yours, Mrs. Joseph, Principal

Elementary Progress Report Cards

The purpose of the **Elementary Progress Report** is to communicate the progress your child has been making since the beginning of the school year in each subject. The progress report also indicates how well your child is demonstrating in the various learning skills and work habits and identifies areas where you may be able to support your child in achieving success this year. This report is not an evaluation or a record of achievement levels. It reflects preliminary observations of your child's learning to date and the next steps for their continued growth and improvement as they work towards the curriculum expectations for the term. The intent behind this document is to serve as a central part of rich discussions between home and school.

The Learning Skills section of the Progress Reports is an important part of your child's progress at school. The Ministry direction stresses the significance of developing learning skills and work habits in our children. The development of learning skills and work habits needed to succeed in school and in life begins early in a child's schooling. As students move through the grades, they develop and then consolidate their learning skills and work habits in preparation for success in postsecondary education and the world of work. For students to be successful in this area, they need to understand what they are expected to know and be able to do in order to demonstrate these learning skills and work habits. To continue to develop in these areas, students should:

- set goals for growth; and
- build on strengths, use learning preferences, and work with adults (parents and teachers) to develop strategies to focus on areas of need to achieve success.

Teachers continue to be available to discuss student progress upon individual requests. Please connect with your child's teachers if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you.

ECO Club Corner.....

Help Westminster continue to be a *green* school and earn our Eco School Certification

Eco Tips:

- Pack a litter-less lunch
- Take all garbage and green bin material home to reduce food waste and the amount of garbage at school
- Continue to recycle everyday
- Conserve electricity and water
- Turn off lights you are not using



Winter is coming....

As the weather is starting to become cool, we ask that parents send their child (ren) to school dressed properly with appropriate hats, scarves, boots, etc. Please label your child's clothing to avoid it being brought to our lost and found. Also, a pair of indoor shoes is required for all students.



Daylight Saving is here! Don't forget to turn your clocks one hour back on **Sunday, November 1st** and sleep an extra hour this weekend.

Parent Volunteers: Please be advised that as part of our Safe Schools policy it is now Board policy that all parent volunteers who will be in contact with our students will need to provide the office with a Vulnerable Sector Screening from York Regional Police. Parent volunteers are very important to our school and highly encouraged in many areas such as field trip supervisors, classroom assistants and hot lunch providers. The school very much appreciates your help and involvement, however, please be aware that this protocol is to ensure the safety of all our students. Thank you for your understanding. If you have any questions please call the office.

School Council Corner

Family Autumn Ball:

Family Autumn Ball

Wow! Westminster, you guys really know how to party!

We had a great turnout for our first community event this school year. So many families and friends came out for our 2nd annual Autumn Ball and showed their school spirit by dressing up and dancing it up with our dj Professor Jamz and the Spin Machine. Thank you for showing that our school is more than the learning that takes place inside our classrooms - we are a community of familiar faces and support. To all of our volunteers who helped to make the night a success - and the staff and administration at Westminster for all their behind the scenes preparation - thank you!! Thank you everyone for coming out!

Westminster Spirit Wear is here!

T-shirts, long sleeved shirts, zipper hoodies and non-zipper hoodies are all available now for pre-order. All spirit wear comes with the full school logo on the front. On-line ordering has begun, and paper order forms will be coming home soon. If you wish to try on sizes for your child or yourself, samples are available in the office. The t-shirts have been specifically chosen with easy care fabric moisture-wicking for sports and are perfect for children to wear during gym class. Our WPS hoodie sweat shirts are warm and comfy. Perfect for our winter days coming up....

Order online at yrdsb.schoolcashonline.net



Internet Safety Parent Presentation: SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday, December 3: Paul Davis

A popular public speaker in the media, Paul Davis, will be speaking on educating children and empowering parents on the topic of social networking safety. **This is a seminar you will not want to miss to help you keep kids of all ages safe.**

For more information visit

<http://socialnetworkingsafety.net/sample-page/>

Flyers will be sent home soon with more information. Refreshments will be served and childcare available.

Family Movie Night: SAVE THE DATE!

Coming on December 10th we will be having our ever popular Family Movie Night! Two movies will be playing appropriate for different age groups so there will be fun for everyone!

Another fantastic community outreach opportunity for our families and friends to enjoy. More information coming home soon about dinner options. Hope to see everyone there!

**Does Your Child Have:
An iPod, iPad, Android, Xbox, PSP,
Social Media, or Access to the Internet?
Then Please Join Us:**

Westminster P.S. (Library Learning Commons)
Date: December 3rd, 2015 Time: 7:00pm

Social Networking Safety with Paul Davis

Westminster P.S. 2015-2016 Arts/Athletics Enrichment Package

We are very excited to provide our students with arts and athletic enrichment opportunities this school year. All students will enjoy several performances that will come to the school for a nominal fee. These performances and activities were chosen carefully to support our curriculum. They include engaging motivational speakers, musical performances and hands-on skilled-based workshops. This is a wonderful, cost effective opportunity for our students to participate in professional productions at our school at a reduced cost. Thanks to group rate discounts and sponsorship by the school and school council, this comes to **\$25.00 per student** for the year which is less than \$3 per event. We thank School Council for allocating funds specifically to sponsor the Internet Safety Presentation with Paul Davis.

Planned Initiatives:

Arts/Literacy:

Canadian Author Visit (Philip Roy) – Literacy (Gr. K-8)

Internet Safety (Paul Davis) – Media Literacy and Bullying Prevention (Gr. 4-8)

Fana Soro - Yamo! Yamo! Greetings from West Africa! – Music: Black History Month (Gr. K-8)

Cadence Quintessential A Cappella Quartet – Vocal Music (K-8)

DuffleBag Theatre (Bilingual Peter Pan) – Drama (Gr. K-6)

Athletics:

Jungle Sport (Rock Climbing) – Physical Education (4-day rotations for each class) (Gr. K-8)

Dance Workshop – Physical Education (4-day rotations for each class and final school recital) (Gr. K-8)

Snowshoeing – Physical Education (Gym class weather permitting) (Gr. 4-8)

Please return the form below, together with payment or go online at:

<https://yrdsb.schoolcashionline.com> by **Friday, November 13th** (cheques payable to Westminster P.S.). Please note that this is a group rate and there will be no refunds if your child is absent for an activity. If you have any concerns or require assistance, please feel free to contact the office.

Thank you,
Mrs. Joseph

I understand that my child will be participating in the activities listed above. There are no refunds for absences. Although cash and cheques are accepted, School Cash Online (via our Website) is preferred for tracking purposes. Please contact the school office if you require assistance.

Please indicate payment method. I have paid **\$25.00** for my child using the following payment option:

1st Choice (Preferred): School Cash Online (via our website). Receipt #: _____

2nd Choice: Cheque (attached - payable to Westminster P.S.)

3rd Choice: Cash (attached)

Please check below:

Child's Name: _____

Teacher's Name/Grade: _____

Online School Community Calendar....[WPS Community Calendar](#)

Check out our new Online School Community Calendar

Go to our new calendar for all school events at your finger tips at bit.ly/WPSCCommunityCalendar
Check it regularly for updates each month as we develop this new service for our school.

Calling in an absence to the office:

Attendance is an important part of WPS and our Safe Arrival Program. If your child is sick, we ask that you phone the school to report it. Some parents have reported that they have told the homeroom teacher but not the office. To avoid misunderstanding, we ask that you please call the school at **905-731-2963** to report an absence as well. Regular attendance is crucial for students progress at school. Avoid disrupting your child's education and regular school day whenever possible. Thank you.

School Bus Cancellation Notice

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.

Since some busing schedules begin by 7:00 a.m., cancellation decisions must be made by 6:00 a.m. to allow time to communicate this message to bus drivers. Cancellation decisions will only be made after thorough consultation with the Safety Officers of school bus companies servicing York Region and are based on several factors including precipitation, air temperature, road conditions and weather forecast.

Please note the following;

A decision to cancel school bus service will be **region-wide** meaning all school buses, vans and taxis will not operate.

School bus routes may be cancelled when severe weather is not affecting all municipalities in York Region. Both the YRDSB and YCDSB operate many regional educational programs. Students attending these programs are transported over large attendance areas encompassing several municipal boundaries. This limits the ability to cancel bus service using a municipality or zone methodology.

Unless otherwise stated, schools will remain open and parents can make arrangements to transport their children to and from school even if school bus service is cancelled. **If buses are cancelled in the morning, they will not operate in the afternoon. Therefore students transported to school by parents will require the same transportation home.**

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

590 AM 640 AM 680 AM 860 AM 1010 AM 1050 AM 1540 AM 1580 AM 8
8.5 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, or by following the YCDSB and YRDSB on twitter.

Please DO NOT call the school.



Flu Season is on the way! 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. It is important to remind children to wash their hands with soap and water thoroughly and encourage regular washing especially before meals, teach your child to sneeze or cough into their upper sleeve or a tissue, not their hand, keep your child at home when they are sick and limit contact with others, get your family immunized. For more Information on clinic dates, times and locations, [visit www.york.ca/flu](http://www.york.ca/flu)

Parenting Tips and Student Well-Being

Sleep and School-aged Children (5-12 years)

Children aged five to 12 need 10-11 hours of sleep. At the same time, there is an increasing demand on their time from school (e.g., homework), sports and other extracurricular and social activities. In addition, school aged children become more interested in TV, computers, the media and Internet as well as caffeine products – all of which can lead to difficulty falling asleep, nightmares and disruptions to their sleep. In particular, watching TV close to bedtime has been associated with bedtime resistance, difficulty falling asleep, anxiety around sleep and sleeping fewer hours.

Sleep problems and disorders are prevalent at this age. Poor or inadequate sleep can lead to mood swings, behavioral problems such as hyperactivity and cognitive problems that impact on their ability to learn in school.

Sleep Tips for School-aged Children

- Teach school-aged children about healthy sleep habits.
- Continue to emphasize need for regular and consistent sleep schedule and bedtime routine.
- Make child's bedroom conducive to sleep – dark, cool and quiet. Keep TV and computers out of the bedroom.
- Avoid caffeine.

Excerpt from <http://www.sleepforkids.org/>

**Sleep for Teens (13 to 19 years old)**

Sleep is food for the brain. During sleep, important body functions and brain activity occur. Skipping sleep can be harmful — even deadly, particularly if you are behind the wheel. You can look bad, you may feel moody, and you perform poorly. Sleepiness can make it hard to get along with your family and friends and hurt your scores on school exams, on the court or on the field. Remember: A brain that is hungry for sleep will get it, even when you don't expect it. For example, drowsiness and falling asleep at the wheel cause more than 100,000 car crashes every year. When you do not get enough sleep, you are more likely to have an accident, injury and/or illness.

Checking for Lice....

Anyone can get head lice or pediculosis. They are a nuisance, but do not cause illness or carry disease. Kids can be pretty sensitive once they find out they have lice. Here are some important facts about head lice that you can share with them:

- Head lice show no preference for any particular group of people.
- Head lice prefer clean hair to dirty so they do not mean that you are non-hygienic
- They spread when there is close contact, or by sharing hats, combs or brushes.
- Head lice cannot survive for more than 24-48 hours if they have fallen off a human head.
- Head lice are crawling insects and they cannot hop, jump or fly.
- Head lice do not thrive on pets.

We ask that you check your child(ren). This will help prevent the spread of pediculosis. You should examine your child's head thoroughly, especially behind the ears and at the nape of the neck for nits and lice if your child exhibits symptoms (primarily itching) of a head lice infestation. If nits or lice are found, all household members should be examined for nits and lice every 2-3 days for approximately three weeks.

If head lice are found, do not return your children to school until treated and keep your child home for 24 hours following the detection of lice. This will give you an ample opportunity to perform a treatment and a thorough comb through on your child's hair. Children are **only** allowed to re-enter the class once all the nits (eggs) are removed from the hair which should be confirmed by office staff upon return. Our school and parents need to work together to support one another and to help fight infestations of lice. If you have any questions, or need more information about lice contact the York Region Public Health Department at 1-800-361-5653 or check online on website such as www.headlice.org.

Character Assembly: October's Character Trait Recipients for "Integrity"

Class	Students Recipients	Class	Student Recipients
JK/SK Sevel / Piso	Ivy, Harihar, Elizabeth	4/5 Zuker	Danny, Jaeda
JK/SK Schwartz/ Scantlebury	Lilly, Zoe, Max	4-6 CC List	Ethan
SK/1Altman/Saccucci	Shelly	5/6 Parekh	Jimmy, Mike
1/2 Einhorn	David, Leah, Duncan	6/7 Kaiman	Michelle, Alex, Anton
2/3 Clark	Vera, Sofia, Dalia	7/8 Beckles	Nadav, Anushka , Shenylah
2/3Lazer	Mehrana, Tiannon	Golden Dustbin Award— upstairs	Ms Parekh's class
2/3 CC Croteau	Nicholas	Golden Dustbin Award— downstairs	Ms. Croteau's Class
4 Basta	Sammy, Naomi		

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.

October's focus is: **"Integrity"** - *"To do the right thing even when no one is watching. To be honest and true to oneself. To be kind to one another and treat each other as we would like to be treated."*

November's **"Respect"** Character Assembly: November 26, 2015 9:00 a.m.
Hosting class: Ms. Einhorn's 1/2 class



**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 P.S.

November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday					
1	Day 3 Lunch Lady	2	Day 4 Subway	3	Day 5 Pizza Day	4	Day 1 Lunch Lady	5	Day 2 Pasta	6	7
8	Day 3 Lunch Lady	9	Day 4 Subway	10	Day 5 Remembrance Day Assembly 10:45 a.m. Pizza Day	11	Day 1 Lunch Lady	12	Day 2 Pasta	13	14
15	Day 3 Lunch Lady	16	Day 4 Subway Photo Retake Day	17	Day 5 Pizza Day	18	Day 1 Lunch Lady	19	Day 2 Pasta	20	21
22	Day 3 Lunch Lady	23	Day 4 Subway	24	Day 5 Pizza Day School Council 7:00 p.m.	25	Day 1 Lunch Lady Character Assembly "Respect" 9:00 a.m.	26	27	28	28
29	Day 2 Lunch Lady November Spirit Day	30	<p align="center">Peace is in us all</p> <p align="center"><i>We are but children small, We are too little to do it all. Children you may do your part. Love each other is how you start.</i></p> <p align="right"><i>Play without fighting. Share your games and toys. Be kind and thoughtful, To all girls and boys.</i></p>								