



WESTMINSTER P.S.

366 Mullen Dr. Thornhill, ON, L4J 2P3

Tel: 905 731-2963

www.westminster.ps.yrdsb.ca, www.wpsblog.ca

October 2015

Terry Fox Charity Walk

Family Autumn Ball!

You are all invited to our annual **Family Autumn Ball**.

Westminster's School Council is organizing a fun-filled evening with dancing, costumes, pizza and fun! Students and parents are invited to come to the school on Thursday **October 29, 2015** **6:00-8:00** p.m. to have a ball!

Save the date and stay tuned for pizza dinner pre-order forms soon!



School Priorities:

Literacy and Numeracy:
Assessment for Learning

Parental & Community
Engagement:

Supporting Student Learning and Well-being in our Changing Community

Effective Schools:
Creating a Safe and Supportive School

Principal: Micheline Joseph
(905) 731-2963

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

Trustee: Susan Geller

School Office Hours:
8:20 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Principal's Message:

Our first month of school has flown by! We are pleased to say that we have had a very smooth entry with a very positive start to the school year. Our teachers have established routines and procedures to best meet the needs of our students and our students have adapted well to their new surroundings and expectations.

All classes have started off the year with a focus on literacy lessons that highlight the expectations around improved literacy skills, establishing the literacy block and the importance of focussed instruction. Our students in all grades are working hard to understand how to use Learning Goals and Success Criteria to help them achieve their learning goals and we are very proud of their efforts so far to develop growth mindsets. Also, our focus on teaching Social Skills and Self-Regulation through Social Goals for each class is helping create a positive climate for our students. While, our inclusion of "mindfulness" calming activities is helping them focus and prepare for learning.

As a staff, we have begun our data gathering to provide us with baselines to focus on the needs of our students and design strategies to help them continue to improve. Partnerships with our parent community is the key to our continued success and I urge you to continue communicating with your child's teacher as well as checking for homework and assignments to help support and encourage your child throughout the year.

School upgrades are continuing this month with new pavement games and social skill activities being painted on our tarmac for all our students to enjoy at recess. We thank our School Council for their fundraising work last year which helped pay for such upgrades. These funds were also used to pay for the purchase of an agenda for each student to help with their organization skills. We thank all our families for supporting fundraisers such as hot lunches and community events offered throughout the year. Your support goes towards enhancing your children's school and learning experiences. We hope you will continue to support us this year.

At our first **School Council meeting**, we elected our council and were pleased with the large turn out of interested parents. We discussed the importance of parent involvement in our school and community spirit.

Our School Council has already begun plans for our first community event, the **Family Autumn Ball** to promote community outreach. It will be a fun filled evening for parents and students alike and we hope that you all to plan on being there!

Respectfully yours,
Mrs. Joseph
Principal



School Council Corner

School Council Meeting and Elections

The School Council had a wonderful turn out for its first meeting on Wednesday, September 30th. Many new and returning parents came out to hear Ms. Joseph speak about what is going on in our children's school. It was a great start to the school year and we appreciate everyone taking the time out from busy schedules to show your commitment and investment in this part of your children's lives.

This year, Edna Benzaquen and Ellen Crackower will be returning to their positions as Co-Chairs. We welcome Brandi Sherman and Mark Burton as our Co-Secretaries and Tammy Waltman as our Treasurer. A big thank you to last year's council, Linda Lalani for her many years of being Secretary, and to Larissa Zenskaia for her hard work last year as Treasurer. A big thank you to all our volunteers - many of whom have returned again this year. We look forward to working with everyone again.

Can you translate?

As always, there are many ways you can get involved in your children's school experience. Please let us know if you are available to help out. Our goal this year is to provide a voice to all members of our school community. To do this, we are looking for individuals who can serve as liaisons between the many diverse cultural communities that make up Westminster PS. Please contact us if you speak a language other than English and are able to translate written or oral communication for us.

We hope all parents can make a contribution to our school in whatever way they can. Please come out to meetings and get involved in school events. **Our next meeting is Wednesday, October 21 from 7:00 - 8:30. Child-care will be provided. Refreshments too! Hope to see you there!**

Back by Popular Demand!

Family Autumn Ball – Thursday October 29th 2015 – 6:00-8:00 p.m.

You are all invited to our first community event, our **Family Autumn Ball!** Westminster's School Council is organizing a fun-filled evening with dancing, laser show, costumes, pizza, and lots of fun for the whole family! Families are invited to come to the school on Thursday, October 29th 6:00-8:00 p.m. and have a ball! Parents can dress up too! Or wear white to glow in the dark. Save the date and stay tuned for pizza dinner pre-order forms coming home soon.

Westminster Spirit Wear Coming Soon!

School Council is proud to be selling Westminster T-Shirts and Hoodies. More information to come in the near future.

It's going to be a great year! Let's do it together!!!

School Blog—Please verify your subscription to our blog

School BLOG: Thank you if you have subscribed to our School Blog or provided us an email to subscribe you to our School Blog. Please be aware that you must still verify your subscription. Once you do this you will receive regular emails about school information and events. To complete your subscription you will receive an email from **Feedburner** asking you to verify your subscription. You must do this before you can get any emails from our blog. So look out for an email to **verify** your subscription. If you cannot find this email you can go to the blog and subscribe directly by going to our blog at www.wpsblog.ca Thank you! All are encouraged to subscribe. Currently we have over 200 community members subscribed to our blog but not all have verified their subscriptions yet. Call the school if you have an questions.

Eco Corner

We are excited about another year with our committed Eco Club of students, staff and parents. This motivated club will be working on Eco initiatives to support awareness of our responsibility towards our environment. Last year Westminster was proud to have been certified as an Eco School and received a **SILVER MEDAL** standing to honour our efforts.

Check out the new sustainable landscaping newly planted at our school entrance which will be added to by our Eco Garden Club!

Our “School of Fish” Project is coming! This month, all our students from K-8 will be involved in a project to bring awareness for the need to preserve our streams and watersheds. We will be creating a “School of Fish” with beautiful wooden fish painted by our students and mounted on our Kindergarten fences. Our students will be learning about water preservation and collaboration as we work together on this school-wide eco and art project. Thanks to our parent volunteers for helping us with this amazing project. Stay tuned for more!

We ask all families to help us with our Eco goals this year. Every little bit helps!

- Pack a litter-less lunch. Support our Boomerang Lunches.
- Continue to recycle all recyclable materials every day
- Subscribe to our online School Blog and Twitter to receive current school information

Ongoing educational awareness of our responsibility to the environment is key to an effective Eco program. Thank you for your assistance.



Learning Commons—Library Corner

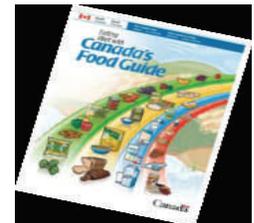
Our library is now called our **Learning Commons** room because it encompasses a variety of learning opportunities for every grade. It is another classroom for all students and teachers to use and a hub for our media literacy program. Students are able to borrow library books to supplement their reading programs at home and in the classroom. We ask parents to ensure that these precious books are well loved (and taken care of) until they must be returned to our library. Many of our homerooms have regular library days where students exchange books. Your classroom teacher will be able to let you know which day is your child’s library day. Keep reading with your child everyday! Teach them to love books and reading!

Author Visit: Canadian author Philip Roy will be coming to speak to our students on October 23rd. We are very excited to have a Canadian author nominated for this year’s Silver Birch Award coming to our school. We can’t wait to hear him describe his books and explain his writing process...maybe even inspire our students to become writers one day! Amazing!

Healthy Schools

Smart snacking

Children have small tummies and their nutrient needs are high. Snacks help them to grow and glow! Healthy snacks include foods from at least two of the four food groups in *Canada’s Food Guide*. Serve a snack at least two hours before a meal to give your child enough time to build up an appetite for the next meal. *Canada’s Food Guide* will help you to plan healthy snacks. Visit *Canada’s Food Guide* online at



Board Game Donations:

To promote positive social interactions for our children we are looking for any donations of new or gently used board games for use in our social skills clubs or classrooms during indoor recess. In particular, we are looking to supplement our collection of games such as Sorry, Trouble, Snakes and Ladders, Checkers, Chess, Guess Who and any Lego but would welcome all games in good condition. Thanks!

Student Safety

Student Well-Being: It's time to remind children about being safe in our community!

With the start of another school year, it's a good time for parents to remind children about personal safety. Here's what children need to know:

- Their name, age, telephone number, address, city and province. This can be done through rhyme or song
- How to contact their parents at any time, by memorizing cell or work numbers
- How and under what circumstances to call 911
- To never approach or enter a stranger's vehicle. A responsible adult would never ask a child for directions or any other question for that matter
- Make sure they know that police officers are there to help them and would not get mad, especially when the adult is asking them to do something they have been taught is wrong or feels uncomfortable. Reminding children of this right is important because children are taught from a young age to respect adults
- To always tell parents where they will be and to never enter someone's home without their parent's permission
- If home alone, never admit it when answering the phone. Never answer a knock at the door or speak through it. Adults can be very persuasive. Teach your child to call you if there is a knock at the door and if they fear for their safety, teach them call 911. Make sure they know that police officers are there to help them and would not get mad if it were a false alarm
- If they think they are being followed or are in danger, they should run home or to a public place. If someone grabs them, they should try to get away, yelling and screaming while doing so
- It is important to play in safe areas, never take shortcuts and stay with a buddy whenever possible

It is never too early or too late to teach children the importance of personal safety. Common sense, communication and consistency are the keys. Remind children to alert a responsible adult if something strange happens that makes them feel uncomfortable. Remember, crime prevention is everyone's responsibility. For more information on this subject, visit www.yrp.ca

REMEMBER WE ARE....



2015/2016 School Hours

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Supervision Begins | 8:20 a.m. |
| Classes Start | 8:35 a.m. |
| Recess | 10:15 a.m. to 10:35 a.m. |
| Lunch | 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. |
| Dismissal | 2:55 p.m. |

School Yard Safety

For the safety of our students, only staff members and school assistants on duty are allowed in the school yard. Adults on duty will wear a bright orange vest or sash so they can be easily identified. Any other adults will be asked to leave the yard and report to the office.



Parents wishing to pick up their Children during school hours must report to the office and wait for their children to be called. We ask that you write a note in your child's agenda so that teacher can prepare your child. Please avoid interrupting your child's day whenever possible by scheduling appointments after school hours.

September Character Assembly: "Courage" Awards

| Class | Students Recipients | Class | Student Recipients |
|--------------------------------|--|-------------|---------------------------------|
| JK/SK Sevel / Piso | Masha, Tessa | 4/5 Zuker | David, Bill, Diana, Bonnie |
| JK/SK Schwartz/ Scantlebury | Michael, Om | 4-6 CC List | Hawin, Asher |
| SK/1Altman/Saccucci | Ethan | 5/6 Parekh | Danial, Matin |
| 1/2 Einhorn | Adi, Bekhruz, Ron | 6/7 Kaiman | Sayna, Mira |
| 2/3 Clark | Michelle, Ilyan, Staci | 7/8 Beckles | Maya, Daniella, Sena, Houman |
| 2/3Lazer | Sarina, Elmar | | |
| 2/3 CC Croteau | Mischa, Darren, Nicholas, Jacky, Dara | | |
| 4 Basta | Rebecca, Olivia, Kelly | | |

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."*

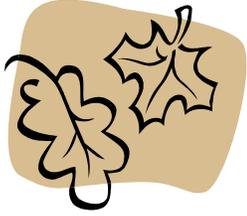
"Integrity" Character Assembly: October 28

Hosting class: Mr. Clark's 2/3 and Ms. Croteau's CC 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 Public School

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|---|-----------------------------|---|---|
| | | | | Day 2 | 1 | Day 3 |
| | | | | | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | Day 4 | 5 | Day 5 | 6 | Day 1 | 7 |
| | Picture Day  |  Milk and Subway Lunch |  Pizza | Day 2 Cross Country Meet | Milk  | Day 3 Pasta Lunch |
| 11 | | 12 | Day 4 | 13 | Day 5 | 14 |
|  | Thanksgiving Holiday Monday No School |  Milk and Subway Lunch |  Pizza | Day 1 | 15 | Day 2 |
| | | | | | | 16 |
| | | | | | | 17 |
| 18 | Day 3 | 19 | Day 4 | 20 | Day 5 | 21 |
| | Federal Elections |  Milk and Subway Lunch Lice Check |  Pizza School Council Meeting 7:00 p.m. | Day 1 | 22 | Day 2 |
| | | | | | | 23 |
| | | | | | | 24 |
| 25 | Day 3 | 26 | Day 4 | 27 | Day 5 | 28 |
| | |  Milk and Subway Lunch |  Pizza Character Assembly "Integrity" | Day 1 | 29 | Day 2 |
| | | | | | | 30 |
| | | | | | | 31 |
| | | | | | Milk  Family Autumn Ball 6:00-8:00 p.m. | Pasta Lunch Black/Orange Spirit Day  |
| | | | | | |  |