The Dragon's Tales

SETPEMBER 2014

Character Matters!

Respect
We respect ourselves and treat others with courtesy, dignity, and positive regard. We honour the rights of others. We respect their belongings, the environment and the world around us.

WILLOWBROOK P.S.
45 Willowbrook Road
Thornhill, Ontario
L3T 4X6
(905) 886 - 0743

Lucy Giannotta- Principal
Tonya Young - Vice Principal
Jackie Young - Superintendent
Susan Geller - Trustee

September

From the Principal's Desk...

Welcome Back!

Students and staff at Willowbrook P.S. are excited to be back at school. We hope our families had a wonderful summer holiday filled with lots of fun outdoor activities. We wish to extend a warm welcome to families who are new to the community. It is with great enthusiasm that together with the staff, we look forward to a successful 2014-2015 school year.

A Special Thank You and Welcome

A special thank you is extended to our school custodians, Mr. Geladaris, Mr. Lioutas and Mr. Papanaum who worked over the summer holidays to ensure that our school would be spotless and ready for our September return. We also wish to thank Ms. Doolan and Ms. Khan, our office staff who have worked diligently this past week registering new students and completing a multitude of start up tasks. Our teachers, educational assistants and early childhood educators have spent a great deal of time over the past few weeks preparing their classrooms and planning their programs, and we appreciate their commitment. We welcome several new staff members; Mr. Kim is teaching music, science, drama and art; Ms. Ho is teaching music; Ms. Singh is teaching grade 2/3; Ms. Kraizel is teaching grade 3/4; Mr. Titus is our junior/intermediate SERT; Ms. Leinwand is a Child and Youth worker and Ms. Khan is our secretary working in the office half time; We are excited that they are joining the Willowbrook team.

We Value Our Partnership

Parents/Guardians are essential to the success of our children's educational experience. We are partners, and thus, it is important that we support each other's efforts on behalf of our students. Please feel free to call the school with any questions or concerns and we will be happy to assist you. All staff members value your input and want each child to achieve her/his best. We do our best to provide programs that will stimulate the interests of the students and develop the necessary skills and attitudes to allow them to become productive members of our community. We ask students to come to school each day prepared to learn, work and play responsibly and respectfully. We encourage and welcome your involvement at Willowbrook. **Please consider joining our School Council – a great group of parents and staff who support the goals of the School Improvement Plan. Our first meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 17, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.** By working together we can help every student have a positive school experience in order to achieve success.

Curriculum Night

Our staff is excited to share their programs and discuss curriculum with you on **Thursday, October 2nd** during Curriculum Night. We hope to meet all returning and new families! **More information about Curriculum Night will follow.**

School Improvement Planning Process

The staff at Willowbrook Public School is committed to the School Improvement Plan. For the 2014-2015 school year, the improvement plan process will continue to reflect focused and intentional work for the overall goal of student success. This year, we are excited about moving forward with our Rounds Process that will enable our staff to engage in network related work and share practices with other staff from other schools.

Fire Drills and Lock Downs

All publicly funded schools in Ontario are committed to providing and maintaining a safe school environment. Every year we have six practice fire drills. As part of safe schools we will also be conducting two lockdown drills. Our first fire and lockdown drill will take place during Safety Week on September 29 to October 3rd.

Ms. Giannotta and Ms. Vokey-Young

York Region District School Board

Wanted!
We are looking for lunch assistants to work from 12:30 to 1:30. This is a paid position! If you are interested please call the school. Note: a Vulnerable Screening Police Check is necessary.

Electronic Newsletters

This year in an effort to reduce the paper consumption, our monthly newsletters are sent via email to our families. We will continue every month to keep you informed about your child's learning and school activities by posting the newsletters on line at: www.willowbrook.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca. Let's all help to save some trees and keep our environment litter free. Thanks for your cooperation!

Staff Organization
September 2014-2015

JK/SK	Ms. Yen
JK/SK	Ms. Epstein
GR. 1/2	Ms. Isenberg
GR. 2/3	Ms. Singh
GR. 2/3	Ms. Gaudio
GR. 3/4	Ms. Kraizel
GR. 4/5	Ms. Lee
GR. 6/7	Mr. DeMarchi
GR. 7/8	Ms. Basin
GR. 7/8	Ms. Suess
SERT	Mr. Titus
Community Class	Ms. Brennan
Community Class	Ms. Horn
Community Class	Ms. Halmos
Reading Recovery	Ms. Cardoso
French	Ms. Kadjemian
Music	Ms. Ho
Sp. Ed.	Ms. Matrakoukas
CYW	Ms. Morra
CYW	Mr. Timothy
DECE	Ms. Raza
DECE	Ms. Iftikhar
Community Class EA	Ms. Leinwand
Community Class EA	Ms. Cooke
Community Class EA	Ms. Kazilis
Community Class EA	Ms. Lamba
Community Class EA	Ms. Vakilian
Community Class EA	Ms. Goodman
Community Class EA	Ms. Magliocco
Community Class EA	Ms. Sennik
Caretaking	Mr. Galadaris
Caretaking	Mr. Lioutas
Caretaking	Mr. Papanaum
EOAA-Office	Ms. Doolan
Secretary-Office	Ms. Khan
Vice Principal	Ms. Vokey-Young
Principal	Ms. Giannotta

School Hours

Entry Bell:	8:40 a.m.
Period 1:	8:40 to 9:30
Period 2:	9:30 to 10:20
Recess:	10:20 to 10:50
Period 3:	10:50 to 11:40
Period 4:	11:40 to 12:30
Lunch:	12:30 to 1:30
Period 5:	1:30 to 2:20
Period 6:	2:20 to 3:10
Dismissal:	3:10

All visitors to the school must report to the office. All those visitors who have school business will be requested to sign in at the office and wear a visitor's badge.

Student Use of Office Telephone

The school office is often a very busy place, and we need to keep the office telephone lines free as much as possible for emergency purposes. We do recognize that from time to time there may be extraneous circumstances where parents/ students need to use the telephone lines. At the same time, please ensure your child understands specific pick up and special lunch time arrangements; after school activities, etc., before your child comes to school in the morning. It is highly recommended that you maintain a familiar routine with your child. This way your child is clear on what is expected. We also request that you do not call your child nor encourage your child to call you on their cell phone during our school hours (9:00 to 3:20). If there is an urgent matter, please call the office.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!

Attendance

It is important for your child to attend school regularly. We discourage families from booking family vacations during school time. Attendance is compulsory until a child reaches the age of sixteen. When parents anticipate absences that will be more than 15 schools days parents must write a letter to the Principal at least one week before the planned departure. Contact with the school must be made on the 15th day of absence, and every 15 days after that. We appreciate your cooperation!

Safe School Arrival Program

Ensuring the safety of your children is our priority. Each York Region school is required to have a Safe Arrival Program in place so that we can account for the whereabouts of absent students. It is for this reason that we ask all parents to inform us of their child's absence from school. Where it is possible, we ask that this be done in advance. Simply call the school and leave a message on our answering machine or with our office staff.

If you have not informed us of your child's absence in advance, the following steps, in this order, will be carried out to ensure your child is safe:

1. We will call your home.
2. If we do not reach you at home we will call your work and/or cell phone number.
3. If we cannot reach you at work we will call your emergency contact number.
4. If we are not able to obtain information from your emergency contact re: your child's whereabouts we will speak to a sibling, if one is in the school.
5. If we are still not able to obtain information re: your child's location we may check with a friend of your child.
6. Staff will announce over the P.A. for your son/daughter to report to the office.
7. Should we still not be able to obtain information on your child's whereabouts we will consider your child MISSING and we will contact THE YORK REGIONAL POLICE.

Punctuality

Learning time at school is valuable! At Willowbrook learning begins promptly at 8:40 a.m. We expect all students to arrive on time, before 8:40 a.m. If students arrive after the bell, they must check in at the office for a late admission slip before going to class. It is important that students develop positive life skill habits as early as possible!

Students Who Need to Leave School During the Day

If your child needs to leave the building prior to regular dismissal time, she/he must be picked up by a parent/guardian. No student will be permitted to leave without a parent/guardian present. ALL students who leave during the day, must be signed out by the parent/guardian who picks them up.

Lunch Time Supervision

All students are expected to have a **Consent/Agreement Form** completed by their parents indicating whether their child will remain at school during the lunch hour or they have permission to leave the school grounds. We strongly suggest that students come to school with their lunches packed rather than have their lunches delivered by their parents/guardians. This practice will ensure minimal disruption to our lunch routines as school assistants carefully monitor every student over the lunch hour. Encouraging children to participate in the preparation of their meals will teach them important life skills and responsibility. For those special circumstances when parents/guardians must deliver lunches to their children, please ensure labeled lunches are delivered to the school **BEFORE 12:30**. **FOR SAFETY REASONS, STUDENTS ARE ABSOLUTELY NOT PERMITTED TO LEAVE THE SCHOOL OVER THE LUNCH HOUR TO GET THEIR LUNCHES FROM THE PARKING LOT! PARENTS MUST DELIVER THE LUNCHES IN THE SCHOOL.** School assistant supervisors make every attempt to encourage children to eat their lunch; however, students will be asked to take any unfinished lunch home. Please ensure your child's lunch is stored in clearly labeled containers, and for safety purposes we ask that students don't bring glass bottles to school.

The character trait for the month of September is Respect.
"They cannot take away our self-respect if we do not give it to them."
Mahatma Gandhi

Character Matters!

What is Anaphylaxis?

Each year parents are reminded that several students and staff in our school have a severe, life threatening allergic reaction that, if not treated, can lead to death very quickly. Within seconds, itching, hives, tingling and swelling of the mouth and face can occur. Then, more seriously, the breathing tube swells, cutting off breathing and could result in death. Are you aware of the causes?

Peanuts, nuts and their products, including peanut butter, are the leading cause of anaphylaxis. Even a trace amount can trigger a reaction! Others include **shellfish (shrimp, lobster), fish, eggs, milk, Latex (band-aids, balloons), exercise, medications, and insects (honey bees, yellow jackets, hornets & wasps).**

Prevention and Education: York Region District School Board has policies in place to help protect children and keep students safe and healthy. Although this might not affect your child's class directly, it is very important that you co-operate with our policy. *Health Connection* can provide suggestions for different and safer foods. A complete, hands-on teaching package, is available for all schools, called the Anaphylaxis Resource Kit. **Let's work together to keep our children safe!**

For more information call … York Region Health Services *Health Connection* at 1-800-361-5653

If your child has allergies to peanuts, bee stings etc., it is important that you notify the office ASAP! In addition, please inform the school ASAP of any other medical condition that may require the school's attention.

PARKING/DROP-OFF REMINDERS!

We require the **cooperation and support** of all our parents/visitors who use the drop-off area to get their children to and from school. Our common goal is, of course, the **safety of all our students**. When school finishes at 3:10 p.m. the "Kiss and Ride" becomes extremely busy. Please keep looping around as parking causes traffic issues and unsafe conditions for everyone. In addition, please do not park in front of the exit or in the staff parking lot. Parking is at a premium at Willowbrook and we have many visitors (i.e., therapists, support personnel, student teachers, etc.) to our school and often they find it difficult finding a parking spot and /or leaving the property at the end of the day. Also at all times, avoid pulling up beside another car to unload children. This is very dangerous and unsafe, and it interrupts the traffic flow. **Your continued cooperation will ensure the continued safety of all our children.**

School Agenda Planner

We expect all students from grades 1 to 8 to use an agenda planner which has been personalized for Willowbrook P.S. The planner will help students plan and organize their studies with the support of their teachers. The agendas are also a great communication tool between school and home. The planners will be distributed to each student at no cost. Expenses will be paid by School Council. Please be sure to read the Willowbrook information at the front of each agenda with your child(ren). Please note that the school cannot replace student agendas that are lost, thus it is important that our students take good care of their agendas.

Start-up Information and Consent Forms

On the first day of school, your child received a yellow folder with important start-up information. Please ensure that you review the information and complete the Consent/Agreement forms. These forms must be returned to school as soon as possible. Also Student Information Forms will be coming home this week with every student. It is **crucial** that you update the information and return it to school as soon as possible so the office has available your current contact information. This is crucial, especially in the case of an emergency where we are trying to contact you. Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

Self and Staff Administration of Medication

It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to administer medication to their children. Treatment regimes should, where possible, be adjusted to avoid administration of medication during school hours. When this is not possible, students should be encouraged to accept the maximum responsibility for the self-administration of medication, and a "Self-Administration of Medication" form must be completed by the parents/guardians. From time to time, parents may request the assistance of school personnel. In such cases a "Staff Administration of Medication" form must be completed and signed by the parent/guardian to allow school staff to administer medication. **Please note that ANY and ALL medication in the school building MUST be kept in the office at all times. Students must never have any prescribed or over-the-counter medication in their possession. Please contact the school immediately if your child must take medication at school.**

Birthday Celebrations:
We ask parents/guardians to refrain from sending any kind of birthday treat with your child (i.e., cakes, cupcakes, etc.) The school cannot ensure that these foods are free from peanuts or peanut products. We are happy to acknowledge your child's birthday, and you are welcome to send non food items with your child (i.e., pencils, erasers, stickers) to share with his/her classmates. Alternatively, parents/guardians may wish to donate a gift to the class (i.e., a story book, etc.) However, please note that this is not **obligatory**.

Communication

At Willowbrook we believe in frequent and ongoing communication. You are encouraged to call at any time to make an appointment with teachers or the administrator to discuss your child's progress or communicate questions or concerns. Formal reports using the standardized Ministry format are sent home three times a year. These reports summarize your child's progress in relation to the Ontario Curriculum. Parents will have the opportunity to discuss their child's progress face to face with their teachers in November during our teacher-parent interviews. We view the education of your child as a shared responsibility, and encourage ongoing communication through phone calls, agenda planners, class newsletters, web sites etc. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher if you have questions, concerns or input. We welcome your participation in your child's school life.

Curriculum Night
Curriculum Night is an important information evening to at Willowbrook P.S. It will be held on the evening of **Thursday, October 2nd, 2014.** This will be your opportunity to meet your child's teacher(s) and learn about the curriculum expectations and classroom routines. This is also the perfect opportunity to ask questions about the program. We look forward to seeing you, so please mark your calendar. More details will follow!

School Yard Safety
The field and school property are supervised by staff members from 8:25 a.m. to school entry at 8:40 a.m. and again during morning recess and throughout the lunch hour and lunch recess. Students are instructed to remain within the school's boundaries where the staff is supervising.
For the safety of our students, only staff members and school assistants are allowed in the school yard at recess and lunch recess. Adults on duty will wear bright orange vests so they can be easily identified. Any other adults will be asked to leave the yard and report to the office.

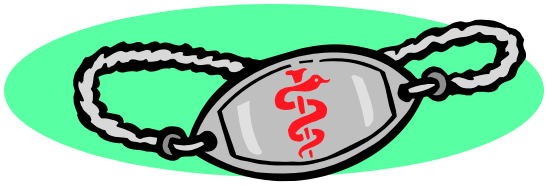
RECORDING SCHOOL EVENTS & PRIVACY

Over the school year we hope to hold a variety of community activities (assemblies, concerts, graduations, etc.) and we recognize that many parents/guardians want to capture these events with photographs and/or videos. As a reminder to respect the privacy rights of students, parents and staff, we ask that when parents/guardians are personally recording school events, they refrain from publicly posting the images, say on YouTube or Facebook. This does not respect the privacy rights of all those parents, staff and particularly students whose images they would share without their knowledge or permission. These photographs and video clips cannot be controlled by the York Region District School Board nor can it prevent their further distribution or use. At the start of the year, all parents are asked to complete a "Use of Student Images" form that requires parental consent to record images for use by the School/Board only. Please note that advance notice to parents/guardians will be provided by the school when special events are recorded by the school. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the school.

Medic Alert's No Child Without Program:
The No Child Without program offers a free Medic Alert membership to students who attend our school and are between the ages of 4 up to their 14th birthday. If your child has a medical condition, allergy or is required to take medication on a regular basis then you should consider a Medic Alert membership through this program. Membership in Medic Alert is your child's voice in an emergency as it:

- gives emergency first responders immediate access to your child's medical information on their Medic Alert bracelet or necklace
- enables first responders to quickly obtain up-to-date medical information by means of the child's Electronic Health Record through the **24 Hour Emergency Hotline.**
- communicates with the parent or emergency contact upon activation of the **Hotline**
- allows free updates of the child's medical record as needed

Medic Alert identification can alert school staff, friends, coaches and others about your child's medical condition should an emergency occur.
For further information come to the office for a brochure or visit www.nochildwithout.ca. To register your child you will need a ***No Child Without*** brochure from the office.
If your child is already part of the ***No Child Without*** program and there have been changes to their medical condition, medications or emergency contact information, call Medic Alert at 1-866-679-3220 Ext 1 to update your child's file.



School Council

Our School Council works closely with the administration on behalf of the Willowbrook community. Meetings are announced through notices that are sent home. The agenda is prepared by the School Council Chair and the administration The Willowbrook School Council is active, growing and committed to working with staff in various ways. Fundraisers are often sponsored by the School Council. Money raised benefits all students. Parents are encouraged to join the School Council, attend meetings and take an active role in school events. Our **first** School Council meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 17, at 7:00 p.m. in the library.**

Locked School Doors

All school doors, including the front doors and doors to portables, will be locked 15 minutes after the morning entry bell. The doors will remain locked for the rest of the day. Anyone arriving at the school after that time must use the buzzer to gain admittance and sign in at the main office. Our school continues to be a safe place where parent and community member involvement is welcomed and encouraged. This additional step will enhance the measures we already have in place, and ensure that all visitors sign in at the main office upon arrival. Please remind your younger children that if they are unsure what to do or where to go for any reason, they need to come to the Office. If they are outside they must use the buzzer at the front door. If they cannot reach the buzzer we will see them from the office.

Vulnerable Sector Screening (VSS)

The work of the volunteers in schools is invaluable and very much appreciated. All volunteers who come in contact with students need to have a Vulnerable Sector Screening completed. All screenings must be done in person at either the Hillcrest or Aurora/Stouffville locations of the York Regional Police Services. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer at the school, please pick up a letter from the office signed by administration that you must bring to the Police Services when you are requesting your screening. Please note that volunteers must maintain confidentiality with respect to personal information regarding students and their families.
Please feel free to contact the office if you have any questions. Also, please note that due to the high volume of screening requests, especially in September it may take over a month for a VSS to be completed.

September 2014-Month-At-A-Glance

Character Matters Attribute: Respect

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1-Labour Day	2 **-First Day of School- Welcome Back! -DAY ONE**	3 **-DAY TWO**	4 -Primary/ Junior/ Intermediate Back to School Assemblies (in the library) **-DAY THREE**	5**-DAY FOUR**	6
7	8**-DAY FIVE**	9**-DAY ONE**	10**-DAY TWO**	11**-DAY THREE**	12**-DAY FOUR**	13
14	15**-DAY FIVE** -Bus Evacuation Program	16**-DAY ONE** -EQAO releases 2013-2014 Results	17**-DAY TWO** -First School Council Meeting	18**-DAY THREE**	19**-DAY FOUR**	20
21	22 Professional Training Day-No School	23**-DAY FIVE**	24**-DAY ONE** -Terry Fox Walk (p.m.)	25 Rosh Hashanah **-DAY TWO**	26 Rosh Hashanah **-DAY THREE**	27
28	29**-DAY FOUR** -Terry Fox Walk (rain date) Safety Week →	30**-DAY FIVE** -Fire Drill #1 A.M. -Photo Day	1**-DAY ONE** -Fire Drill #1 A.M.(Rain date)	2**-DAY TWO** -Curriculum Night -Area West-Cross Country	3**-DAY THREE** -Lockdown Drill a.m.	