

# WOODLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL

120 Royal Orchard Blvd. Thornhill, Ontario L3T 3C9 905 889 4910

Website: [www.woodland.ps.yrdsb.ca](http://www.woodland.ps.yrdsb.ca)

Email: [woodland.ps@yrdsb.ca](mailto:woodland.ps@yrdsb.ca)

Superintendent: Mme Rashmi Swarup

Trustee: Susan Geller [susan.geller@yrdsb.ca](mailto:susan.geller@yrdsb.ca)

## SCHOOLHOURS

First bell 8:05 am  
 School Starts 8:10 am  
 Recess 9:50-10:20 am  
 Lunch: 12:00-1:00 pm  
 Dismissal: 2:40 pm



It is an important life skill to be on time...even early. Please work with your child to develop these skills!

### Office PS Staff

Mme Vokey-Young

Mme Shadlyn

Mme Witjes

### Caretaking Staff

Mr. Casey

Mrs. Ageda

Mr. Waissman

### Lunch Assistants

Mr. Bell

Mrs. Chamandy

Mrs. Cooley

Mrs. Heggie

Mrs. Saeed

Mrs. Serruya

Mrs. Vitale

**Inspire**Learning!

## Welcome to September 2015

### From the Principal's Desk...

Dear Woodland Families,

I hope that you all had a relaxing and enjoyable summer, filled with many happy moments, and that you are all ready for the 2015-2016 school year!

This September at Woodland marks my first month as Principal at Woodland. I look forward to an excellent year. Welcome back to our admin team member Mme Heather Witjes and our new member Mme Valerie Shadlyn.

On behalf of the staff at Woodland Public School, I would like to welcome new and returning students and families to an exciting new school year of learning and growing together! I would also like to extend a huge merci to our entire staff - caretaking, office, lunch and office assistants and teaching - for working together to prepare for the new school year. The school and classrooms look clean, inviting and engaging!

We look forward to working with all members of the school community to ensure that we attend to all the P.I.E.C.E.S. of our students. The acronym "P. I. E. C. E. S." refers to the needs of our children: physical, intellectual, emotional, cultural, environmental and social. At Woodland, we are most fortunate to have a staff that is professional and dedicated to teaching and learning. We are also lucky to have families who are involved and partnered with school staff. Together, we will continue to facilitate and encourage a school culture in which all members care deeply about the success of all students. As our school motto suggests, "*Ensemble, tout est possible!*" - "*Together, everything is possible!*"

**Tonya Vokey-Young, Woodland P.S. Principal**

*"Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see." ~ Mark Twain*

### Grade 4 Homerooms

Mme Romanescu 4A

Mme Oh 4B

Mme Atonfack 4C

### Additional Teaching Staff

Mme Cherid Mme Ferraro

Mme Pearl Mr. Nieuwold

### Grade 5/6 Homerooms

Mme Rosca 5A

Mme Toutant 5B

Mme Campbell 5/6

### Grade 7/8 Homerooms

Mme Cytrynbaum 7A

Mme Moussay 7B

Mlle Pirbhai 7/8

Mr. Catenacci 8A

Mme Valenzuela 8B

## Safe Arrival Program

Please remember to call the school if your child is going to be absent or late. When leaving a message, please state your child's full name (spell last name) teacher's name and the reason for the absence. If a future absence is planned, please send your child's teacher a note (or write it in agenda and make sure your child shows it to the homeroom teacher) indicating the dates and times of the expected absence.

In the event your child is absent and we have not been notified, the office will attempt to reach your home, work, cell and emergency contact(s). Failing that, we must contact the York Region Police. We rely on you to help us account for all the children quickly and efficiently each school day.

## Important - Bus Passes Are Not Permitted

Please remember that at Woodland P. S., over 90% of our students are bussed to and from school. Students are not allowed to have notes from parents for bus passes requesting students to ride different buses. Our school staff and the bus drivers must be able to account for all students assigned to all buses at all times, for safety reasons.

## School Yard Safety

For the safety of our children, the only adults permitted in the school yard are the school staff and school assistants on duty. All other adults will be asked to leave. Thank you for your cooperation in this important matter. Please note that supervision commences at 7:55 am. Please do not drop off your child (ren) prior to this time.

## Kiss and Ride and Parking Lot

The front driveway at Woodland is a designated fire route and "Kiss and Ride" drop off only. If you must get out of your vehicle to assist your child, **please park in the parking lot and not in the "Kiss and Ride" lane.** If you need to speak to someone in the school, **please park your car in the parking lot** or on the nearby streets. We need to move many vehicles through in the morning and our students' safety is our number one priority. Please do not park in the bus zone off the parking lot and only use the parking lot directly in front of the school. Your cooperation with the "Kiss and Ride" lane and parking lot continues to be much appreciated.

## Lunchtime Expectations

**For safety reasons Woodland PS students are not permitted to go off school property at lunch-time unless they go home daily-indicated with a parents signature on the Lunch Time Agreement.**

We ask your cooperation in sending your child to school with his/her lunch. If your child forgets to bring his/her lunch please drop it off at the school office **labeled with your child's name.** We would like to encourage parents to pack healthy, litterless lunches in re-usable containers. Due to allergies, students are not allowed to share lunches or snacks.

## Allergy Awareness

There are a number of students at Woodland with life-threatening nut allergies. We ask your cooperation in keeping the school a nut-free environment and not send food to school with your child containing nuts of any kind, or imitation nut butter products i.e. Wow Butter. ***We ask families not to send in food products for special occasions like birthdays.***

## Medication

Children who need to take medication at school require a Staff Administration of Medication Form and/or Self Administration of Medication Form signed by the parent before the medication can be given and submitted to the office in advance.

Parents please keep the school informed of any medical changes/concerns you may have regarding your child. It is important that we work together to ensure the continued safety of all our students.

***Please ensure that the school has 2 epi pens for each student who requires this safety measure***

## Search and Seizure Reminder

Protocol between the York Region Police and York Region District School Board mandates that school administrators remind parents in September of the Search and Seizure Policy. The Police Protocol states that "the school community needs to be made aware of the right of the school administrators to search school property, such as lockers and desks, without notice to or permission of any person. School administrators shall also make the school community aware that police may from time to time be invited onto school premises to conduct their own searches. These searches may be conducted without prior notice or permission of any member of the school community other than the school principal."

## All Visitors to the School Must Report to the Office

In accordance with the Safe Schools Policy and the Safe Welcome Policy, we would like to remind you that all visitors to the school, **including parents/volunteers**, are expected to check in at the office immediately upon entering the building. **For the safety of students and staff, only authorized adults are permitted in the halls and the classrooms and should wear a volunteer/visitor name tag.**

## Punctuality

It is extremely important that all our students arrive on time for classes at the entry bell at 8:05 a.m. **A student is considered late if they are not in homeroom by the time O'Canada has started and they will require an admit/late slip from the office.**

By arriving on time children benefit by hearing announcements, important instructions given at the beginning of the day and avoid disrupting their peers. Yard supervision begins at 7:55 a.m. We thank you for your cooperation in helping your child(ren) develop this important life skill

## Personal Property

We ask that students not bring valuable items to school. The school has no storage facilities for these items and the School Board/School will not assume responsibility for lost or stolen items. Handheld electronic devices and games are not allowed at school. If brought to school, cell phones, iPods, etc., must be turned off and kept in bags or lockers during the school day, including at morning and lunch recesses. **If a student needs to contact a parent they must come to the office to use the school phone.**

## Considerations for a New School Year

The September academic year often brings out increased levels of activity and excitement as well as changes in structure. Adjusting to a 'Back to school' routine from a Summer routine' can be challenging as well as stressful and anxiety ridden for both parents and students. Parents can help their children make smoother transitions by establishing some simple routines:

**Re-establishing an appropriate bedtime to ensure enough hours of sleep for your child.** Research has proven that sleep is related to the overall positive wellbeing of a child. A lack of sleep can cause a child to become hyperactive, disagreeable and display extremes in behaviour. For a detailed list on the number of recommended sleep hours according to age, visit: <http://www.webmd.com/parenting/guide/sleep-children>

**Limit 'Screen Time.'** Encourage your child to limit his/her hours of watching TV or playing electronic games. Instead, re-establish a routine of quiet bedtime reading and/or puzzles. Engaging in passive activities will prepare children to have longer attention spans in class.

**Establish a routine of discussing the day's events with your child.** Review the school agenda and check backpacks for communication. Keeping the lines of communication open between school and home will ensure success for your child.

**Consider extra-curricular activities that are fun, reinforce social development and teach new skills.** Over-programming children can cause stress and could potentially make it more difficult for children to concentrate on school work.

## Character Traits

Courage Empathy Fairness Honesty Initiative Integrity Optimism Perseverance Respect Responsibility

Character Education is about doing/being your best. Each month, we will focus on one character trait. Please help us to reinforce these traits at home.

*September-Respect, October-Responsibility, November-Courage/Confidence, December-Compassion/Empathy, January-Optimism, February-Initiative/Independence, March-Honesty, April- Fairness/Tolerance, May-Integrity, June-Perseverance.*

## Learning Skills and Work Habits

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 post-secondary education and the world of work.

Teachers will work with students and their parents/guardians to help them develop the following *six learning skills and work habits*: Responsibility, Organization, Independent Work, Collaboration, Initiative and Self-Regulation.

## School Improvement Plan

Every York Region school has a School Improvement Plan in place, the goal of which is to improve student achievement. The four pillars of this plan are: *Literacy, Numeracy, Programs & Pathways* and *Community-Culture & Caring*. We will be working on our SIP as a staff and council, and will continue to up-date everyone on our goals. At Woodland, we will continue our strong commitment to student learning through intentional, focused instruction for each student. Across all grades, instruction will be dedicated to developing appropriate structures, attitudes and routines related to student achievement and well-being.

## E-Newsletters

For your convenience, all school and classroom newsletters and pertinent information, as well as useful links for French Immersion parents will be available on our website: <http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/woodland.ps/Pages/default.aspx> Please add this link to your Favourites.

Ongoing communication between home and school is critical to the success of your children. We encourage you to keep yourselves informed of classroom and school activities and initiatives by checking our website regularly.



## Indoor/Outdoor Shoes

Please make sure your child has a pair of indoor shoes for the classroom and the gym (yes, even Grade 7 and 8 students). Thank you for helping us keep our students safe and the school clean by keeping the mud and slush outside!



## Student Agenda

The agenda serves as an excellent organizational and communication tool for students and parents. It aids in creating strong work and study habits for students. These skills are an important part of becoming an independent life-long learner. **We encourage all students to use their agenda on a daily basis to record homework, test, assignment and activity dates.**

School Agendas went home during the first week of school at no additional cost to families.

## Student Registration Verification

Student Registration Verification forms went home this week with your child(ren). The information on this form is critical to having accurate contact information should we need to reach you for any circumstance. Please update the form and return it to the homeroom teacher by September 18, 2015.

**If there aren't any changes please sign the top of the form and indicate there are no changes necessary.** Please help us do our job well by adding any pertinent information and contacting us should information change during the school year.

## Head Lice

After each school break, it is strongly recommended that parents check their children for head lice as well as checking child's hair regularly all year round, as lice can come go. Please notify the school if you suspect head lice. Head lice nits look like dandruff that cannot be brushed off easily. It is usually the eggs that are noticed first; they are attached to the hair by a cement-like material and are difficult to remove. For more information about Head Lice, please call York Region Public Health at (905) 895-4511.

## Terry Fox Run / Walk Friday September 18 2015

This Friday, students at Woodland will be participating in a walk/run to remember Terry Fox and to further his Marathon of Hope by raising funds for Cancer Research. Further to the letter distributed earlier, **the walk/run will take place on the school property.** Should parents wish to participate/volunteer please email the office at [woodland.ps@yrdsb.ca](mailto:woodland.ps@yrdsb.ca).

Students have been asked to please send in a TOONIE FOR TERRY. We are hoping for beautiful fall weather that day, please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the climate. Rain date: Monday, September 21, 2015.

## Safety Awareness Week

The York Region District School Board has designated the week of September 25th to October 2nd as Safety Awareness Week. All public elementary and secondary schools across York Region are featuring activities and events that highlight safety at school and in the community. Leading up to and during this time, we will be focusing on school safety by holding fire drills and a Lock Down drill. The purpose of the drill is to practice our response to an emergency situation within the school i.e. an intruder or severe weather. Students and staff will remain in the school building and will be kept away from windows and doors during this drill. As with fire drills, students and staff will be well prepared for the Lock Down drill. If you have any questions about safety activities, please contact the school.



## Forms and Information Recently Sent Home

- Book of Forms \* Return by September 18, 2015
- Office Index Cards \* Return ASAP
- YRDSB 2015-2016 School Calendar
- Guide to the 2015-2016 School Year for Students and Parents
- Accident Insurance Forms
- International Language Flyer
- Terry Fox Form
- If your child has a medical condition please make sure to fill out a Medical Form as it pertains to you. If Epi Pens are required please send in 2 Epi Pens. Contact the office for further information.
- School Council Election Form \* Return by Sept.25,2015

# Council Corner...



School Councils act as advisory bodies that make recommendations to school principals. School Councils play an important role in building school, family and community partnerships by providing relevant input. Our School Council is comprised of the Principal, parents, community members and staff representatives. All parents are welcome to join the committee which is actively involved in supporting the school. If you are interested in serving on the 2015-2016 School Council, please come out to the first meeting on Monday, October 5th at 7 p.m. in the library. Nomination forms are due by Friday, September 25, 2015. We look forward to seeing you at the meetings!


**Election Form can be found on the School Website:**

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/woodland.ps/NewsEvents/Pages/Forms-.aspx>

## QSP KICK OFF OCTOBER 5 2015

**ATTENTION PARENTS!**

**SOS - Save Our Subscriptions!**




**Our QSP Family Reading Magazine Program will be returning this FALL, so please save your magazine orders (new or renewals) and order them through our school program.**

We all benefit!

- Our school earns profits through magazines people already purchase.
- QSP prices are up to 85% off of newsstand prices. A single magazine can cost as little as \$1.00 per issue. That's a great investment in literacy!
- Any reading material, including magazines, will encourage children to read and a parent who reads is a great role model!

If you can't wait until our program starts, you can order early and still support our school by shopping online! It's easy...just visit [www.QSP.ca](http://www.QSP.ca).

**Plan Ahead and Help Even More.....**



Consider giving magazine subscriptions as gifts this year!

Let friends and family know about our upcoming fundraiser and ask them to save their orders for our campaign or to order online now at [www.QSP.ca](http://www.QSP.ca)!

QSP Customer Service –  
1-800-667-2536

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**OCTOBER 1, 2015**

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**20% of all supporters purchases will  
be donated to Woodland PS**



[menchies.com](http://menchies.com)



## September 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	Labour Day 7	8	9	10	11 Fire Drill Lock Down Drill	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 Book of Forms Due TERRY FOX RUN/WALK	19
20	21	22	23	24 Bus Evacuation Training	25 SCHOOL COUNCIL NOMINATION FORMS DUE <b>***SAFETY WEEK***</b>	26
27 <b>PA DAY</b>	28	29	30			

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 January-Optimism, February-Initiative/Independence, March-Honesty, April- Fairness/Tolerance,  
 May-Integrity, June-Perseverance*

## October 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 MENCHIE DAY 8190 BAYVIEW AVENUE 11 AM TO 11 PM <b>SAFETY WEEK</b>	2 <b>SAFETY WEEK</b>	3
4 11:20 AM QSP KICK OFF  SCHOOL COUNCIL 7 PM	5	6	7 PICTURE DAY	8	9 PIZZA DAY	10
11	12 Thanksgiving Day	13 BUS EVACUATION TRAINING	14	15	16 PIZZA DAY	17
18	19	20 Our Voice Conference Maple SS 6-8 Intermediate Student Reps Attending	21	22	23 PIZZA DAY Peace Tree Conference Student Reps Details to follow	24
25	26 8:30 AM IMMUNIZATION Grade 7 & 8	27	28	29	30 PIZZA DAY	31 Halloween

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