



School Newsletter



Principal's Message

Spring is just around the corner and March break is almost here! We hope you enjoy a restful week with your loved ones. With second term well underway, and as the weather gets warmer we are excited for upcoming events and activities at the school. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our checkers team that competed hard at our board's 50th annual checkers tournament at the Ancaster Fairgrounds. They came in 4th place! Thank you also to Ms. Ruttan and Mrs. Butler for organizing the checkers club this year. It was great to see families come out to attend our first Westwood Family Bingo Night. Families came out for a fun night of Bingo and were able to spend quality time with their children and connect with other families as well. We're hoping for an even better turn out for our next event. Thanks again to school council, staff and volunteers that gave their time and made our Bingo night possible. It's events like these that can bring our school community closer together and build a positive culture.

It was also wonderful to see the excitement from our students, parents, and staff toward our Scholastic Book Fair. We were able to sell \$2600 of books and materials which generated \$1000 for the school to replenish resources for our library and classrooms! A special thanks to Mrs. Pejic for organizing this year's book fair, staff and volunteers that helped out and also to all the families that purchased and donated items to our classrooms as well!

School Contact Info:

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Daylight Savings Starts

- March 10th, 2019

March Break

- March 11th - March 15th, 2019

First Day Back

- March 18th, 2019

The Great Big Crunch

- March 28th, 2019

Vision Works Eye Exams

- March 28th-29th

PARKING ON LYNBROOK AND ROLSTON

Before and after school is a very busy time at Westwood with many of our students getting picked up and dropped off by car. Thank you to those who are not dropping off students in the parking lot by our front entry doors. This is allowing our special transportation busses to drop off our students with special needs safely in the morning. We would also like to remind parents and caregivers to obey the street signs on Lynbrook & Rolston Drive so that our neighbors that live on those streets can exit and enter their driveways

MARCH 10



Internet Challenges and Hoaxes

Recently, there has been a lot of attention from students and caregivers about disturbing, viral hoaxes or “challenges” that target children online via popular social media channels. These “challenges” often receive extensive media coverage and create anxiety and stress for children and their Families. We encourage caregivers to take this as an opportunity to have intentional conversations with their children about what they encounter online. These discussions could include:

- Reminding children to never contact strangers online, on any platform;
- Encourage children to share any worries or concerns with you;
- Ensure children understand the importance of not giving personal information to anyone they do not know;
- Tell children no-one has the right to make them do anything they do not want to do;
- Set privacy systems on devices with your child as a way to have the conversation about safety.

It is also important for parents to know what children can access online. We have the following suggestions for families:

- Set privacy settings for all social media and gaming applications;
- Keep video games and YouTube watching in shared family spaces;
- Set up video game restrictions to friends only;
- Set up “restricted” mode on YouTube for your child’s account so inappropriate content is not available to them or stream YouTube content through a family-friendly site such as www.watchkin.com
- Look for digital citizenship safety tips - here’s an example: Online Safety Rules for Kids <https://canadasafetycouncil.org/online-safety-rules-kids/>

We suggest that you build the above practices into your family’s internet use routine. If you have any questions or need support with respect to discussing online safety with your child, please contact the school office.

