



# School Newsletter



## Principal's Message

Progress reports were sent home today on October 29th. There will be an opportunity for parent/teacher communication on the November 27th PA day. We value the communication and partnership between home and school this year more than ever.

On Friday Classrooms will be celebrating Halloween with classroom activities. Unfortunately, previously held events like our Halloween parade and pumpkin decorating contest will not be able to occur this year due to enhanced safety measures. As an additional reminder:

- Students can wear costumes to school as per prior years practice (e.g., no weapons, no costume masks that might impede vision, no inappropriate images, etc.). Wearing orange and black is also an option.
- Students choosing to wear a costume should come to the school already wearing the costume and keep the costume on for the duration of the day
- Student costumes must be able to accommodate a face covering as per COVID requirements
- No sharing/distributing food or drink is permitted

Classrooms will continue to maintain safe practices including physical distancing and hand hygiene.

Thank you for continuing to screen your child/ren for possible symptoms of COVID-19 and learn the protocols related to student absence and health procedures. It is important that we do everything we can to stop the spread of COVID-19. If your child is ill, they are to stay at home.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Daylight Savings Ends

- November 1st (Turn clock back 1 hour)

#### Remembrance Day

- November 11th

#### Bullying Awareness & Prevention Week

- November 15th - 21st

#### PA Day

- November 27th (NO SCHOOL)

### LOOKING AHEAD

#### Winter Break (NO SCHOOL)

- December 21st - January 3rd

#### First Day Back After Break

- January 4th, 2021

## Staff Reorganization - October 2020

As you know, numerous schools across our board underwent reorganization causing classrooms to be collapsed and school staff to be surplus. At Westwood, we were fortunate to not have close any classrooms and are happy that there will be minimal disruptions to student learning. However, as a result of reorganization, our staffing was reduced by 0.4 which means our 0.1 LTO prep coverage teacher Mrs. Ramakrishnan was deemed surplus and Mrs. Baric's staffing was reduced to 0.7 at Westwood and will be teaching 0.3 in the Remote Day school during the afternoons of Day 2, 3, and 4.

## Forms in the Parent Portal

There are many forms for parents and guardians to review in the Parent Portal. Media Consent, Elementary Emergency Closure, Digital Use, Elementary Nutrition Break Permission, and the Student Verification Form are available for you to complete per child.

## Nutrition Program Start Up

The Westwood nutrition program will be starting back up during the week of November 2nd. All foods will be pre-packaged to allow for minimal food handling. The Tastebuds Student Nutrition Program will be involved in all school level Nutrition and Food Programming to ensure all safety guidelines and procedures are in place.

## BULLYING AWARENESS & PREVENTION WEEK: NOV. 15TH - 21ST

All students have the right to come to a school where they feel safe and respected. Our junior students will be participating in a Safe Schools Survey which asks them questions about their relationships, how safe they feel at school, and their experiences with bullying, as well as questions about who they turn to for help. To honour the spirit and intention of this province-wide awareness campaign, we encourage parents to take a moment to talk to their children about bullying:

Bullying is typically a form of repeated, persistent, and aggressive behaviour directed at an individual or individuals that is intended to cause (or should be known to cause) fear and distress and/or harm to another person's body, feelings, self-esteem, or reputation. Bullying occurs in a context where there is a real or perceived power imbalance.

Students may attain or maintain power over others in the school through real or perceived differences. Some areas of difference may be size, strength, age, intelligence, economic status, social status, solidarity of peer group, religion, ethnicity, disability, need for special education, sexual orientation, family circumstances, gender, and race. Bullying is a dynamic of unhealthy interaction that can take many forms.