



Meadowlane Public School

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Save the Date!

Jan. 26	P.D. Day (no school)
Feb 1	Dance-A-Thon Kick Off Assembly 9:30
Feb. 9	Kindergarten Registration 9:30-11:30 am 1-3pm
Feb. 16	Winter Carnival
Feb. 16	Reports go home
Feb. 19	Family Day (no school)
Feb. 20&21	Humane Society Visit
Feb. 21	School Council 7pm
Feb. 23	Dance-A-Thon (evening)
March 8	Winter Concert Dress Rehearsal AM Concert -Afternoon
May 31	Welcome to Kindergarten Evening 6:30
June 13	Fun Fair

Principal's Message

Happy New Year!! I hope that you were able to have some valued time with family and friends over the winter break. As we move into the winter time at Meadowlane, there are lots of exciting things on the horizon.

As you have likely read on School Day, I will be saying farewell to the Meadowlane community on February 1st. I have been transferred to Hespeler Public School. I have thoroughly enjoyed my two years at Meadowlane and feel proud of the accomplishments that we have made together. A successful school community is created by dedicated staff, parents, and community members. Together you have all contributed to the "magic" that we see happening at Meadowlane on a daily basis. Ron Paling will be returning to Meadowlane on Feb. 1 until a replacement is hired. As many of you know, Ron was principal at Meadowlane until he retired two years ago. I will keep you posted when I know who my permanent replacement will be and will make sure that there is a seamless transition.

I feel so fortunate to get to do a job that I absolutely love! It's the relationships that are formed within the school community that motivate me. There is nothing that I enjoy more than the smiles, laughs, excitement, and ideas that come from our students. I firmly believe that if we can foster a love of learning in each of our students at a young age, we will set them up for a future filled with curiosity, innovation, well-being, and success.

Please check the website (www.mea.wrdsb.ca), and sign up for School Day to keep yourself informed of all of the Meadowlane Magic!

Sincerely,



Rebecca Jutzi

Information and Reminders

Fundraising

Thanks to our School Council, we are on our way to meeting our fundraising goal of \$10 000 this year towards to installation of new playground equipment on the upper field. Last year, the fundraising initiatives of our Council were able to create an outdoor classroom for classes to use, as well as a Chromebook for each student in grade 5 and 6. Thank you to everyone who purchased chocolates. Stay tuned for more information about our next fundraiser, the **Dance-A-Thon!** This was a huge success last year and we hope to have even more participation this year. Our kick-off assembly for this will be February 1st and the Dance-a-Thon will take place on Friday, February 23rd in the evening. Mark your calendars!



Mad Science/Crayola World of Design

This year we will be offering two extra-curricular programs for students. We have been running the original “Mad Science” program at Meadowlane for a while and this year will introduce a new program called “Crayola World of Design”. Please see the information sheet on our website to register online.

Crayola World of Design

Feb 28-April 4

Wednesdays 3:40-4:40

Mad Science

April 26-June 2

Thursdays 1:20-2:00pm (2nd Nutrition Break)

Staff Changes

We will be saying good-bye and best of luck to our grade 3/4 teacher Cristina Picassinis at the beginning of February when she begins her maternity leave. We will be hiring a Long Term Occasional Teacher for her replacement for the rest of the year. We are also saying farewell to Anne Brennan who has been doing Special Education and Phys. Ed. for many of our classes. We wish both teachers the best and will let you know when replacements have been hired.

Good bye



Boomerang Lunches

Thank you for helping to launch a very successful start to our Boomerang Lunch program. As our New Years resolution, we decided to improve our environmental impact and implement a few changes to our lunchtime procedures. We will be requiring all students to bring almost everything from their lunch back home again. This includes items that would go in the garbage, as well as those that are recycled. We will have “green bins” in the classrooms for all organic waste. This is generally well received by parents as it allows you to monitor what your child does and doesn’t eat while at school.

- What to do:**
- *Use reusable containers to pack snack and lunch items
 - *Use a lunch bag with a wipe clean interior
 - *Talk with your child about bringing home any food or garbage left over from his or her lunch

- Benefits:**
- *Provides you with first-hand knowledge of the eating habits and preferences of your child. By carrying home the leftovers you can see what’s been eaten or not.
 - *Reduces the amount of waste we create from school lunches
 - *Encourages healthy and nutritious lunches (many pre-packaged lunch items contain significant amounts of sodium, sugar, preservatives and fat)
 - *Creates awareness around recycling and encourages and promotes the use of reusable containers and discourages the use of disposable containers
 - *Helps you, as a parent, reduce the cost of lunches (a waste-free lunch can cost as little as \$2.50 per day, whereas a regular lunch containing pre-packaged items can cost \$4.50 or more per day). Teachers see a huge amount of uneaten food go into the garbage day after day. This is not only wasteful but expensive.



New Nutrition Break Procedures

We have recently switched our Nutrition Break routines. Students now head outside for their exercise break first, followed by 20 minutes of eating. This allows teachers to provide extra time for eating for those who need it. Since this will delay our second eating time to 1:40pm, we will plan to have pizza for students at the first break at 11:30am.

Mabels Labels

Meadowlane has a fundraiser in place with Mabels Labels. We strongly suggest that you label everything that your child brings to school. This helps cut down on our lost and found. If you are interested in purchasing labels for your students clothing please visit www.mabelslabels.com and be sure to find Meadowlane P.S. under the “Support a Fundraiser” tab.

Timely Reminders

This is a reminder for the New Year that our school day begins at 9:10 a.m. All classroom activities begin right away and teachers need to have everyone in class promptly. Thank you for your help in having your children arrive on time. This one small detail makes a great deal of difference to starting the day off right! Also, please help us by choosing to park on the street if you are arriving at the school just before or after the school day.

Our school day ends at 3:30 with supervision ending at 3:40. ALL students are asked to make their way home at this time. If they choose to come back to play after the school day, that is the parent’s decision and they are required to provide supervision.

Winter Carnival Day

A *Winter Carnival Day* will be held at the school for all students on Friday., February 16 (weather permitting). This annual event provides some good fun for staff and students as we enjoy the outdoors and some great treats provided by School Council.



Arts Concert –March 8



A JK-6 winter Arts Concert will be held at the school before March Break. The dress rehearsal will occur in the morning (limited seating available due to entire school attending) and the official concert in the afternoon (exact time TBD). We hope to see you there!

Calling All 3 Year Olds

If you have a 3 year old at home who was born in 2014 this child is eligible to attend Junior Kindergarten at Meadowlane Public School in September 2018. If your child was born in 2013 and is NOT currently attending school, you may also register your child. Registration will take place on February 9 from 9:30-11:30am and 1-3pm. You are invited to register online at <https://etrillium.wrdsb.ca/onlinereg> and will then be contacted to set up an appointment at the school. You will need to provide your child’s Proof of Birth, and Proof of Address. Health and Immunization information may be forwarded to Waterloo Region Public Health website at: <https://e-immunization.regionofwaterloo.ca/>. If you have any questions, please call the school.



Inclement Weather

It is the parents’ responsibility to determine whether or not it is safe for his or her child to leave for school in inclement or severe weather. A parent must be aware of the following:



- When a bus does not travel a route in the morning due to fog, ice, or snow conditions, it will not travel that route in the afternoon.
- While we have an excellent transportation system, buses may be delayed in the morning due

to traffic, poor road conditions, mechanical breakdowns, etc. To ensure your child is not stranded

at his/her pick-up point; please make sure they know what to do and where to go if their bus is more than 15 minutes late.

Winter Dressing

We try to go outside for each recess and we do monitor the weather carefully. Our students need fresh air and love to play outside. Students have two outside 20 minute recesses each day. All students are expected to be outside for fresh air and activity. Thus, students must dress appropriately for winter weather. Thank you to all parents for providing hats, snowsuits, scarves, mittens and footwear for your children. It is a good idea to send along some extra clothes with your child. An extra pair of dry socks and an extra pair of mittens are always good things to have tucked into the backpack. In the event of inclement weather, students will be supervised inside the school.



Winter Safety

Students are the stay off the playground equipment in the winter months when the ground is frozen. We ask that students stay off the snowbanks in the parking lot at all times. They are allowed to play on snow hills on school property at breaks when it is safe to do so but they must be wearing snow pants and no pushing is ever allowed. Teachers on duty will determine when it is safe to slide down our hill and will put out pylons to indicate that the hill is “open”. Students must have snow pants on and slide on their bottoms, feet first.

Report Cards

First term report cards will be sent home on February 16th. How you interpret and respond to your child's report card is important. Listed below are some suggestions to help you read, understand and celebrate your child's report card.



1. Read the learning skills on the first page of the document first. Celebrate and acknowledge your child’s efforts, improvements and strengths and who they are as a person.
2. Pay attention to the section that deals with "days absent" and "times late." Sometimes this is an area that surprises parents and offers insights into why your child may be struggling.
3. Talk about the report card together and seek your child’s opinion about their accomplishments.
4. Look at the grades that your child is getting and set some goals with your child in areas that you both agree would benefit from improvement.
6. Make a plan on how to meet these goals and share in the responsibility of helping support your child achieve these next steps.
7. Request a meeting with your child’s teacher if you need clarification, want more information or need ideas and resources to support your child’s learning goals.
8. Remember that the term one report card is a checkpoint. There are five more months of work ahead and a lot can change during that time. Hard work and effort do pay off.

Although there isn’t a formal day for parent/teacher interviews, please don’t hesitate to set up a meeting with your child’s teacher if you have questions or concerns.

Some additional suggestions for students at home:

CHORES *by age*

TODDLER 2-3 YEAR OLDS	PRESCHOOLER 4-5 YEAR OLDS						
Make bed Take clothes to laundry Put clean clothes away Clean up toys	Load dishwasher Set table Water plants Help feed pets Match socks Clean room						
ELEMENTARY 6-9 YEAR OLDS	TWEEN 10-12 YEAR OLDS						
Sweep Sort laundry Wipe counters Help with meal prep Empty dishwasher Pull weeds	Take out trash Fold Laundry Vacuum Mop Clean toilets Make easy meals						
TEEN 13+	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Make meals/meal plan</td> <td>Mow lawn</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clean fridge</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Babysit</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Make meals/meal plan	Mow lawn	Clean fridge		Babysit	
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