Dear Kindergarten Families:

The Ontario Association of Optometrists (OAO) reports that 80% of what a child learns comes from vision, while also noting that 1 in every 6 children have some form of vision problem. A child has nothing against which to gauge what they see and therefore assumes that what is seen is the same as that seen by everyone else. A child cannot tell their parents that they have a vision problem, because they do not know that a problem exists. As a child grows, so does their visual capability along with other faculties. By the time a child reaches six (6) years of age, the visual link between mind and eye is more or less complete, making the possibility of correction that much more difficult.

With this in mind, the WRDSB is happy to partner with the Lions Club to provide vision screening for the all Kindergarten (JK & SK) students in WRDSB schools. The intent of the screening is to identify any child who may have vision problems such as difficulty seeing things either at a distance, up close, or in making both eyes working together. In the event your child has some difficulty, in any of the areas, we will recommend you attend a professional vision care provider. **No attempt will be made to check the health of the eyes.**

Tests are performed, to define your child's visual capability in a number of areas and then evaluated against criteria provided by the Ontario Association of Optometrists (OAO). Any child whose vision fails to meet the OAO criteria should see an Optometrist for a complete examination**,** the cost of which is covered by OHIP.

All Kindergarten children will be screened by Lions Club experienced volunteers. In the event you do not **wish your child's vision to be screened I would ask you to complete the exemption form on the back and return by Monday, October 5th.**

Yours truly,

Ms. Trish Starodub
Millen Woods P.S.

VISION SCREENING EXEMPTION FORM

The Waterloo Region District School Board and the Lions of District A-15 are happy to offer a free vision screening for your child. Early detection of vision problems can save years of struggling for the 1 in 6 children who experience problems with vision.

All Kindergarten Children will be screened using test criteria provided by **the Ontario Association of Optometrists.**

If you do NOT want your child to participate in the vision screening please complete this form to exempt them from the test.

Name of child _____ Age _____ Gender M / F

Signature _____ (Parent/Guardian) Date _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Please print) _____

VISION SCREENING POLICY

The Association of Lions Clubs supports the view of the Ontario Association of Optometrists (OAO) that it is important that vision problems should be detected before they can affect a child's performance at school.

A vision screening is NOT a complete eye examination, nor is any attempt made to check the health of the eyes. A vision screening will not identify every eye problem a child may have. The screening is designed to identify children who have difficulty in seeing objects either close up, at a distance, or who have difficulty in making both eyes work together.

It is recommended by the OAO that a child should have a first eye examination by the age of six months, and again at age 3, should no problems be found. The cost of annual eye examinations is borne by OHIP up to school leaving age.

Please Return By Monday, October 5th
To Millen Woods PS