



# Winston's World

Winston Churchill Public School, 100 Milford Drive, Waterloo Ontario

**June 2017**

## **Principal's Message**

This has been my third year at Winston Churchill. What a wonderful school it is. Staff are very dedicated and care deeply about your children and their progress. As you read your child/children's report card look carefully at the Learning Skills section. These are the important skills that will help your child be successful, not only in school but in the working world as well. We spent time last fall helping students to understand the learning skills and what behaviours need to be demonstrated consistently to obtain a "G" or an "E" on the report card. We encourage students to continue to work towards these grades. Again in September we will spend some time reviewing the behaviours that will help students to be successful. We invite you also to have discussions with your child/children on this topic.

This past year has been very busy. We began renovations last June and they finished the office area in January. We are pleased with the result and look forward to getting fully unpacked and organized over the summer holidays. This summer we will continue to have construction as new boilers are being installed. This should ensure that our heating for the entire school is more stable and consistent during the winter months. However, that does mean that there will be activity happening at the school over the summer period. Parents are asked to keep their children well away from the construction area.

The year has included a number of events outside of classrooms including our Junior BallStars basketball program (culminating in a full day tournament involving 8 schools at the Laurier gym), Terry Fox Run, Track and Field, and the Kodaly Choir to name but a few events. Many classes had trips during the year and all classes have had a major field trip at the end of the year. Our thanks to School Council for their generous support for these trips which resulted in a significant reduction in costs to parents.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the parents who have volunteered in one capacity or another during the past year. Your support is invaluable and allows us to do so much more with, and for, the students and the school. I would also like to recognize the work of School Council. It is evident in many aspects of our school environment. Through their efforts, and with the fundraising money which all parents and students have helped to raise, we are continuing to make purchases that benefit all students at Winston Churchill.

We continue to be extremely proud of our accomplishments as they relate to the environment. Your children are becoming much more aware of the things they can do to make a difference in the environment. Our Green Bin Project, introduced by Mrs. Lindsay Brown two years ago, and continued under her direction this year, has been a huge success with much of our waste now going into the green bins for composting. While we need to continue our efforts to teach our students which items should go into the green bin we have made progress on this front. Our efforts have resulted in a **significant** reduction in garbage collected at the school. Mrs. Brown and the grade 4, 5 and 6 student volunteers are to be congratulated for all the work that has gone into this initiative. In addition, Mr. Allan and his student volunteers have worked hard to collect and sort our recyclables. Without the dedication and hard work of these students and the staff overseeing these initiatives we would not be where we are today with our help for the environment and our students' knowledge of environmental issues. I would encourage you to talk to your children, see what they can tell you about composting and recycling, and engage their support with this most important endeavour in your own home.

At the end of a school year there are always some good-byes to say to students and staff and this year is no exception. We wish all of our Grade Six students well as they head off to their new schools. We have had a number of Long Term Occasional teachers (LTOs) at Winston covering for extended staff absences and/or for staff who have left. Our thanks to Mrs. Brown (Room 2 Kindergarten), Mrs. Steep (Room 4, Grade 1/2) and Mr. Cave (Room 9, Grade 4/5) for the great work they have done teaching our students. We will certainly miss them. They are all excellent teachers, dedicated to enriching the lives of our students while helping them to become engaged learners.

After many years of teaching, five of them at Winston Churchill, Mr. Ritchie is retiring. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with Mr. Ritchie during these past three years. He has been such a support for so many students and staff over the years. Mr. Ritchie was a prime contributor to our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations and has always taken charge of the display case at the top of the stairs along with providing wonderful art work around the school. He was also the creator of the new logo we adopted 2 years ago. We are going to miss Mr. Ritchie as his life takes a new path. I know that staff and students join me in wishing him a long and happy retirement.

We hope all our Winston Churchill families have a happy and safe summer holiday. We look forward to students returning in September. For Grades 1 – 6, school starts on **Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>** at 9:10 a.m. Class lists will be posted on the library windows on Friday, September 1<sup>st</sup> after 3:30 p.m. Students will meet their teachers on the tarmac in the back playground at the start of the day (or in the gym if it is raining). Senior Kindergarten students start school on Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> and Junior Kindergarten students have a staggered entry. Letters detailing classroom teachers and start times will be sent through Canada Post to all parents of Junior and Senior Kindergarten students at the beginning of July. Have a great summer!

## School Council

Winston Churchill's School Council has worked diligently to support students and student learning. This year they have run a number of fundraising events: Magazine and Cookie Dough Sales, three Book Fairs and Professor Jamz. Funds raised have been used to support the following activities:

- \$150.00 per class for trip costs
- Significant extra funding for year-end trips
- New books for the *Books for Birthdays* program
- Graduation gifts
- 10 Chromebooks for student use
- Outdoor sports equipment

Parents are encouraged to consider becoming involved in School Council next year. The time commitment is small in comparison with the benefits it generates for our students.

## Magazine and Cookie Dough Sales are Coming Again!!

**We will have magazines and cookie dough available for purchase once again in September!** There will be a **wide selection** of magazines available plus all the same cookie dough choices and a few new ones. If you are thinking of renewing your magazine subscription please consider waiting until we launch our fundraiser so that you can support Winston Churchill and have your magazines as well!

## Planners

Students in grades one to six require planners each year to record homework, tests, and assignments. In addition planners provide a means for communication between home and school. Students will be provided with a planner when they return in September. We ask parents to send \$7.00 to school in September to cover the cost of the planner. [Please note the cost of the planner is subsidized to reduce costs for parents.] Our planners contain pertinent school information along with special inserts on bullying and character development. They also come with a clear ruler and a pocket for notes going home.

## Nutrition Breaks and Attendance in September

*Afternoon attendance is taken after the first nutrition break.* This is close to the half-way mark of our school day. This means that students going home for lunch will go home at first break (11:10 – 11:50 a.m.). Special lunches (e.g. Pita, pizza etc.) will be served at second nutrition breaks.

## School Office Hours in the Summer

Our school office is closed as of June 30<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m. The office will reopen on Monday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 8:40 a.m. for new registrations and queries. Transportation information is available through our Transportation Department and online queries can be made – see note below. **Please note that changes to transportation cannot be made during the first two weeks of school.** With so many new bus routes (the routes change every year based on student enrolment) Transportation needs time to work out any issues before considering new students and new requests. If you know that your information (e.g., home address) is changing during the summer and you qualify for transportation or need route changes please contact the Transportation Department as soon as possible so that your child can be given a seat on the bus.

## Transportation—[www.stswr.ca](http://www.stswr.ca)

Transportation information for September will be available online on the third week of August. Parents will be able to login and view their transportation details for the next school year. To login you will have to enter the following information: Ontario Education Number (from the report card)

Students birth date (day, month, year)

Street Number (street# from student's home address)

School (select school from the drop down)

Since most JK students will not have an OEN number prior to September, STSWR will be sending a direct mail out to the families of Junior and Senior Kindergarten students that will be transported next year. That information will be mailed out during the last week of August.

# Winston Churchill Public School

**Vision:** Engaged Learners - Global Citizens

## **Mission Statement:**

At Winston Churchill we strive to educate, nurture and inspire the hearts, minds and bodies of our students to achieve their greatest potential.

## **Winston Churchill's Guide to Excellence**

At Winston Churchill Public School we believe that personal freedom is accompanied by the responsibility to respect the freedom of others. Common courtesy, good manners and mutual respect are expected from all students. Our students will be encouraged to practise the following rules of excellence. These guidelines apply both in the classroom and outside.

**Welcoming:** We speak and act positively and with good intentions. We want everyone to feel welcome in our school community.

**Inclusive:** We include everyone regardless of race, colour, gender or religion. All are part of our school community.

**Nurturing:** We value a healthy mind, body and spirit and look to maintain balance in our lives and to help others achieve the same balance in their lives.

**Supportive:** Each moment only comes along once. We work and support others to maintain a focus on our goals and to make the most of every moment.

**Team:** We work together and do what it takes to get the job done. When something isn't working we try another way and we ask for help when we need it.

**Optimism:** We know that failure leads to success. We learn from our mistakes and see them as opportunities for growth.

**Noble:** We live with integrity. We do the right thing because it is the right thing to do. Our behaviour matches our values.