



DYNAMITE.CARE.FAIR.SHARE
SCHOOL

DRIFTWOOD PARK PUBLIC

Website: <http://dpk.wrdsb.ca>

Twitter: @dpkwrdsb

Principal's Message

It is hard to believe that we have reached the end of Term 1 and the middle of the school year already. Although it was an unusual beginning to the school year, it has been a very busy and engaging term full of fun experiences and learning. Many of these great opportunities are outlined below. I would like to take this opportunity to thank your wonderful staff, supportive school council and terrific community for such and successful start to the school year. Term 2 promises to be an exciting one. Please visit our website or follow us on Twitter for ongoing information.

Driftwood Park continues to be a terrific community of learners. Together we are helping to maintain a safe, caring and engaging learning environment for our students. As always, we value our strong partnership with parents. There is no day set aside for parent interviews, but parents are always welcome to contact teachers. Communication is the key – please never hesitate to contact us to discuss any concerns or questions.

Julia Passmore

Upcoming Dates

February 24	Wear PINK Day – Support Antibullying School Council Meeting – 6:30
February 25	Hat Day!
February 26	PD Day
March 4	Move-a-thon
March 14-18	March Break
March 23	School Council Meeting – 6:30
March 24	Rainbow Bright Day
March 25-28	Easter Weekend
April 1	School Skate Night @ Wilmot Arena

Updates and Reminders:

Staffing Update

A warm Dolphin welcome to Mr. Bob Noble our new, permanent head custodian who has been a wonderful addition to our staff. Also welcome to Mrs. Holmes who has joined us one day a week in K4, Miss VanAllen who is covering for Mrs. Norris while she is away, and welcome back to Ms. Schmeltzer who has returned from her maternity leave. Finally congratulations to Ms. Melanie Lynch in the office ~ her position as head secretary was officially declared permanent and we are thankful for her hard work keeping our office the heart of the school.

Kindergarten Registration

Registration for 2016-2017 is open and ongoing for children born in 2011/2012. Registration is online this year – see our website or call the office for more information.

Allergies

Thank you for your ongoing diligence with nut-free snacks and treats. We have many several students with anaphylactic/life threatening allergies to nuts, and your adherence to the no nut policy keeps them safe.

SNOW!

Though our weather has been a little unpredictable, we have had a lot of fun in the snow. Earlier in January, all students came to an assembly reminding them of appropriate winter safety rules. Mrs. Trudeau's class prepared a great iMovie to clearly outline expectations. In order to slide, all students must have boots, snow pants, jacket, mitts, and a hat. Sliding areas are clearly designated between cones and there are 2 areas – one for primary and one for junior. Students were reminded that snow is not for throwing, and that “no one owns the snow”. Forts can be fun, but they should not be the source of battles and confrontations. Students are reminded to make good choices and use their WITS (Walk Away, Ignore, Talk it out, Seek help) to solve conflicts.

Parking

We recognize that parking around the school can be challenging at the very busy drop off and pick up times – but keeping our students safe is our priority. Please be aware of the acceptable parking zones, and do not park in the bus loading zones or in front of people's driveways. Drop off and pick up should not be happening in the parking lot before or after school.

New Concussion Policy

The WRDSB has a new policy outlining process to ensure the safety of students returning to school after a concussion. If your child has suffered a concussion outside of school time, please call the main office to let us know.

A School Council Update

It's hard to believe that February is already flying by! In no time, it will be spring! School council is looking ahead and planning a few activities for the school community in the coming months:

- March 4th is Move-a-Thon!! Pledge forms will be coming home soon.
- April 1st 6:30-8:30 pm - Annual Family Skating Night at Wilmot arena.
- Please mark May 4th on your calendars and stay tuned for more information! The School Council will be hosting a special family learning night at the school.....details to come.....

Friday pizza days continue to be a big success. Thank you for remembering to send exact change for each individual student in a plastic baggie or envelope. A big thank you to our School Council members who organize and run the pizza days and to all of our parent and student volunteers who help distribute the pizza during the nutrition breaks. It takes a lot of organization and people-power to make it happen. The school council is also currently exploring other “food day” options for the school and we will provide more information about this as we have it. As always, feel free to contact the Council with any comments, ideas or concerns you might have. We'd love to hear from you!

Karen Ehlebracht ~ Driftwood Park School Council Chairperson

Great Things Happening at Driftwood Park

Breakfast Club/Breakfast Bowl Challenge

Thanks to Doug Smith and his fabulous group of volunteers, we continue to have a very successful Breakfast program. Hot breakfasts are provided for any student on Monday, Wednesday and Friday – beginning at 8:30. This group also provides us with “Breakfast Bowls”. These Bowls are kept in classes and provide nutritious, nut free snacks for students who do not have enough to eat throughout the day. Hunger can be a huge impediment to a successful day at school, and we are so appreciative of this program. Thank you to the community for supporting our four day challenge to help fill these bowls for our students.

Kodaly Choir

Again this year at Driftwood, we have the Kodaly Choir rehearsing three times per week, in preparation for their performance at the Centre-in-the-Square in May. Because there will be over 500 children involved, from over 40 schools in the County, we were limited to the number of students we could choose. Of the 54 Junior students that auditioned for this wonderful music enrichment opportunity, 28 of our finest singers were selected to be part of the experience. These dedicated children rehearse on Days 1 and 4 at second exercise break, and Tuesdays after school for an hour. In those rehearsals, from the middle of January to the end of April, they will learn 17 challenging songs (some in different languages and some in 3 parts). This is a wonderful opportunity for these students to extend their musical knowledge and be part of an incredible performance experience!

Taking care of our environment!

Our school has been very mindful of its environment. We have collected hundreds of used batteries and dried up markers that can now be recycled into new items. Well done Driftwood! The collection bins will remain in the Skydome all year long. Keep up the great work!

Taking care of our community

The month of January was reserved for giving back to our community. Driftwood families went wild by generously donating hundreds of cans, boxes, and bags of non-perishable food items for the Waterloo Regional Food Bank. Kudos to the Me to We Crew for all of their efforts to encourage, inform, and organize this very successful food drive. Twenty-three good sized boxes were sent to the Food Bank. The creative efforts of the CAN CASTLE making teams on Beach Day was also very impressive. Merci beaucoup!

Recycling and Composting

Congratulations to all of the Driftwood students and staff who have enthusiastically continued their efforts to RECYCLE and COMPOST at school. Special thanks to all of the students and staff around the school who dump those compost buckets and clean them out. As well, thank you to everyone who empties the classroom blue bins into the tall blue bins down by the Home Reading doors. Finally, huge thanks go to Mr. Noble, our new custodian, for getting us so many new, tall recycle bins so that we have the room to recycle at full capacity. What a supportive school community!

Caribou Math Contest

The Caribou Math Contest is an exciting opportunity for students to challenge their math abilities. The contest is organized by the folks at Brock University. We have about 40 students participating this year from grades 3 to 6. The students are encouraged to do practise questions and play math games online on the Caribou Math Contest site and then try out their math skills for the real contest dates throughout the year. May the math continue to be with you!

Chinese New Year

The grade 2's from rooms 4 & 10 rang in the Chinese New Year with a guest speaker, a parent from the community! We learned about Chinese traditions and symbols through discussion, a read aloud, and a dragon craft. We even tested our ability to use chopsticks by trying to pick up a piece of Asian pear. There was a lot of determination and laughter as each student attempted the task! We finished our time together by writing Chinese word characters. The students were fascinated that there was only one symbol for a word that we would write many letters for. The students were so excited! Thank you Joanne for taking the time to come share your expertise with us! What a great opportunity!

Grade 2/3 Basketball Club

Thanks to two students with a great idea and amazing initiative, we have started a grade 2/3 basketball club. An energetic and excited group of students have been learning and developing their basketball skills. They meet every day 3 and 5.

Home Reading

This term saw Driftwood Park begin a Home Reading program that encourages all primary students to read nightly. We have monthly assemblies to inspire; prizes, ribbons and certificates to reward, and a photo hall of fame in the Sky Dome to congratulate our readers. All these things have created a magnetic buzz about reading in our halls. Mme. Strickland and Mrs. Lipsit, with the great support of Mrs. Elsaifi, got the program up and running, but so many people have contributed to this effort, including parents supporting their Home Readers by tabulating dates and titles in the logs. We hope that this is contagious and that the Dolphins continue to dive into books. Home reading challenge will be with us for years to come.

Coming Soon - Pink Shirt Day!

Pink Shirt Day is just around the corner! Show your support to stand against bullying -- **WEAR PINK ON FEB. 24,16**
What is **Pink Shirt Day**?

It all started in 2007, when two Nova Scotia students decided to take action after witnessing a younger student being bullied for wearing a pink shirt to school. Bullies harassed the boy, called him names for wearing pink and threatened to beat him up. Disgusted with this treatment, the two students went to a nearby discount store and bought 50 pink shirts to wear to school the next day. Then the two boys went online to e-mail classmates to get them on board with their anti-bullying cause that they dubbed a "sea of pink". The next day not only were dozens of students outfitted with the discount tees, but hundreds of students showed up wearing their own pink clothes, some head-to-toe. It was this story that inspired the movement **Pink Shirt Day**, a day where students are encouraged to wear something pink on the last Wednesday of February to symbolize that we as a society will not tolerate bullying anywhere. Encourage your children to wear pink and help turn Driftwood Park School into a "sea of pink"!

Community Care Personal Care Items

With the assistance of our student council, we collected personal care items for ROOF and Safe Haven charities. We would like to thank the students and community members for their generous donations. We collected a huge amount of items!

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