



The Echo

Forest Glen Public School



A caring community where learning, respect,
and responsibility come together.

Website: <http://fgl.wrdsb.ca>
School Phone Number: **519 662-2830**
Attendance Email: fgl-attendance@wrdsb.ca
Transportation Website: www.stswr.ca

Principal: **Mrs. T. Kaufman**
Vice-Principal: **Mrs. K. Reay**
Office Staff: **Mrs. K. Witmer**
Mrs. S. Pietras-Gorczewski

Fall 2021



Welcome back! We want to welcome all of you to the 2021-2022 school year. We hope that everyone had a wonderful and safe summer and you are excited to be back at school! Even though this school year will once again look different in many ways, one thing remains the same- every member of our staff will continue to provide a safe and caring learning environment where we treat all who walk through our doors with kindness and respect! Please read all of the information in this newsletter carefully, as many protocols and routines regarding COVID remain in place. Thank you for making sure to complete the COVID screening with your child, initialing the form, and returning the form each morning. This process will need to be done for one more week.

The teachers have been working hard to prepare for all of our "Falcons" to arrive and are excited to welcome them into their classrooms. A special thank you to our custodial staff, Mr. Fritz, Miss Choy and Mrs. Craiovan who worked diligently during the summer months to prepare for September. The school looks great and it was a real team effort to make sure it was ready for opening day! Thank you also to our wonderful secretaries, Mrs. Witmer and Mrs. Pietras-Gorczewski. They have worked hard to make sure everything was organized and ready for the new school year! Thanks to the efforts of many people, we have had a successful start-up and are excited about the upcoming year!

As parents, we understand how important open communication is between home and school. Please feel free to call us or your child's teacher to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about your child. Please continue to see wrdsb.ca for updates and important news. Thank you for being patient and understanding as we work through these unprecedented times together.

Looking forward to a great school year!

Mrs. T. Kaufman, Principal

Mrs. K. Reay, Vice Principal

Staff Changes

We have some staff changes as we begin the new school year. We are happy to welcome the following new staff members to Forest Glen:

Miss McLaren- Kindergarten
Ms. Hankins- Grade 3
Ms. Damji- Grade 4/5
Ms. Reitzel- Junior and Intermediate Core French
Mr. Sauder- Grade 7
Ms. Motiu- Early Childhood Educator
Ms. Ranger- Early Childhood Educator
Mrs. Langlois- Educational Assistant

Welcome to Forest Glen!

Bell Times 2020 - 21

8:05-8:20	Supervision of students
8:18	Warning Bell for <u>ALL</u> students (JK-Grade 8)
8:20	Instructional Day begins
10:20-11:00	Nutrition Break 1
12:30-1:10	Nutrition Break 2
2:40	School Dismissal

Before School

- Make sure your child has the items they will need for the day
 - Reusable mask (well fitted and cleaned as needed). If your child does not have one, the school will provide.
 - Packaged lunch (remember to avoid items that would need to be reheated or refrigerated).
 - Reusable water bottle, labelled with your child's name on it for bottle filling stations (**water fountains are not available**).
 - Items not needed for school should be left at home as there will be limited space for students to store items.
 - **Please complete the screening for your child for COVID-19 symptoms. If your child is showing any symptoms, please keep your child home. A sick child, or a child with an active COVID-19 case within their immediate household should not be attending school. Parents/Guardians/Families are required to have a plan for a prompt pick up if their child exhibits symptoms at school.**
- When dropping off students at school, only one parent or caregiver should bring your child(ren) to school to limit the number of people at the school and to support physical distancing. Please refrain from congregating on the yard. **Parents and caregivers need to wear a mask on school property at entry and dismissal.**

Arriving At School

- **Children who walk to school are encouraged to arrive at school as close to the start time as possible and with their mask on once on school property.**
- Children who take the school bus to school should keep their masks on when they get off the school bus.
- Children will have a pre-arranged arrival location at school. Once routines and line up areas are familiar to students, we encourage parents to say good-bye to their child at the edge of school property. Students are asked to go straight to their line to minimize the risk of mixing with other cohorts.
- Teachers will greet their students in the designated area.
- Before entering the school, teachers will provide hand sanitizer to students and bring their students into the school in a physically distanced way.
- If a student arrives late, we will have a touch free sign in process for the student at the main door only.

During Class

- Students will remain in their classrooms for most of the day and with their own class cohort.
- For those classes with specialized teachers (ie. for Phys. Ed, French or Music) subject teachers will be coming to the students.
- Students will have access to the essential learning materials they will need for the school day. Shared materials will be used infrequently and will be sanitized before use by each student.
- Bathroom breaks are available for students when needed, following a strict protocol.
- If a student is experiencing a symptom of COVID-19, they will be escorted to the Isolation Room or "Care Centre" and parents will be called to pick the student up.

During Nutrition Break

- Students will have an opportunity to clean their hands before and after they eat.
- Students will eat their lunch in their classroom and at their own desk. Teachers will offer an independent activity. Toys and home items are not permitted at this time.
- Please ensure that students are able to open any food containers on their own and bring their own utensils.

During Outdoor Time

- Weather permitting, students will enjoy their outdoor time throughout the school day and with their classroom cohort.
- Outdoor time will be staggered to help minimize the number of students outdoors at one time and students will be supervised by their teacher.
- Students will not have to wear masks while outdoors, if able to practice physical distancing.
- Before entering the school, teachers will provide hand sanitizer to students. Teachers will bring their students into the school in a physically distanced way.
- Students are encouraged to dress in layers due to increased ventilation in the school (could be cooler inside), as well as, the increased amount of time spent in outdoor learning.

After School

- During the last period of the day, staff will guide students to the appropriate dismissal area, which is the same as their morning area.
- Parents or caregivers are asked to pick up students at a common meeting place, preferably at the edge of school property.
- Parents and caregivers are again reminded to wear masks and ensure physical distancing while on school property and picking up children.

School Council 2021 - 22

School Council typically meets on the third Monday of every month at 6:30 pm in the library. More information will be coming home soon regarding the first meeting of the year.

Safety Drills

We are mandated to conduct various safety drills throughout the school year, including fire drills, violent intruder drills and tornado drills. These drills allow us to practise our procedures should an emergency situation arise. This fall, we will not be performing the drills as a whole school, but rather, the students will practice these drills as a class.

Pick up and Drop off of Children

For the safety of our students, especially our younger children, we ask that parents drive right into the **back of the parking lot and let students off by the far gate** or as close to the back playground as possible. **Please keep the bus loading loop free of cars!** If you park, please supervise your children as they cross the parking lot. We ask that **ALL children gather at the back** of the school before the arrival bell, where teachers are on supervision duty.



NO NUT PRODUCTS, please!

Please be aware that several of our students have severe **life-threatening allergies** that cause a severe reaction to specific foods and can result in death within minutes. Although this may or may not affect your child's class directly, please send foods to school that are **free from nut products, including products that resemble peanut butter, such as Wow Butter. If your child has a severe allergy or medical condition, please notify the office immediately.**

Safe School Arrival

Please call the school **as soon as possible** when your child is going to be **absent or late**. Just call the school number- 519 662-2830 and press 1 for attendance. This number is accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can also email attendance information to fgl-attendance@wrdsb.ca

Students MUST check in at the office if they arrive late, after 8:20 AM. Parents will be asked to ring the buzzer and wait outside of the school until your child is buzzed into the school. Parents will not be able to accompany students into the school. A staff member will accompany your child to class if necessary. Student absences and lates are monitored, and chronic absences and lates will be addressed. It is really important to strive to be on time each day!

Crossing Guard Times

Crossing Guards will be in place at the following times and locations.

Waterloo St. & Forrest Ave.
7:45 a.m. - 9:20 a.m.
2:40 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Waterloo St. & Steinman St.
7:45 a.m. - 9:20 a.m.
2:40 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Leaving School Property

At this time, the board has requested that students do not leave during nutrition breaks. In the past, students have been able to leave with a note from a parent. We have been asked to avoid this practice for the time being. We would appreciate if you could make any appointments for your child outside of the school day. We will revisit this as the school year is underway.

Breakfast Club and Hot Lunches

Due to COVID 19, Breakfast Club and hot lunches will currently be on hold at this time. We will continue to monitor if this policy changes. We are not able to offer the milk program at this time. Please note that we are not able to accept drop offs of forgotten lunches at this time. We will have some extra food items at school to provide to your child should they forget their lunch.

Photo Day

Photo day has been postponed at this time. We will let you know when it will be re-scheduled later in the year.

News from the Library

Welcome back to another GREAT year of reading at the Forest Glen Library!

Things will start out a little bit differently in the library this year. The library is closed until September 21, 2020. During this time, I will be collecting books that did not find their way back to the library in our unusual Spring. **If you have any Forest Glen library books or Home Reading books at your house, please return them when you come to school. THANK-YOU!!!!**

Starting on September 21, students and staff will be able to reserve books on line and I will deliver those books, when they are available, to your classroom. There will be more details coming about that in the next few weeks. Once you return the book, it will be "quarantined" for 7 days before anyone else can sign that same book out. That may seem like a long time, but we want to be sure that the book is ready for the next person to enjoy safely.

Meanwhile, books and other interactive resources are always available on line at library.wrdsb.ca - use your PAL to log in and enjoy!

The year may be starting out in a different way, but I hope that even in this unusual start, you find many moments for reading!

Happy Reading!
Mrs. Winter, Library Clerk

Personal Property

We recommend that Ipods, cell phones or any electronic devices, valuable jewelry, sums of money, valuable apparel or other treasured possessions not come to school. **Please leave these items at home. If it is necessary to bring phones to and from school for safety reasons, please be advised that your child is responsible for the phone. Phones must be turned off and left in your child's backpack for the entire day.** Items brought to school and used inappropriately during the school day will be confiscated and held at the office until the end of the day.



Dogs on Property

Pets are a welcome part of many of our families' homes but please remember that some students may be fearful of animals or possibly allergic. For the protection of all of our students and parents, **we ask that dogs not be brought onto school property during school hours or during school events.** We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.



Bikes and Scooters

Walking or biking to school is a great idea! Just a reminder to please walk all bikes and scooters once you arrive at the edge of the school property. This helps to keep everyone safe.

Dressing for the Weather and Arriving at School

Please note that our **supervision in the morning does not begin until 8:05 A.M.** This fall, we would ask that students try to arrive at school as close to bell time as possible. Again, students will be asked to line up in their class line when they arrive. Students will need to dress for the weather (ie. Rain jacket etc.) as students will be waiting outside until the bell rings unless there is severe weather (ie. Thunderstorm, below -20 degrees celsius). We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in adhering to our drop-off times.

Medication at School

If your child requires medication (ie. Epi-pen, puffer, etc.) at school, you must provide the school with a properly completed medication form available through the school office. Board policy also requires that all medication be kept in a locked cupboard in the office. Parents, with children who have life-threatening allergies, requiring an epi-pen, are asked to make sure this information has been communicated to the office.

Student Accident Insurance

Each year, thousands of families are left unprotected when their children are injured at school or while participating in non-school activities. The Insuremykids Protection Plan costs just pennies a day and provides financial protection for expenses not normally covered under government health or group insurance plans. You can apply online now at www.insuremykids.com

School Website

<http://fgl.wrdsb.ca>

Please keep an eye on the school website listed above and at the top of the newsletter for **updates**. We encourage you to **subscribe to the website**. If you are a subscriber, any posts to the website will come automatically to the email you provide.

