



# Meadowlane Public School

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## Save the Date!

May 2	Music Monday
May 4	Kodaly Choir Rehearsal (9-12) and Performance 7:30pm
May 5 & 6	Science Fair
May 6	Caught you Caring Assembly
May 11	Welcome to Kindergarten Evening 6:30
May 18	School Council 6:45pm
May 19	Westheights Parent Info. Night 6-7pm
May 26	Grade 3 to Joseph Schneider House
May 30, 31, June 1	Gr. 3 EQAO testing
June 2	Caught You Caring Assembly Gr. 6 to Heidelberg AM Gr. 2 to Huron AM
June 6, 7, 8	Gr. 6 EQAO testing
June 8	Fun Fair
June 10	Meadowlane Track and Field
June 17	Terry Fox Run
June 23	Visit by KPL
June 27	Grade 3 to St. Jacobs Grade 6 Celebration 6:30pm
June 28	Playday Grade 5 to the Zoo Grade 6 to Wonderland
June 29	Recognition Assembly and Talent Show

## Principal's Message

It has been an absolute pleasure getting to know the Meadowlane staff, students, parents, and community partners over the past few months. What a fabulous community of learners we have here at Meadowlane. This is a busy school with many opportunities for students to develop as learners, leaders, and positive community members. Mad Science, Little Jammers, Fire Safety House, Jump Rope for Heart, Science Fair Kick-Off, and our monthly "Caught you Caring" assemblies have been some of the fun activities we have enjoyed. We hope you will join us for our student Science Fair presentations this Thursday from 6-7:30. Classes will rotate through the science fair displays on Friday morning. We are proud of the daily efforts students make when they arrive at school ready to learn. Be on the look out for information coming home with students about upcoming field trips and events.



We are so very proud of our 'Me to We Club' for their accomplishments this year. Our students care and react in a socially responsible way to world events. Thank you to our community for supporting 'Me to We' initiatives. On May 2nd we celebrated 'Music Monday' with a wonderful assembly. We joined students across Canada, singing 'We Are One' by Connor Ross. Students reminded us how important music is to our lives. We look forward to hearing our Kodaly Choir perform on Wednesday evening at the Centre in the Square with choirs from all over the region. We continue to promote a safe, caring and inclusive environment through character attributes. May's focus will be to "never give up" and June will focus on "good choices". Our students are incredibly cooperative, helpful, polite, and resilient in so many ways.

I'd like to say a special thank you to our community of volunteers. I have been so impressed with your willingness to lend a hand in whatever way possible. Volunteers have actively supported us in a variety of ways including School Council, office support, classroom support, the Strong Start Literacy program, pizza lunches, class trips, school "greening", fundraising throughout the

year and much more. The regular daily assistance of volunteers in our classrooms and around the school has provided countless hours of support to our students and staff. A HUGE thank you to Beyond Contracting for their generous donation towards our technology wish list!

A reminder to please check the website ([www.mea.wrdsb.ca](http://www.mea.wrdsb.ca)) for regular updates, or you may choose to subscribe to the website and receive regular emails whenever the website is updated. We will also be using Twitter as a communication and engagement tool, tweeting out important information, events, and photos via our Twitter feed that will soon be linked to our website, using the handle @meawrdsb. We will be moving towards paperless communication through these methods. **This will be our last paper newsletter.**

I'm looking forward to an exciting spring at Meadowlane – learning alongside staff and students and developing a collaborative partnership between the school and its families.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Jutzi



## **Information and Reminders**

### **Fun Fair is Coming!**



School Council has been busy planning. Save the date for our special family fun fair on Wednesday June 8 from 5:00 – 8:00pm. Rain or shine. Kiddie Fun Tracks will be back and there will be lots of other games to play and fun raffles to enter. We are still looking for volunteers. We are currently seeking donations for raffle prizes. Do you work for or know a company that would donate a prize or cash to make the night a great success? Please help us by asking them to donate! Please contact Krysti @ 519-578-3479 or [krysti\\_p@sympatico.ca](mailto:krysti_p@sympatico.ca). Thank-you! Looking forward to seeing you there!!



### **What is EQAO?**

EQAO undertakes research for two main purposes: 1) to maintain best-of-class practices and student improvement 2) ensure high standards of education quality

Standardized tests provide different information. A standardized test is essentially a snapshot in time using one method of assessment. Teachers assess their students using a broad range of tools. A more holistic and complete picture of a student's performance can be seen from various types of assessment that the teacher does throughout the year.

### **EQAO Grade 3 and Grade 6 EQAO**

The Grade 3 and 6 EQAO testing will be done from May 25th to June 2nd. The Grade 3 students are writing from May 30<sup>th</sup>-June 1st and the Grade 6 students are writing June 6-8th. Each grade level will be given a three day window to write the assessment.



### **Smart Start For EQAO:**

- \* avoid absences to the greatest extent possible
- \* reschedule appointments
- \* ensure your child gets lots of sleep
- \* provide healthy food and snacks
- \* eat a good breakfast
- \* give hugs and pats on the back
- \* be positive

### **Tips for Success**

There is no need to study. The EQAO assessment does not count towards a child's marks in grades 3 and 6, so there is no need to increase anxiety by cramming. If you are curious about the questions your child will be asked, check out the EQAO site and run through some practice tests yourself so you have some understanding of the structure of the assessment and can better reassure your child.

- Remember this is practice. Let your child know that this is a way to show off what he or she knows and to practice test-writing skills so your child can be prepared for tests in later grades.
- Be supportive. It is normal and natural to get nervous and this is a big deal for your child. Do not downplay fears or dismiss

them as silly. Instead, encourage your child to talk about these fears

- Talk to the Teacher. If your child is experiencing severe anxiety, there are things the teacher or school can do to help.
- Set the alarm. The best thing you can do for your child the day of the assessments is to make sure your child is well rested, fed and gets to school on time.
- Read more. For more on EQAO assessments and what they mean for your child, check out our Parent's Guide to EQAO Assessments.
- Understand the Test. Don't use your child's EQAO test scores to measure overall achievement. You're better off relying on regular contact with the teacher who can show you your child's portfolio, which is being updated all year long. You'll have a more clear and accurate picture of your child's progress.

### **EQAO resources**

<http://tvoparents.tvo.org/article/understanding-standardized-testing>  
[www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com)



### **Playground Safety**

With the warm weather arriving soon and the opening of our playground structures, this is a good time to remind everyone - students, parents, staff and yard supervisors - of the rules that help make these structures fun and safe places to play. There are times when the playground is not open and students need to listen to the announcements (especially with the crazy spring weather we have had). This includes periods of freezing temperatures, when there is freezing rain, if the ground cover is frozen, or if there is a build up of snow and ice. Morning nutrition break is reserved for primary students and the afternoon nutrition break is for junior students.

### **Rules for students:**

- No pushing
- No running on play structures
- No fighting
- No eating while on the playground equipment
- No throwing sticks, stones or other objects

The following are not allowed on the equipment: flip flops, skipping ropes, ropes, scarves or loose drawstrings on children's clothing. We make safety at play our major concern, and will be reminding our students and staff on a regular basis about the playground rules. We hope that you will reinforce them at home with your child. **We would ask that parents closely supervise their children before and after school if they choose to use the playground.**

### **Bicycle Safety**

Now that the warmer weather is approaching, please remember if your child rides his/her bike to school a helmet and a lock are necessary. Students must walk their bikes on school property.



### **Morning Attendance**

Please help your child to be at school when the bell rings at 9:10. This minimizes disruption for classrooms during learning time, and it places the value of time management on students – a life-long skill. Please also remember to have your child check in at the office, if he/she is late. If the announcements are on, he/she will need to wait quietly in the front foyer until announcements are finished to check in and receive a late pass.



♥ Welcome to Kindergarten

### **Kindergarten Registration**

If you have a child who will be four years old on or before December 31st, 2016 please come into our office to register. For Senior Kindergarten (or if your child is new to our school) he/she must be five years old on or before December 31st, 2016.

We are looking forward to our "Welcome to Kindergarten" evening next week. If you have a child attending JK in the fall please join us Wednesday, May 11 at 6:30 for more information about preparing your child for school.

### **Information Changes for September**

To assist us with enrolment projections for September, please inform the office if you plan to move out of the Meadowlane attendance area. Should you know of any families moving into our area and who are planning to attend school here in September, please ask them to call the school at (519) 579-5030.

## **School Organization 2016-2017**

It is hard to believe that the 2016/2017 school year is just around the corner! The office will be sitting down to make up classes, based upon our best estimate of the enrolment projections for the coming year. At this point we will begin the next school year with the same number of students and class as this year. When classes are assembled, the focus is to make them heterogeneous. The major factors we consider are:

- The academic level of each student, creating a balance of needs in each class
- The learning skills of each student
- The social/emotional levels of each student
- The relationships among students
- How the child's leadership potential will have an opportunity to develop in the class
- A balance of girls and boys

While attempts are made to place children with at least one or two of his/her current friends, we find that children are adaptable and will make friends wherever they are placed. The guiding principle is to group children for instructional purposes. We do our best to ensure that your child's placement will best serve his/her learning needs.



### **Grade 6 Celebration**

Every year we celebrate our grade six students by hosting an evening where we recognize the years they have spent at Meadowlane. We invite families of grade six students to join us at this celebration, Monday, June 26 at 6:30 pm. More

information will be coming home in the next while.

We realize that moving onto Senior School is both exciting and at times, anxiety provoking. We work together with Westheights to ensure a smooth transition for all students. Students will be given at least two opportunities to visit Westheights this spring. Parents and students are invited on May 19<sup>th</sup> from 6-7pm and all students will walk over to the school with their teachers on June 14<sup>th</sup>.



### **Dress Code**

Spring has arrived and we hope to be enjoying nice weather soon. Students are reminded to dress in an appropriate manner.

- Safe, proper footwear for outdoor play; leave flip-flops for the beach
- Straps on sleeveless tops need to be two fingers wide
- Backless, strapless or low-cut tops are not permitted
- Shorts should be mid-thigh and not cut off
- Focus on looking decent!

If an outfit is deemed inappropriate, we will first ask students to change into their gym clothes, or call home for a change of clothing. We thank parents for taking a moment to review your child's wardrobe for the warmer school days. We also ask that you dig out hats, sunscreen and water bottles, as we would like to be prepared the very warm days.