



Meadowlane Public School

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Save the Date!

Jan. 11	School Council 6:45pm
Jan. 13	Special Fundraising Celebration
Jan. 27	P.D. Day (no school)
Feb. 9, 10, 13, 14	Candygram Sales (Me to We)
Feb. 7	Kindergarten Registration 1-3pm
Feb. 8	Kindergarten Reg. 9:30-11:30 am
Feb. 8	School Council 6:45pm
Feb. 13&14	Valentines Cupcake Sale (Gr. 6) ??
Feb. 17	Winter Carnival
Feb. 17	Reports go home
Feb. 20	Family Day (no school)
Feb. 27&28	Humane Society Visit
March 8	School Council 6:45pm
March 8 or 9 (tbd)	Winter Concert 1:30
March 13-17	March Break
March (exact date tbd)	MS Read-A-Thon
March 23	Family Math Night (6-8)
May 11	Science Fair 6-7:30

Principal's Message

Happy New Year to you all and I hope that you have been able to have some valued time with family and friends over the winter break. As we move into the winter time at Meadowlane, there are lots of exciting things on the horizon. We look forward to hearing about all the exciting things that our students have to share about their holidays. All the best for a warm and snowy January!

As you may have realized, I was away for a few weeks at the end of 2016 recovering from surgery. While away I missed the Meadowlane excitement –the staff, the parents, and particularly the students. I thought of them often and checked in for regular updates. I feel so fortunate to get to do a job that I absolutely love! It's the relationships that are formed within the school community that motivate me. There is nothing that I enjoy more than the smiles, laughs, excitement, and ideas that come from our students. I firmly believe that if we can foster a love of learning in each of our students at a young age, we will set them up for a future filled with curiosity, innovation, well-being, and success.

The role of the school and the school principal has evolved over the years and I try hard to let students know that I am here to work with them to solve problems and to make this the best school. I strongly believe that people strive to behave in the best way possible, as often as they are able. I do not believe that any student at Meadowlane intentionally sets out to hurt others or be disrespectful. However, when faced with conflict or challenges, emotions flare and often students are not always able to behave in ways that are acceptable in society. I believe our role is to help students understand the part they have played in situations, assist them to reflect on how they could do things differently, and provide opportunities for them to practice with guidance as necessary. To truly change behaviour, I believe a person must trust the adults they are working with. They need to feel that they are cared for and that the adults have their best interests at heart. Ideally, I would like students to feel that when they come to the principal's office we will work together to resolve the conflict they have found themselves in as well as explore new ways to help them manage difficult situations in the future. Similarly, I hope that you, as parents, feel that the school is a welcoming place for you to share your concerns, ideas, and wishes for your children.

Please check the website (www.mea.wrdsb.ca), school Twitter account @meawrdsb and sign up for School Day (more information below) to keep yourself informed of all of the Meadowlane Magic!

Sincerely,

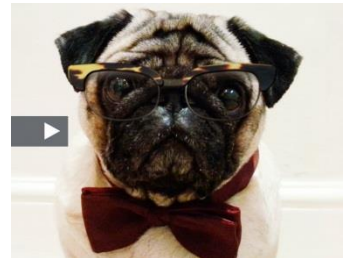
Rebecca Jutzi



Information and Reminders

Fundraising

Thanks to our fabulous School Council, Meadowlane P.S. had a very successful fall fundraiser! We were able to raise \$1323.70 from our Rheo Thompson Chocolate sales, and \$5677.48 from our Dance-A-Thon for a GRAND TOTAL of.....\$7001.18!!!! Individual students were recognized for their efforts with popcorn, hot chocolate, and cupcake parties. The student population will be rewarded at our special assembly on Friday, January 13th. The morning hosts from 91.5 The Beat will join us for some serious head shaving, pies in the face, pug kissing, and more....



Thank you to all of our students and families who participated in these fundraisers. We couldn't have done it without you. The money will directly support the learning of all Meadowlane students.

Mabels labels

Meadowlane has a fundraiser in place with Mabels Labels. We strongly suggest that you label everything that your child brings to school. This helps cut down on our lost and found. If you are interested in purchasing labels for your students clothing please visit www.mabelslabels.com and be sure to find Meadowlane P.S. under the "Support a Fundraiser" tab.

School Day

All schools in the WRDSB are implementing School Day and Meadowlane will be starting this process in January. School-Day is an online cashless system for use by parents, teachers and office administrative staff. We are implementing School-Day to minimize the handling of cash by teachers and office staff, to reduce paper, and streamline office efficiencies. A personal information letter was sent home with all students. We strongly encourage all families to sign up.

Timely reminders

This is a reminder for the New Year that our school day begins at 9:10 a.m. All classroom activities begin right away and teachers need to have everyone in class promptly. Thank you for your help in having your children arrive on time. This one small detail makes a great deal of difference to starting the day off right! Also, please help us by choosing to park on the street if you are arriving at the school just before or after the school day.

Our school day ends at 3:30 with supervision ending at 3:40. ALL students are asked to make their way home at this time. If they choose to come back to play after the school day, that is the parent's decision and they are required to provide supervision.

Winter Carnival Day –

A *Winter Carnival Day* will be held at the school for all students on Friday., February 17 (weather permitting). This annual event provides some good fun for staff and students as we enjoy the outdoors and some great treats provided by School Council.



Arts Concert –March 8 or 9 (stay tuned for the exact date)



A JK-6 winter Arts Concert will be held at the school before March Break. The dress rehearsal will occur from 9:30 – 11:10 am (limited seating available due to entire school attending) and the official concert from 1:30 – 2:15 pm (plenty of seating at this time for parent and grandparents). We hope to see you there!

Family Math Night

Our third annual Family Math Night will be held at the school on Thursday, March 23 from 6-8. Our first two Family Math Nights were huge successes and we look forward to even more families coming to enjoy the fun and prizes! More information will follow.



Calling All 3 Year Olds

If you have a 3 year old at home who was born in 2013, this child is eligible to attend Junior Kindergarten at Meadowlane Public School in September 2017. If your child was born in 2012 and is NOT currently attending school, you may also register your child. Registration will take place on February 7 from 1-3pm and February 8th from 9:30-11:30 am. You are invited to register online at <https://etrillium.wrdsb.ca/onlinereg> and will then be contacted to set up an appointment at the school. You will need to provide your child's Proof of Birth, and Proof of Address. Health and Immunization information may be forwarded to Waterloo Region Public Health website at: <https://e-immunization.regionofwaterloo.ca/>. If you have any questions, please call the school.



Inclement Weather

It is the parents' responsibility to determine whether or not it is safe for his or her child to leave for school in inclement or severe weather. A parent must be aware of the following:



- When a bus does not travel a route in the morning due to fog, ice, or snow conditions, it will not travel that route in the afternoon.
- While we have an excellent transportation system, buses may be delayed in the morning due to traffic, poor road conditions, mechanical breakdowns, etc.

To ensure your child is not stranded at his/her pick-up point; please make sure they know what to do and where to go if their bus is more than 15 minutes late.

Winter Dressing

We try to go outside for each recess and we do monitor the weather carefully. Our students need fresh air and love to play outside. Students have two outside 20 minute recesses each day. All students are expected to be outside for fresh air and activity. Thus, students must dress appropriately for winter weather. Thank you to all parents for providing hats, snowsuits, scarves, mittens and footwear for your children. It is a good idea to send along some extra clothes with your child. An extra pair of dry socks and an extra pair of mittens are always good things to have tucked into the backpack. In the event of inclement weather, students will be supervised inside the school.



Winter Safety

Students are to stay off the playground equipment in the winter months when the ground is frozen. We ask that students stay off the snowbanks in the parking lot at all times. They are allowed to play on snow hills on school property at breaks when it is safe to do so but they must be wearing snow pants. Teachers on duty will determine when it is safe to slide down our hill and will put out pylons to indicate that the hill is "open". Students must have snow pants on and slide on their bottoms, feet first.

Indoor Shoes

Parents are asked to ensure that all students have indoor shoes (or running shoes). With the wet weather outside, it is inevitable that the floors will occasionally be wet. Not only is it unhealthy and dangerous for students to walk around the floors of the school in socks, students will not have a chance to change into their footwear if there is a fire alarm or a drill. Also, appropriate footwear is required for participation in gym.



Family Literacy Day is January 27th.

ABC Life Literacy Canada is encouraging Canadian families to have "15 Minutes of Fun" learning together. Learning can happen at any time. Practicing literacy together every day has tremendous benefits for both children and parents.

Here are some great ways to get started:

- Read a "wake up" story in the morning (after reading your bedtime story the night before).
- Search online for fun places to go in your community. Pick out a spot for your next family day trip.
- Make up a new recipe together and post it online.
- Tell knock-knock jokes together while doing the dishes.
- Create a story with your family: take turns writing one sentence at a time, then read the whole story aloud when you're done.
- Write a review of a book you read together as a family. Send it to the author through email or snail mail.
- Organize a book swap at your school or with your friends.
- Track your trip to school, the park, and the grocery store on a map. Find a different route to take to each place.
- Learn to play a musical instrument. What about the ukulele?
- Write a note to include in a grown-up's lunch – ask them to write back!
- Make a popsicle stick model with your family.
- Write your names graffiti-style using chalk on your sidewalk – you may need to shovel first!
- Play a board game together.
- Look up the words to your favourite song online. Have a sing-off with your friends!
- Count how many steps it takes to get from your bedroom to your kitchen. Find out who in your family has the most steps to a snack!

From: <http://abclifeliteracy.ca/flid/15-minutes-of-fun>

Reading Tip - Encourage Questioning

Questioning makes reading fun. But to learn how to question, your child needs to hear your questions first. This is not about asking your child questions, instead, it's about modeling what it means to be curious by sharing questions you have while you read. Don't rush to the answers right away; let the questions hang in the air. Pose several questions and then let your child take a turn asking questions that come to his/her mind. You're showing your child how to be an active player in the world of reading.

Report cards

First term report cards will be sent home on February 17th. How you interpret and respond to your child's report card is important. Listed below are some suggestions to help you read, understand and celebrate your child's report card.



1. Read the learning skills on the first page of the document first. Celebrate and acknowledge your child's efforts, improvements and strengths and who they are as a person.
2. Pay attention to the section that deals with "days absent" and "times late." Sometimes this is an area that surprises parents and offers insights into why your child may be struggling.
3. Talk about the report card together and seek your child's opinion about their accomplishments.
4. Look at the grades that your child is getting and set some goals with your child in areas that you both agree would benefit from improvement.
6. Make a plan on how to meet these goals and share in the responsibility of helping support your child achieve these next steps.
7. Request a meeting with your child's teacher if you need clarification, want more information or need ideas and resources to support your child's learning goals.
8. Remember that the term one report card is a checkpoint. There are five more months of work ahead and a lot can change during that time. Hard work and effort do pay off.

Although there isn't a formal day for parent/teacher interviews, please don't hesitate to set up a meeting with your child's teacher if you have questions or concerns.

