

Williamsburg Public School

OCTOBER 2013

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

We are so very pleased to have the opportunity to work with your children once again this school year. Our Williamsburg Wings are some of the best students in the WRDSB. Everyday our staff is fortunate to enjoy the smiling, eager faces of our students in JK-6. Thanks to our parents for doing a great job preparing your children to come to school each and every day.

As you know this is your child's "work place" and with that they need to be prepared to do their "job":

- Healthy breakfast
- Lunch - filled with two healthy portions to be divided between our nutrition breaks
- Knapsack - Planner, At Home Reading, pencil case, gym clothes, and completed homework when assigned
- Warm clothes as we get ready for the cooler weather and a pair of indoor shoes
- Arriving on time for school and attending each and everyday

The Williamsburg Staff are working hard this year and focusing our professional learning on developing strategies to implement small group instruction in the classroom. Together in learning teams we are focused on implementing a variety of learning opportunities that meet the individual needs of your child.

One of our school overall goals is to improve the way in which we communicate with our families. We hope that you have had a chance to visit our school's website at <http://wlm.wrdsb.ca>. We are keeping our website up-to-date and making it as informative as possible. In addition we have over 75% of our families registered on School-Day. These families are able to receive timely emails which address school and classroom related information updates. For easy access when you go to our school website you will see a button for School-Day on the front page. If you have not registered, please do so!

*Most Sincerely,
Ms. Carolyn Griffiths
Principal*

WILLIAMSBURG ATTENDANCE CHECK NUMBER

519-570-8146
Extension 3766 #

Please call and leave a message on the Attendance Check Line if your child will be late or absent. Thanks!

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Oct 21 – 25 – Waste-Free Lunch Challenge
- Oct 21 to Nov 22 – Recycle My Cell Challenge
- Oct 29 – Photo Re-take Day
- Nov 1 – Pizza Orders Due
- Nov 2 – Clocks go back 1 hour at midnight
- Nov 4 – Progress Reports Go Home
- Nov 7 & 8 – Book Fair
- Nov 11 – Remembrance Day
- Nov 18 – School Council – 6:30 pm in the Library



Be sure to visit our school website at <http://wlm.wrdsb.ca> for Calendar Updates

LOST AND FOUND

Our Lost and Found is overflowing with hoodies and other clothing. Please stop in to take a look and see if you can find those missing items for your child.



FROM THE OFFICE

We appreciate your help and support in helping to make Williamsburg run smoothly. Here are some helpful tips that make a big difference in the Office:

CONTACT INFO:

- Keep us updated in the school office of any changes to your contact information (phone/address) so we can reach you at all times if needed.

ATTENDANCE CHECK LINE:

- Thank you so much for your calls to the Attendance Check Line to inform the office of any and all absences each and every day of the absence.

COLD WEATHER ATTIRE:

- As the weather changes, please send your child with appropriate clothing outdoors including warm coats, hats, mitts and boots.

INDOOR ATTIRE:

- Be sure that your child has a pair of clean shoes to wear indoors especially during the rainy fall and snowy winter.
- An extra set of dry clothing is a great idea for younger students.

Thanks so much for your support!



SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE

Our school council has kicked off the new school year! We were pleased to welcome many new parents at our first meeting. Even if you haven't been out yet, it is not too late to join us. Our next meeting is **Monday, November 18th at 6:30 pm** in the library.

NORCARD FUNDRAISER

Thank you to all who participated in the Norcard fundraiser! This was the first time we had tried this type of fundraiser at the school and we are happy to report the orders were even higher than we expected.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

If you have any questions, comments for the school council please feel free to attend one of our meetings or send a note through the school office.



PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress Reports go home on Monday, November 4th. Classroom teachers will be communicating with parents regarding opportunities to meet and discuss Progress Reports. Stay tuned!



Scholastic Book Fair



Once again the library is pleased to be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair on **November 7th & 8th**.

The Book Fair is a great fundraiser for the library and also promotes the love of reading in our community.

We need your help! For any Book Fair to run smoothly, volunteers will be needed. A volunteer letter will be going home with your child in the near future. Please consider volunteering for this special event. Stay tuned for more news in the near future.

Mrs. Branje, Library Clerk



We are thrilled to report that over 75% of the Williamsburg community is now registered on School-Day! Parents are enjoying the benefits of receiving timely e-mail updates from the school.

Our goal is to have all families registered by the end of this month so we can provide updates to everyone quickly and efficiently. Join us today!

School-Day is helping to streamline our Pizza and Cookie order process. Orders made on School-Day can be paid for by debit, credit or cash. Exact cash can be submitted to the school along with **the order number** if you prefer not to put your financial info on-line.

Call the school office if you have any questions.

We plan to post the newsletter on our website starting in the New Year instead of sending home a printed copy. We are working towards using less paper while still providing you with updates and information.



Sign-up now!

Check us out on the web at <http://wlm.wrdsb.ca>

Full Day Kindergarten



The WRDSB has been phasing in FDK in schools over the past 4 years. Williamsburg was fortunate to be selected as one of the schools to implement FDK this fall. With over 200 kindergarten students, 9 teachers, 7 early childhood workers and 4 educational assistances, the kindergarten program is very exciting!

It has long been acknowledged that there is a strong link between play and learning for young children. FDK is focused on having young children actively explore their environment and the world around them through a process of learning-based play.

FDK classrooms at Williamsburg make use of play and embed opportunities for learning through play in the physical environment and play activities. Here are a few examples of some the exciting things that have been happening in our kindergarten classrooms:

- Students are excited about a caterpillar they found and now have in their classroom – this has led to feeding and caring for the caterpillar, learning about the lifecycle and making balloon printing to make a patterned caterpillar.
- Students are excited about having Flare (our school mascot) come visit the class. The students were excited to write a letter (draw a picture) to give to Flare. After Flare's visit, the learning continued by making mailboxes for Flare and writing more letters. Some students wanted Flare to come back so they decided to write invitations. Who knows whom they will write to next?
- Students have "adopted" their own tree in the schoolyard that they want to help water and take care of. They named their tree "Marshmallow" and found ladybugs and caterpillars. These creatures came into the room and they have been learning how to care for them.

All our Williamsburg FDK teams are designing learning activities to encourage the children to think creatively, to explore and investigate, to solve problems and engage in the inquiry process, and to share their learning with others. Come visit our classrooms and see all the excitement and learning that is going on!

WASTE FREE LUNCH CHALLENGE

Did you know that school lunches are a major source of waste in Ontario? In fact, the average student's lunch generates a total of 30 kilograms of waste per school year, or an average of 8500 kilograms of waste per school per year.



Waste-Free Lunch CHALLENGE

Parents and Guardians are invited to visit the WFLC's parent website at www.wastefreelunch.com. Here, you can download resources to help ensure you are doing your part to reduce lunch waste at Williamsburg.

In an effort to engage students in small environmental initiatives that can make a big impact, Williamsburg is participating in the week-long Waste-Free Lunch Challenge (WFLC) beginning on Monday October 21st. The Waste-Free Lunch Challenge is a province-wide initiative run by the Recycling Council of Ontario (RCO), in partnership with the Carton Council of Canada. Winning classrooms or schools could earn great prizes including: \$1000.00 for their school's environmental projects.

Let's continue the challenge Williamsburg and keep making Waste-Free Lunches!

RECYCLE MY CELL CHALLENGE

October 21 to November 22, 2013



To support Waste Reduction Week in Canada, Williamsburg is doing our part to help make sure all old and out-of-use cell phones, smartphones, wireless PDAs, pagers, as well as their batteries and accessories, are properly recycled. From Oct. 21 and Nov. 22, 2013, Williamsburg has signed up to take part in a challenge sponsored by GREENTEC, a Cambridge electronic waste recycling company. In addition to doing a good thing for the environment, students may also win \$500 for their school to use for our green initiatives!



Recycle My Cell Frequently Asked Questions:



What happens to the mobile devices collected by your school?

Mobile devices that are collected by your school are sent to GREENTEC for processing. Shipments arriving at GREENTEC are sorted, evaluated and tested to assess their functionality.

Phones deemed to be in good condition are then inspected for water damage and "call tested" to confirm their functionality. Phones that pass as functional are then sold individually through GREENTEC or in bulk to approved wholesale telecommunications distributors. Depending on each device's condition, the wholesale distributors may refurbish some handsets before reselling.

Phones that do not power on, or do not pass the functionality evaluation, are separated for material recovery by recycling. Devices are broken down to their base components (metals or plastics), and then sent to approved processors.

Are all types of batteries accepted in the Recycle My Cell Student Challenge?

No. Only batteries from cellular devices are accepted in the Recycle My Cell Student Challenge. Every other type of battery not appropriate to this program may be recycled in our regular battery box in the office.

Are cordless telephones accepted in the Recycle My Cell Student Challenge?

No. Cordless telephones are not accepted in the Recycle My Cell Student Challenge.

How is the memory erased from the phones we collect?

We always ask that people delete their personal information before they recycle their phones, but we know that doesn't always happen. When the phones are received at GREENTEC, those that are approved for refurbishment and reuse get their memories 'wiped'. This means that the device is brought back to its original factory settings – using a documented process that is specific to each phone model – which results in all other data being permanently deleted. Phones that are destined for recycling are destroyed so no data can be accessed.

Want to ensure your data is deleted?
Visit www.recyclemycell.ca to access the information for how to delete information from your device.