

September

2014

**WESTMOUNT PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
**329 GLASGOW ST., KITCHENER, ON**  
**PHONE: 519-578-5430 FAX: 519-578-5431**  
**ATTENDANCE LINE: 519-570-8143 EXT.3906#**



# Westmount Cat Tales

## WELCOME BACK!

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Dear Parents and Guardians,

An exciting new school year has begun! Our staff welcomes all returning and new families to Westmount with excitement and much anticipation for the 2014-2015 school year. We hope all of you enjoyed your summer with family and friends and had the opportunity to re-energize! This will be an exciting year here at Westmount with the construction of our new school! We have had to make adjustments to where the students will play at nutrition break as we do not currently have the large green space that we are accustomed to having. We are also going to experience even more difficulties with parking as we have lost many parking spaces to the construction site. We ask everyone to be patient as we deal with the many challenges that will go along with the new build. It will be very worth it in the end as we will have a beautiful new school that we can be so proud of!

Our Meet-the-Teacher night will be held on Thursday September 11th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The School Council is hosting a family picnic on that evening starting at 5:00. Please join us for the entire evening if you are able! More information about the picnic will be sent home soon. It is always wonderful to see so many families join us for this evening. It is a great opportunity for you to meet face-to-face with your child's teacher and visit your child's classroom. The teachers have spent many hours this summer preparing for the "Wildcats" to arrive and they are excited about welcoming all of the students into their classrooms. A special thank you to our custodial staff, Jack Piche and Dan Mosure for the hard work they put into getting our building ready for opening day. The school looks great and was sparkling clean when we arrived back from summer holidays! Thank you also to our wonderful office staff, Mrs. Watson. She has 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 we are excited about the upcoming year!

We also have some staff changes as we begin the new school year. We would like to welcome Mrs. McCrae, our new Vice-Principal. Mrs. McCrae looks forward to getting to know your children and working with the staff here at Westmount. Mrs. Kirvan is going to be teaching in our 4th kindergarten class and we are happy to have her join our staff. We are excited to have Ms. Chambers back at Westmount in September in the role of Kindergarten Planning time coverage. We also welcome our 5 new ECE teachers to our kindergarten classes. We welcome Ms. Michalski, Ms. Martin, Ms. McLellan, Ms. Chute and Mrs. McGrath-Ross. We have 3 new Educational Assistants joining our staff as well. We welcome Mrs. Gowing, Ms. Kelly and Mrs. Flood. We also welcome Ms. Davies, our new Child and Youth Worker here at Westmount. We say a fond farewell to Mrs. Adair who was in the office on Fridays last year and we will miss her smiling face. We are excited to have all of our new staff join us at Westmount and we look forward to working with them.

Your child brought home a planner this week which is an excellent tool for communication between home and school. We would greatly appreciate it if you would take some time to review with your child the expectations that are outlined in the planner. Every member of our staff is committed to putting students and student learning first. We will provide a caring, learning community where we motivate and challenge students and treat all who walk through our doors with kindness and respect.

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.

**Looking forward to a great school year!**

T. Kaufman

Principal

R. McCrae

Vice-Principal

Welcome Back Assembly	Sept. 3
Meet the Teacher Night & Family Picnic	Sept. 11
Photo Day	Sept. 16
School Council Mtg.	Sept. 17
Terry Fox Assembly- "Change for Change"	Sept. 18
P.D. Day- no school for students	Sept. 19
Character Assembly	Sept. 25
Treasures Book Fund-raiser starts	Sept. 26
Terry Fox Run	Sept. 30
Thanksgiving Day	Oct. 13
Treasures Book Fundraiser ends	Oct. 15



## Voice Mail/Phone System

Westmount has an automated phone system that will allow callers to leave voice mail messages for our teaching staff and for attendance reporting.

The main number is **519-570-8143**. Please see the enclosed list of staff extension numbers. **Please do not leave student attendance on a staff member's voicemail.**

The attendance extension is **3906#** - please use this number to report all absences or late arrivals.



## Safety at Westmount

Just a reminder to all parents and visitors that when you enter through the front doors, **you must sign in at the office and get a volunteer or visitor sticker before proceeding into the school.** There are times when parents need to deliver a lunch or backpack to their child. This is not a problem but please visit the office and we will have the student pick it up here in the office. Please remember to **sign out** in the office before you leave. It is important that the staff are aware of any visitors in the school. This helps to keep all of our students safe.

You may notice a by-law officer visiting our school from time to time. He will be here on a random basis throughout the year to ensure that the no-parking signs are being obeyed. The no-parking signs are there to keep the street clear and to help keep the children that are walking to school safe. Parents are asked to park on side streets and walk their child to the school instead of parking in the parking lot. Please remember to follow these safety rules.

## Daily Schedule

Our Daily Timetable will be the same this year as it was last year. There are 10 periods per day and each period is 30 minutes long. We will continue to have two 40 minute nutrition breaks during which the students will eat their lunch for 20 minutes and then have outdoor play for the remaining 20 minutes.



## Reminder about Bussing

If your child is eligible to ride the school bus but you have decided that they **will not** be riding the bus this year, then please contact the office. A "Do Not Ride" form will need to be signed stating that you have made alternate arrangements for drop-off and pick up.



## Terry Fox Run: "Change for Change"

This year Westmount will be participating in the Terry Fox Run on September 30th. Terry Fox's goal was to run across Canada to raise awareness and money for cancer. We will have an assembly on September 18th to learn about Terry's dedication and determination to a great cause. Our theme is "Change for Change" and we ask that students bring in any spare change in a ziplock bag to help make a difference.

## STUDENT PICTURE DAY

Student picture day will be on

**Tuesday, September 16**

Students will have their individual photos taken on this day, and a proof of that photo will be sent to you. At this time you can decide on the pose and package, if you wish to purchase the photos. We will also have a casual spring photo program available again this year and this is scheduled for April.



Period 1.....	9:00- 9:30
Period 2 .....	9:30-10:00
Period 3 .....	10:00-10:30
Period 4 .....	10:30-11:00
1st Nutrition Break	11:00-11:40
Period 5 .....	11:40-12:10
Period 6 .....	12:10-12:40
Period 7 .....	12:40-1:10
2nd Nutrition Break	1:10-1:50
Period 8 .....	1:50-2:20
Period 9 .....	2:20-2:50
Period 10 .....	2:50-3:20

## Beware of peanuts or nut products



At Westmount P. S. we have several students who have severe life-threatening food allergies. The allergy includes any food that contains peanuts, tree nuts or peanut/nut oil. This medical condition can produce severe **reactions which can result in death within minutes.**

In a school setting, cross-contamination is the greatest risk for this type of allergy. Trace amounts of peanuts/nuts can be left on gym equipment, computer keyboards, and water fountains etc. and put the peanut/nut sensitive student at risk.

Although this may or may not affect your child's class directly, please send foods to school with your child(ren) that are free from peanuts or nut products. We also ask that you avoid sending soy-based peanut butter alternatives as it is very difficult to distinguish between the alternatives and real peanut products. We sincerely appreciate your cooperation in avoiding the use of these products to assist in our continued efforts to create a safe, caring and inclusive learning environment for all students.

## 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.

## Forms to be Returned

Please have a careful look at all of the items that were sent home the first day of school. Sign (as requested) and return the information sheets to your child's teacher as soon as possible if you have not done so already.

## Leaving School Property

Students are not allowed to leave school property without our knowledge. If your child will be leaving the school property during the second nutrition break to go home for lunch, **please write us a note giving your child permission to do this. Students still need to sign out and sign back into the school so that staff know which students have left the school.**

## 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](http://www.insuremykids.com) or pick up an application form in the school office.

## SCHOOL COUNCIL

School Council invites you to attend our **first meeting** of this school year. It will be held on **Wednesday Sept. 17, 2014 at 7:00** in the Staff Room. We will be holding elections to determine School Council Executive positions, as well as, School Council elected members.

**We'd love to see you there!**



## Safe Welcome Program is here at Westmount Public School!

The WRDSB has installed electronic systems at all Elementary Schools to meet the Ministry of Education's requirement that elementary schools lock all doors during the school day. All visitors to Westmount will now be required to press the intercom by our main entry door by the office in order to enter. Students and staff will use access cards to enter and exit the building throughout the day. If you are picking your child up at the office between 12:00 and 1:00, please call ahead as there may not be anyone available to assist you. We will do our best to keep the wait time to a minimum but please give yourself lots of time if you have an appointment. We will be educating the students about not opening other entrance doors for visitors. Please be respectful of this protocol and do not request or expect students to allow you entry to the school as this puts them in a difficult situation. Please follow the proper protocol and request entry through the intercom at the front entrance. It will be a learning curve for everyone, but the goal is of course to keep our students safe and we appreciate your assistance in helping us do that.

## Child Safety is Everyone's Concern

**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 ever arise and the drills will occur throughout the school year. We will be conducting several of these drills during the month of September.

**Sign In:** Please remember that all visitors to Westmount are asked to first report to the main office where they can sign in and receive a Visitor's Sticker. If you need to pick up or return your child to or from school during school hours or are coming in to drop off items for your child, again, please come to the main office first and do not go directly to the classrooms.



**Parking:** Student Safety is a major concern at our school! **Please do not use the parking lot to drop off or pick up students.** It becomes a very unsafe place when cars are driving in and out during peak times of the school day, such as, before and after school. **Space to park is available on Dunbar Rd. and Katherine Cres.** Stopping at the front of the school in the bus loading area is also restricted and by-law officers will issue tickets for this infraction. Please help us to keep our students safe by obeying the traffic and parking laws.

**Use Crosswalks:** Please remind your children to cross safely at the crosswalk when the walk sign is flashing.

**Pets:** 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. Just a reminder that dogs are not allowed on school property or in the school (with the exception of service dogs) during school hours or during school events. Also, please ensure that you follow the by-laws concerning control and clean up. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

**Student Drop off Times:** Please note that our supervision in the morning does not begin until 8:45 A.M. We would ask that students do not arrive at school prior to this time as there is no yard supervision in place. As well, it is not permissible for students to be dropped at the main office or their classroom prior to this time to be supervised. This is especially important during inclement weather as we do not want students to be standing outside in the rain/cold for extended periods of time. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in adhering to our drop-off times.

### **Speaking and Listening Tips from Speech and Language Services**

**Telling stories** - First read a picture book together with your child. Then have your child use the pictures and tell the story back to you using his/her own words. Encourage your child to use the names of the characters, where the story happened, the main events, a problem and the ending. Encourage use of connecting words like AND, THEN, NEXT.

**What happens next?** A child's ability to make predictions, inferences and think of different ways to solve a problem are important skills for school and life. You can help your child develop these critical thinking skills in a number of ways. While watching a movie or reading a book, talk about what might happen next. Think of a different ending. Talk about the character's feelings. When reading, talk about what is implied (e.g., Joe took off his sweater and wiped his forehead. What was the weather like? How do you know this?).

### **Home of the Wildcats!**



**Waterloo Region  
District School Board**