

January

2015

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,

Welcome Back to school and Happy New Year! We hope all of our families had an exciting and wonderful Holiday break! We are excited to be back at school and look forward to the rest of the school year!

December was a busy and exciting month with many activities going on at Westmount! The students had a great time preparing for and participating in our Holiday concerts! Students enjoyed Santa Bingo over the PA system, and Holiday sing-a-long, a Movie day, and some of our students even won turkeys to take home for their Holiday dinners during the Turkey Shoot in the gym! We are deeply appreciative to all of our staff who willingly share of their time and talents to make our seasonal celebrations and activities possible.

We are pleased to welcome Mlle Deleplanque who will be teaching Grade 3 French Immersion here at Westmount. Mlle Deleplanque is replacing M. Mounin and Mme Badger who both retired at the end of November. Welcome Mlle Deleplanque!

As we continue to experience the joys of Canadian winter weather, we want to remind families about a few important safety issues in this weather. In particular, we want to remind students to be extra careful when walking to and from school and staying off of roads even when sidewalks may be difficult to navigate. Please take extra precautions when crossing streets to make sure that cars are actually stopped before crossing to ensure that the cars will not slip into intersections. Please ensure that students are dressed appropriately for the weather, including hats, mittens or gloves and boots.

Yours in Education,

T. Kaufman

Fran Oppertshauser

Principal

Vice-Principal

Au Revoir Monsieur Mounin

In December we wished Monsieur Mounin a Happy Retirement and Fond Farewell. He has had a very successful teaching career and has touched the lives of many students and families. He will be deeply missed by everyone here at Westmount. We wish him much happiness as he begins this new and exciting chapter in his life! Nous adorons M. Mounin!



Welcome Back!	Jan. 5
Pita Pit Day	Jan. 7
Grade 1 French Immersion Registration Begins on-line	Jan. 8- Jan. 31
Humane Society here at Westmount	Jan. 19-20
Pita Pit Day	Jan. 21
School Council Mtg.	Jan. 21
Character Education Assembly	Jan. 29
P.D. Day- no school for students	Jan. 30
First Term Report Cards go home	Feb. 20
Kindergarten Registration	Feb.12-13
Family Day- no school	Feb. 16
March Break- no school	Mar.16-20

Reminder-Partial French Immersion

Parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten children who are interested in the Grade One Partial French Immersion Program 2015, must complete a registration form on the Waterloo Region District School Board website at www.wrdsb.ca. **The registration begins on January 8, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. and will close on January 31st, 2015. This will be the first phase of the registration.** If you have any questions related to the Partial French Immersion registration, please call the Learning Services secretary for Languages at 519-570-0003 x 4267

Thank you to our Volunteers!

The parent and community volunteers responsible for setting up and serving Breakfast Club each morning have generously given of their time to ensure that all of our students start the day with a smile. The Pizza Friday parent volunteers have also dedicated much time and effort to the weekly delivery of pizza and cookies for our Pizza Fridays. Many of our parents have supported Westmount students and teachers by assisting in classrooms, in the library, or wherever help is needed. Our volunteers read with students, organize Home Reading materials, shelve books in the library, cut, staple, share their talents, organize and support special events, such as; the clothing drive and fund raising through the sale of Treasury books and poinsettias. We are so lucky to be part of such a caring, giving community!

The Spirit of the Season!

The outpouring of generosity from the students, parents, community, and staff for this year's gift and food drive was overwhelming. Once again, the entire community came together and demonstrated what this season really is about: helping and giving to others. There are numerous ways in which our community selflessly gave this month. Westmount students enjoyed wearing their pajamas and watching a holiday movie on December 12th. The We Group sold snack packs for the students to enjoy during the movie. With the money the group raised, they were able to purchase 30 gifts and 200 dollars in grocery store gift cards for families in our community!

A special thank you to St. George's Church for generously donating gifts to some of our families in our community.

Thank you to everyone for helping make the holidays and this festive season a little more special for many!

(WE Group wrapping gifts)



December Turkey Shoot!

Gobble, Gobble, Gobble!!!! All of the students in grades 1-6 had a chance to win a turkey during the month of December by shooting basketballs. We gave turkeys to 16 lucky students! Many thanks to Real Canadian Superstore, Sobey's (Highland), Central Fresh Market, the Hatashita family, and Dewar Home Improvements who donated some of the turkeys. Congratulations to our winners: Vesa H., Joshua M., Bronwyn L., Finlay M., Kaleb L., Abdinasir I., Kubra S., Shaylin T., Jada K., Justin K., Kyle D., Tyrone J., Taylor T., Brooke P., Emma S., and Cole A.

Special thanks to Mrs. Dewar and the WILD leaders for organizing the Turkey Shoot!



News from the Gym

January is full of activity in the gym and outside. We are starting floor hockey during phys. ed. so students must have running shoes to wear. Floor hockey intramurals will take place throughout the month for grades 3,4,5, and 6.



A reminder to parents that we will often be going outside to go sledding for phys. ed. class and QDPA. Please make sure your child has snowpants, boots, jacket, hats and mittens for outdoor play.



Thank you Tim Hortons

Westmount Public School would like to thank our **Belmont Avenue Tim Hortons** for supporting our Breakfast Club each and every school day. They help many of our students begin the school day with satisfied bellies so learning is able to take place. Tim Hortons also supports a summer program that allows several of our students to attend summer camp each year. Westmount School is fortunate to be located in such a supportive community!

Strong Start Volunteers

The Strong Start Program has almost been completed for our Grade One students. We were fortunate in having two Waterloo University students, Miss Mercurio and Miss Rosentreter, assist us with the delivery of the program this year. Thanks to Mrs. Marsh, and Mrs. Stevens for returning this year to assist with this important literacy program. Session two will begin in February for select Senior Kindergarten Students.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION—SEPTEMBER 2014

IF:

1. Your family resides in the Westmount school boundaries
and
2. Your child was born in 2010 or 2011 and has never attended school
Your child is eligible to register for our Kindergarten program.



Please call the school at (519) 578-5430 to schedule a registration visit. Visits will take place on February 11th all day or Feb. 12th- p.m. only

Note: Children who are currently attending Westmount in our Junior Kindergarten program do not need to register for the Senior Kindergarten program.

Treasures' Book Golden Ticket Winners!

Every student that sold a Treasures Book went into a draw for a chance to win a "Golden Ticket!" Congratulations to our Golden Ticket Winners this year- Jotsaroop K, Koyuki K, Nathan F, Bronwyn L, and Ryan C. These students have won a day pass for themselves and a friend, to Chicopee Tube Park in the Spring. Congratulations Wildcats!



School Council

We invite you to attend our next meeting of this school year. It will be held on **Wednesday, January 21, 2014 at 7:00** in the Staff Room.

We'd love to see you there!

Author Visit

We had the opportunity to welcome a new author to Westmount P. S. on Dec. 5th. Kara Kootstra published her first picture book titled : **The Boy in Number Four**. Miss Kara read her new book to the Kindergarten and Grade One classes. She surprised all of the other classes with an excerpt from her chapter book she is working on. Her chapter book is due to the publisher in April and will be on shelves in 2016. Miss Kara also explained where she got the idea to write her books. (Bobby Orr asked her to do the children's book and her love for writing spilled over into more). She also went through a bit of the writing process with each grade and the students learned how long it takes to become a 'published' author.

Westmount Improvement Fund

Just a reminder that you can still send in donations to the Westmount Improvement Fund. This is a new initiative started by Westmount School Council for the families who may prefer to make a direct donation to the WIF instead of, or in addition to, participation in various school fundraisers. A tax receipt will be provided for all donations of \$20 or more. Cheques should be made payable to WEFI (Waterloo Education Foundation Inc.), a registered charitable foundation run through the Waterloo Region District School Board, and delivered to the school office. All donations made to WEFI will come back to the Westmount Improvement Fund to support continuing efforts to make our school even better! Thank you to all of you who have already donated to this fund! Your generosity is very appreciated.

Reminder

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 prior to this time to be supervised. This is especially important during the winter weather as we do not want students to be standing outside in the cold for extended periods of time. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in adhering to our drop-off times.



Weather Related Cancellations

As we head into the winter season we may encounter unusual or severe weather conditions that can lead to the cancellation of transportation and/or school closures. There can be two types of school closures; one before the beginning of the school day and the other after the school day has begun.

School Closure before 9:00 a.m. :

If weather conditions result in transportation cancellation or school closures, there will be announcements made on the radio stations listed below and also on the Board website www.wrdsb.on.ca

Radio Stations with Emergency Information:

DAVE FM- FM 107.5 CHYM AM- AM 570

KOOL FM- FM 105.3 CJOY MAGIC FM- FM 106.1

OLDIES 1090- AM 1090 CHYM FM—FM 96.7

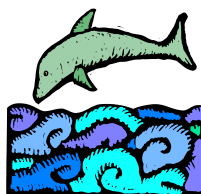


School Closure during the day:

In the very unusual event that we must close the school after the day has started due to deteriorating weather conditions or power failure etc. an emergency dismissal or closing may occur. If this occurs after the start of the school day, parents/guardians will be contacted to determine appropriate arrangements for the dismissal of their child.

Victoria Hills Neighbourhood Association **Free All Ages Movie Night and Games Time** **Dolphin Tale 2**

Saturday, January 17th, 6pm
Victoria Hills Community Centre
10 Chopin Drive, Kitchener



Inexpensive snacks will be on sale to support the
Learn English, Make Friends Program

Kids in the Kitchen



Teaching children food skills helps develop healthy eating habits, improve math, language and motor skills and provides a fun way for families to spend time together. Even children as young as two can start learning in the kitchen! Packing school lunches is something in which all school-aged kids can take part. Check out EatRight Ontario's *Cooking with Kids of Different Ages* for ideas about which tasks might be best for your kids to start with: <http://www.eatrightontario.ca/en/Articles/Child-Toddler-Nutrition/Cooking-with-Kids.aspx>.

Homework Club

There is a homework club
at AR Kaufman Public School
with
Learn English, Make Friends on
Thursday nights from 6:30-8pm.



Home of the Wildcats!



**Waterloo Region
District School Board**