

February

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,

It's hard to believe that Term 1 is coming to an end. There have been so many great things happening at Westmount! Students have had many great opportunities to be involved in school life outside of the classroom; whether it was clubs, athletic teams, intramurals or choirs.

Academic learning continues to progress in full swing here at Westmount. We continue to work hard in all areas, especially focusing on our School Success Plan in the area of Feedback. Our school goal focuses on giving feedback in a timely, efficient and meaningful manner. Report cards will be coming home with your child on Friday February 20th.

Mrs. Oppertshauser has been filling in as Vice-Principal during Mrs. McCrae's medical leave. We are sad to say that Mrs. Oppertshauser will be finishing her time here with us on Friday, February 6th. She has been a wonderful addition to our staff and we will miss her. On a positive note, we are happy to welcome Mrs. Martin as our new Vice Principal. Mrs. Martin comes to us from Preston P.S. and is excited to be starting her Vice-Principalship here at Westmount. She looks forward to getting to know and working with you and your children. We would also like to wish Madame Schiedel all the best as she begins her maternity leave on Monday, February 2nd. Mlle Fay will be joining us at Westmount to teach Core French to all of our Grade 1-6 students. Welcome Mlle. Fay!

Yours in Education,

T. Kaufman

Principal

F. Oppertshauser

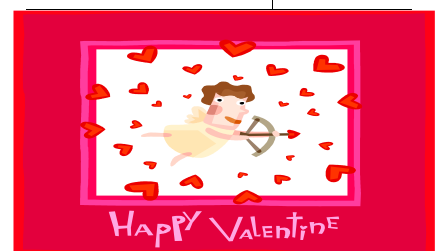
Vice-Principal

Free Skates Give-Away!

Last year there was a new directive that states all staff and students must wear a CSA approved hockey-style helmet for skating activities while on the ice. Bicycle or ski helmets are not permitted for skating activities as they are not designed for this purpose. We do not have a skating rink this year due to the construction of the new school; however, we will probably have one in future years for the Westmount community to enjoy! Due to the fact that not all of our students have a CSA approved helmet, we will not be using the outdoor rink anymore during school hours. Westmount P.S. has been fortunate enough to accumulate extra skates over the years so we have an abundance of skates here to fit everyone! The skates are lined up outside the library and are free for the taking for anyone who is interested. By the end of the month, any skates that have not found a new home, will be given to Goodwill.



Pita Pit Day	Feb. 4
Pizza Day	Feb. 6
Winter Walk Day	Feb. 11
Kindergarten Registration	Feb.11-12
Pizza Day	Feb. 13
Happy Valentine's Day	Feb. 14
Family Day—no school	Feb. 16
Pita Pit Day	Feb. 18
School Council Mtg.	Feb. 18
First Term Report Cards go home	Feb. 20
Pizza Day	Feb. 20
Character Assembly	Feb. 26
Pizza Day	Feb. 27
March Break—no school	Mar.16-20
Gr. 6 EQAO	May 25-27
Gr. 3 EQAO	June 1-3



Blue Spruce and Silver Birch

Many of our Westmount students enjoy participating in this recreational reading program, an initiative of the Ontario Library Association (OLA). In each of the divisions, ten books written by Canadian authors have been chosen by a panel of literary enthusiasts. Near the end of April, the students vote for the book they liked the best and the book receiving the greatest number of votes wins an award. Only children may vote, no adults allowed!

The Blue Spruce books for JK to Gr. 2 are read by the teacher. The Silver Birch Express, Fiction and Non-Fiction books are read by the students. Voting will take place in the library by April 30. Our votes will be included with participating students from across Ontario.

Participants must read a minimum of five out of the ten nominated titles. Students may begin signing up in the library now. I encourage students to read their book within a reasonable amount of time and return the book within a week so that others may have the chance to read it.

Mrs. Elliott, Library Clerk



Important Reminder

When students are absent from school, it is necessary to make a phone call home. To save the office time, please call our attendance line before school and leave a message stating your child's name, their teacher's name, and the reason for their absence. Our attendance line is available 24 hours a day, so you may call the school anytime. The number again is **(519) 570-8143 ext. 3906 #**

Winter Weather and Nutrition Breaks

We have had some cold weather this winter. It is extremely important that students come to school prepared with appropriate clothing (hats, mittens/gloves, winter coat, snow pants, and boots) in order to be prepared to be outside for two twenty minute breaks each day. Please do not request that students stay inside during the break due to illness as we do not have the ability to supervise them. On days when we are faced with extreme cold or wind chill conditions, children will be kept inside as per Board policy. 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.

Let's Walk!

Wednesday, February 11, 2015 is **Winter Walk to School Day in Waterloo Region**. Walk to school days celebrate active transportation involving children and youth that aims to increase daily physical activity, improve safety, reduce traffic congestion, and decrease air pollution, while developing community cohesion and social interaction. Let's see how many Westmount Wildcats can walk to school that day!

News from the Gym

In the gym, February brings the start of intramural 3-on-3 basketball and interschool Indiana basketball. As well, the Westmount kindies have been enjoying some time in the gym working on their gross motor skills with different types of equipment.



Our junior students (grades 4, 5, 6) took a field trip to the Wilfred Laurier Phys. Ed. Complex on January 28th to watch a university basketball game. Some cheered for the University of Waterloo Warriors and some cheered for the WLU Golden Hawks. For some of our students it was their first live basketball game! Thank you to all our parent volunteers for joining us on this trip.

Each junior class will also be going on a field trip to the Laurel Creek Conservation Area for a day of cross country skiing and outdoor activities. Thanks again to our parent volunteers who will be accompanying us. We are learning that there are a lot of fun outdoor, winter activities in Canada!

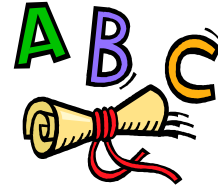


The grade 5 and 6 students are gearing up for another exciting season of basketball. We will be playing other schools and having a great time. There will be a boys' team and a girls' team. All grade 5 and 6 students are welcome. Come cheer us on!

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION—SEPTEMBER 2015

IF:

1. Your family resides in the Westmount School boundary
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 and February 12th in p.m. only. There is a tab on the Westmount School website that parents can click on and print off the forms to fill out before they come for Kindergarten registration.

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

Primary Craft Club

We're getting out the ribbons, foam, stickers, glue and other craft supplies for Primary Craft Club. Students will get a chance to make a variety of crafts to take home. During the month of February, Grade Three students can come and have some fun. Then, in March, it will be opened to those in Grade Two. Finally, in April, Grade One students are welcome to come and join us for some crafty fun. We are looking forward to seeing lots of creative and happy Westmount Wildcats at Primary Craft Club.



Westmount Crochet Club

The Westmount Crochet Club is up and running. We have many new members this year and lots of returning members to help teach. Any donations of leftover yarn that families may have at home would definitely be appreciated. You can send donations of yarn to the office or to Mrs. Wilson in Room 12. We hope to make more blankets this year to raffle off in the Spring. All proceeds will go to the Send'em Off Smiling Program.



School Council

We invite you to attend our next meeting of this school year. It will be held on **Wednesday, February 18th at 7:00** in the Staff Room.

Read with the Rangers

Read with the Rangers is a program for students in grades JK -Gr. 3 that focuses on the importance of literacy while having fun. Students will have the opportunity to read with their favourite Rangers players and learn a little more about the players' experiences with reading and education. On Tuesday, January 27th, Rangers players will visit our school, read one (1) book (provided by the Kitchener Rangers Hockey Club) and then discuss the material with the students. They will cover important lessons like; respect, goal-setting, sportsmanship and teamwork. Once the reading portion of the program is completed, students will have the opportunity to ask the players questions.

Music News

The Ukulele Club will be starting up again at the beginning of February. For this session, we will be preparing pieces to perform at our Earth Day Assembly in April. The Ukulele Club is open to all grade 4 and 5 students. Since we are beginning a new session, new members are welcome to join. We also look forward to seeing returning members and building on their strumming skills. The Ukulele Club will continue to meet on Day 3 and Day 5, during the recess part of the first Nutrition Break. If you already own a Ukulele please bring your instrument to the practices. We look forward to seeing all keen Ukulele musicians at our first meeting.

Pop Choir will also be starting up again in late February. For this session, we will be singing with the Ukulele Club for the Earth Day Assembly in April. The Pop Choir is open to all interested singers in grade 4, 5, & 6. Our focus is on learning popular songs to perform in front of an audience. Since we are beginning a new session, new members are welcome to join. We also look forward to seeing returning members to the Pop Choir.

Weather Related Cancellations

As we continue with 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

Winter Fun Day

Family Day, Feb 16th
 1-3:30 p.m.

Victoria Hills Community Centre

Enjoy outdoor and indoor activities such as tobogganing, soccer and human foosball.



Free All Ages Movie Night and Games Time Everyone's Hero

Saturday, Feb 21st, 6pm

Victoria Hills Community Centre
 10 Chopin Drive, Kitchener

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



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**

Planning Healthy School Snacks and Lunches

Snacks and lunches at school provide an important opportunity to pack nutritious choices from *Canada's Food Guide*. These foods have vitamins, minerals, fibre and other nutrients needed for healthy growth and development. Always start with a vegetable or fruit serving and add at least one serving from another food group for snacks and two servings from other food groups for lunch. Good choices to keep on hand include; breads, tortillas or crackers from the Grain Products group (whole grains are the best choice); low-fat milk, yogurt or cheese from the Milk and Alternatives group; and sunflower seeds, hummus or lean meats from the Meat and Alternatives group. Certain Foods; such as, dairy and meat need to be kept cold in an insulated bag with an ice pack.

