

January 2015



School Council Newsletter

Science Fair



Wed. April 8 in the gym
6:00 pm. to 8:00 p.m.

Remind your children to start coming up with ideas for this year's Science Fair. Further information will be sent home.

Ski Club



Junior students who are part of the ski club are enjoying skiing and snowboarding on the slopes of Chicopee Thursdays after school till 7:00 p.m. Jan. 15, Feb. 5, 12 & 19th.

Used Book Sale



Thurs. April 23 in the gym
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Now is the time to look for books you no longer need and make space for some more! In the mid February we will begin collecting used books for Westvale's used book sale. You will be notified via School Day when to begin sending gently used books to the school office. We are looking for children's, youth and adult books. Please, NO textbooks, magazines or Reader's Digest books. If you have any questions, can help count books, or help the day of the sale, please email Phoebe at: phoebe.montgomery@rogers.com.

Westvale Wonderland



Thurs. June 11
5:00 pm. to 8:00 p.m.

The first-ever Westvale Wonderland will take place in June. There will be games, food and fun both indoors in the gym and classrooms and outdoors on the playground behind the school. Some of the activities planned include: a reptile display, clowns, face painting, balloon animals, a cake walk, games, prizes, raffles and a barbeque. Information on purchasing tickets for this exciting event will be sent home at a later date. Watch for more details.

Mark Your Calendar

- Staff Appreciation Lunch - Feb. 5
- Science Fair -April 8
- Used Book Sale -April 23
- Westvale Wonderland - June 11

Your engagement in education is your child's best ticket to success at school. Showing support at home or as a volunteer is what makes all the difference.

Update on Fall Activities and Fundraisers

Family Movie Night on Dec. 17 was a big hit showing "The Lego Movie" in the gym. Council provided popcorn to everyone and some arts and craft activities.

QSP Magazine Fundraiser raised approximately \$600 and the proceeds from this fundraiser, went to renewing 17 library magazine subscriptions; purchasing library bags to help students protect library books, and paying for Blue Spruce (primary) and Silver Birch (junior) books.

Simply Delicious Fundraiser raised \$1763 and the money is being used to help ensure all

classes at Westvale are equipped with COWs (Computer on Wheels) which include a laptop, data projector, document camera, and set of speakers on a cart. Proceeds from 2013-14 fundraising initiatives (in the amount of \$5,700) have also been invested in this technology.

The Home Math Kit Program for grades 1-3 is continuing. Participation forms can be found on School Day under School Files: "Math Kit Parent Letter." Activities are fun and engaging. The kits go out Fridays and are returned Mondays. If you have any free time, we could really use

more volunteers - especially on Wednesdays to check if any late kits have come in and put them away.

Subsidizing School Trips helps out all the students at Westvale. Council is providing \$150 (the average cost of a school bus for one field trip) to each class.

Recess Equipment is being replenished thanks to Council's commitment of \$500 to replace equipment that has been lost or damaged. This will include purchasing soccer balls, footballs and basketballs, skipping ropes and sidewalk chalk.

Food News



Interested in volunteering at the school? Every day from 8:15 to 8:50 volunteers serve breakfast to students participating in the school breakfast program just outside the gym.



EQAO Breakfast

May 26-28, grade 3 students will be served breakfast before participating in the EQAO testing.

June 2-4, grade 6 students will be served breakfast before participating in EQAO testing.

Have a child in grade 3 or 6? We're looking for parent volunteers to help serve breakfast from 8:15 to 8:50.



For those who have ordered milk and/or pizza for their children, they are receiving their orders every Thursday during first nutrition break until March Break. You will next be able to place an order in March for the last three months of the school year—watch for notification of next order deadline on School Day.



Reminder you can order hot lunches to be delivered to your child(ren) at first nutrition break every Wednesday from the Lunch Lady. Order from the menu at www.lunchlady.ca.

Staff Appreciation Lunch



On Thurs., Feb. 5, School Council will be providing a Staff Appreciation Lunch. Anyone interested in making a dish to be part of the lunch is asked to please contact Stephanie Evans at evansberg@sympatico.ca. This year's theme is Superheros. We need assistance with set up, "super" dishes that always get rave reviews, and clean up.

Gym Mats Back in Shape

Our gym mats are back in tiptop shape. Earlier this year it came to Council's attention that the Velcro strips holding the mats on the gym walls were worn out on 11 mats. Rather than sending them to landfill and replacing them at a high cost, Council found an Old Order Mennonite couple in Milverton, Mr. & Mrs. Era S. Streicher, to help. The Streicher's have a small business on their farm making and repair-

ing harnesses.

Three Westvale moms and one Westvale grandma spent approximately eight hours ripping apart the Velcro stitching to prepare the mats. (Thanks ladies!!) The Streicher's then replaced all the velcro and sewed the mats back together again. They could only work in daylight hours as they do not have electrical lighting in their shop; but they got the job done in less than a week.

They said "we enjoyed doing it-it was a different kind of project...and we know it's going to a good cause!" They even took the time to pull out years worth of collected threads in the "hook" part of the velcro.

We really appreciated the Streicher's creative use of their skills, their willingness to find a way we could do part of the labour with volunteers, and for giving us a discount.

Bring Your Ideas!

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETINGS

Thursdays: Jan. 22 Feb. 26, Apr. 30, June TBD
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Westvale School Library
All welcome!
Babysitting provided
Refreshments served

Joining School Council is a great way to get involved at your child's school, stay informed, and have fun. We're always looking for new ideas - whether they be for new events, fundraising initiatives or improving existing ones - we'd like to hear from you.

Find yourself at the school? Check out the School Council Bulletin Board in the hall outside of the office for our latest news.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Co-Chairs:

Cindy Desbiens, cindydesbiens.08@gmail.com
Stephanie Evans, evansberg@sympatico.ca
Meghan Tracy, meghan_tracy@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Jessica Chan

Secretary: Tonya Veltman

WRAPSC Rep: Vacant

School Principal: Bruce Alexander

Teacher Representative: Steve Ahlberg

If you are unable to attend the meetings, you can also stay informed by asking to get on the School Council email list to see meeting minutes.

If you're willing to help out at any council events or simply want more information please contact one of the Co-Chairs. It really takes a team of volunteers to be able to enrich Westvale students' school experience so any help is appreciated.

To all who lend a helping hand, on behalf of the Westvale students – a heartfelt thank you!

**See Meeting Minutes
Online at:**

<http://wsv.wrdsb.ca/>