

September 2015



School Council Newsletter

Principal's Message

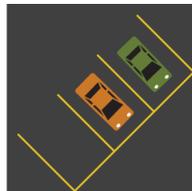
Our school had a wonderful start-up to the 2015-2016 school year. I have had the opportunity to visit all of the classes and meet all of the students. Their behavior and commitment to our school is exemplary. As a community, I look forward to helping our students learn and develop in the best possible manner. Research tells us that families who are actively engaged as partners help their children achieve. I encourage parents to volunteer. There will be many opportunities to get involved over the course of the year. As Provincial labour negotiations continue between the government and the Elementary Teachers Federation we all have faced challenges to routines.

As of today, no agreement has been reached and teachers are not able to attend our planned Meet the Teacher Night for this Thursday.

Sincerely,
Bruce Alexander

Please Follow Westvale School Rules

Parking Lot



Our parking lot is for school board staff. It is not safe for parents to drop off their students in this lot. There are many parking spaces available adjacent to the school on several streets.

Playing on Playground before School is Not Allowed

The reason for this rule is that students are not supervised until 8:50 a.m. by our staff. It is not safe for students to use the playground equipment even if their parents arrive with them. The reason for this is that it is not reasonable for teachers to identify which student belongs to which parent if they are allowed on the structure. A sign is posted on the playground describing this rule.

No Dogs on School Property



In order to ensure the safety of all of our families this rule needs to be respected at Westvale. Some children have anxiety around animals and we must ensure that they feel safe when they are on school property.

Mark Your Calendar

- **First School Council Mtg of the year—Thurs., Sept.24; 7:00-9:00 p.m.**
- **Westvale Community Association AGM—Wed., Nov. 4; Social 6:00-7:00 p.m. AGM 7:00-9:00 p.m.**

Partners in Learning Program

This is the fourth year that our school has worked in collaboration with researchers from Wilfrid Laurier University. This year 20 Grade 2's and 3's (involved in this study) will be pre-tested in the next few weeks. All information collected for this study will be kept completely confidential and anonymous.

Data will be used for publication purposes in academic journals and will be presented in an aggregate form at all times. Westvale school will not be mentioned in publications and data will not be circulated within school boards. In addition, anonymous data may be passed between the named members of the academic team

for academic research purposes only. All of our research assistants have up-to-date Vulnerable Sector Police Checks and have experience working with children, as per Research Ethics Board (REB) requirements. Letters will be sent home by the researchers to the families involved in this project on Friday.

Westvale School Staff News



Mme Leung rejoins our Grades 1 and 3 Immersion classes.



Mrs. Julian joins us from Rockway School teaching our Grade 4/5 English class.



Mrs. Armstrong returns as a long-term occasional teacher for our Grade 4 English class.



Miss Klassen returns as a long-term occasional teacher for primary and junior classrooms.



Ms. Breutigam joins us as a long-term occasional teacher in our Grade 2/3B English Class.



Mrs. Dhindsa joins us as our ESL teacher.



Mr. Bailey comes from Westheights School as our new 5/6 Core teacher.



Mr. Wilson joins us in our ECO class as their contract teacher.



Mrs. Van Anandel is teaching our Grade 1 and 3 immersion classes English as a long-term occasional teacher.



Mrs. Fangrad is one of our new contract Education Assistants.



Mrs. Morley is our music teacher.

No Picture Available

- Mrs. Gaudet is our new part-time secretary.
- Mrs. Heier is our new Child and Youth Worker.

Westvale Community Association AGM

We are proud of developing partnerships that promote community at Westvale. This year the Westvale Community Association is planning its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in our school's gym on Wed., Nov. 4 from 5:30–9:30 p.m. They will hold a 'social' from 6:00–7:00 p.m. and the AGM from 7:00–9:00 p.m. We will be providing pizza and other light refreshments.

Come Join the Westvale School Council

Welcome back to school everyone. As you settle into your fall routine, let us answer some frequently asked questions.

What is School Council?

School Council is a group, consisting of parents, teachers, and administrators working together to support and enrich all students. We support school staff, help promote student self-esteem and assist in efforts to solve school needs through volunteering and funding.

Who can be a member?

If you are a father, mother, protector, guardian, and/or person who teaches or instructs at Westvale, then we welcome you to become a member.

What does School Council do?

Our primary objective is to provide our school with funds, programs, resources, and services that will enrich and maximize the education of every child and benefit the school. To meet this important objective, we fundraise.

Here are a few programs that we sponsor and/or support: QSP Magazine Fundraiser, Family Movie Night, Recess Equipment, Boo Hoo Breakfast, DC Music Program, Library Initiatives including Silver Birch and Blue Spruce, Teacher Appreciation, Fundscript, Mable's Labels, Big Box of Cards, Boston Pizza Night, School Council Newsletter, Used Book Sale, and the wonderful Westvale Wonderland.

Last year the Westvale School Council raised over \$12,000 that went towards a new Audio Visual System in the gym. In addition, we have financially supported technology initiatives at Westvale with the purchase of iPads, Chrome Books, Smart Boards and a Computer on Wheels for each classroom.

Why get involved?

As you can see, we are a busy group. This is where you can come in! We need your help, and so do your child(ren). A special thanks to all of our volunteers

from last year for all their hard work and dedication. Here at Westvale, we strive for excellence and what better way than to become involved today. We are in need of growth and are seeking volunteers to continue re-establishing the organization. We have planned some exciting events this year in hopes to get more parents involved in their children's education.

The School Council is a team effort – we cannot succeed on our own. Please come and join us by signing up at our first meeting on Thurs., Sept. 24, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the school library, or by contacting one of the co-chairs today. (Babysitting is provided and refreshments are served at the meetings.)

The Westvale School Council email address is: westvaleschoolcouncil@gmail.com.

Council Co-chairs:

Cindy Desbiens
Stephanie Evans
Meghan Tracy

Last year we raised over \$12,000 that went towards the purchase of a new Audio Visual System in the gym!

Front Hall Display

Check out our front display case with every student's name posted. Special thanks to Janis Roughley for the inspiration and creation.



Breakfast and Snack Programs for Westvale



We have received funding to support these programs for this year. More information about when these programs start will be forthcoming.



*Letter from the Waterloo
Region District School Board
about our Library rules.*



September 2015

Dear Families,

Our libraries are open for another school year. We invite all students to visit the library to borrow books for independent reading and research projects. Students are encouraged to borrow from all areas of the library. A library clerk will be available at your school to help your child use the library. A timetable outside the door will let you know when the library is open.

Students may borrow books for up to a three-week loan period and may exchange them as frequently as they wish. Our loan standards are as follows:

<u>Students in:</u>	<u>May borrow:</u>
JK & SK	up to 2 books
Grades 1 & 2	up to 3 books
Grades 3 to 8	up to 4 books

Students are responsible for the books that they sign out. To avoid loss or damage to books, students are encouraged to:

- Carry library books in a book bag or knapsack,
- Keep food and drinks (liquids) away from books,
- Store the book in a safe spot at home, away from young children and pets,
- Return all borrowed books on or before the due date,
- Return overdue books before borrowing another item.

Should a book become lost or damaged, please notify the school's library clerk. A small fee will be charged:

Soft Covered Item: \$5.00 Hard-Covered Item: \$10.00

Research and reading can take place outside of the school library. Students are invited to visit the *Library Learning Commons* <http://library.wrdsb.ca> at any time from home or from school to continue their learning online. From the home page Library Learning Commons website connect to the Virtual Library to access our extensive online collections of encyclopedias, eBooks, research databases and streamed media.

WRDSB Libraries is excited to announce that we are now offering eBooks and audiobooks through OverDrive. Check it out on the Library Learning Commons website.

Our libraries open a window to the world for young readers and researchers. We invite students to use the library and its resources to support their learning at school and beyond.

Mark Carbone
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Geoffrey Allen
Supervisor, Library & Resource Services

Information Technology Services

Learning • Caring • Connecting

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