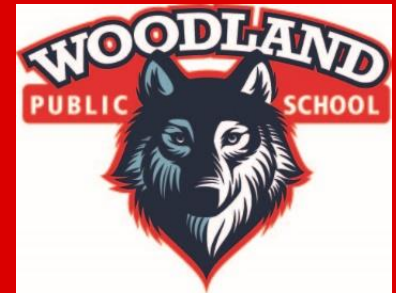


THE PULSE OF THE WOLF PACK

Woodland Public School

1511 7th Street Louth
 St. Catharines, ON
 L2R 6P9
 905.685.1331

wol@dsbn.org woodland.dsbn.org @WoodlandDSBN



April 2024

#IGNITETHELEARNING

#WOODLANDPROUD

#WOODLANDEXCELLENCE

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

With the arrival of spring, we always anticipate rain. On rainy mornings, students will be admitted into the school starting at 8:45 am where our supervision will take place in the classrooms until our day starts at 9:00 am. We kindly ask that you do not drop off your children prior to 8:45 am as there is no supervision until that time.

We have many exciting events coming up in the final months of our school year. Please remember to check out the weekly updates you receive each Sunday (Monday on a long weekend) and the calendar on the school website for updates and events. We are excited that [our website](#) will have a new look this month. Check it out so see the updates!

PLANNING FOR 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

In order to assist us with making the best decisions possible with respect to class organization and student placements for Woodland Public School for the 2024/2025 school year, we would appreciate if you would let the office know if your family is planning to move in the next few months. Providing us with this information in the spring will also facilitate transportation arrangements for September. We thank you in advance for keeping us informed! School and classroom organization begins at the end of April so sharing this information with us now is very helpful for our planning for next year!

WOODLAND SCHOOL CALENDAR AND DAYS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Woodland Public School calendar is available on the school website, or by [clicking here](#). In addition to our school events, you will find a link to the DSBN Days of Significance calendar on the first of each month. [Click here](#) for more information about the DSBN Days of Significance calendar.

RIVER LIONS GAME – JUNE 19, 2024

On June 19, our students have the opportunity to watch a River Lions basketball game at the Meridian Centre in St. Catharines. For our Grades 1-3 students, this will be their year end trip. For our students in Grades 4-8, this is an optional trip in addition to our year end trip. All tickets must be purchased through School Cash Online by Thursday, April 4 at 9:00 am. Late orders cannot be accepted.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Easter Monday Holiday Apr. 1
- Celebrate the Spectrum Day – Wear Tie Dye Apr. 2
- River Lions ticket orders due..... Apr. 4
- PA Day..... Apr. 8
- le Concours d'art oratoire (DSBN's annual French impromptu speaking competition) Apr. 15
- Mad Science – Grades 1-8 Apr. 15
- School Advisory Council Apr. 16
- Mad Science - Kindergarten..... Apr. 17
- [Creative Minds Commitment Due](#)..... Apr. 18
- Chess Tournament..... Apr. 19
- Earth Day Apr. 22
- Woodland Book Exchange Day..... Apr. 22
- Lockdown Drill Apr. 23
- Kindergarten Stay and Play..... Apr. 25
- Homeroom Challenge Spirit Day .. Apr. 26

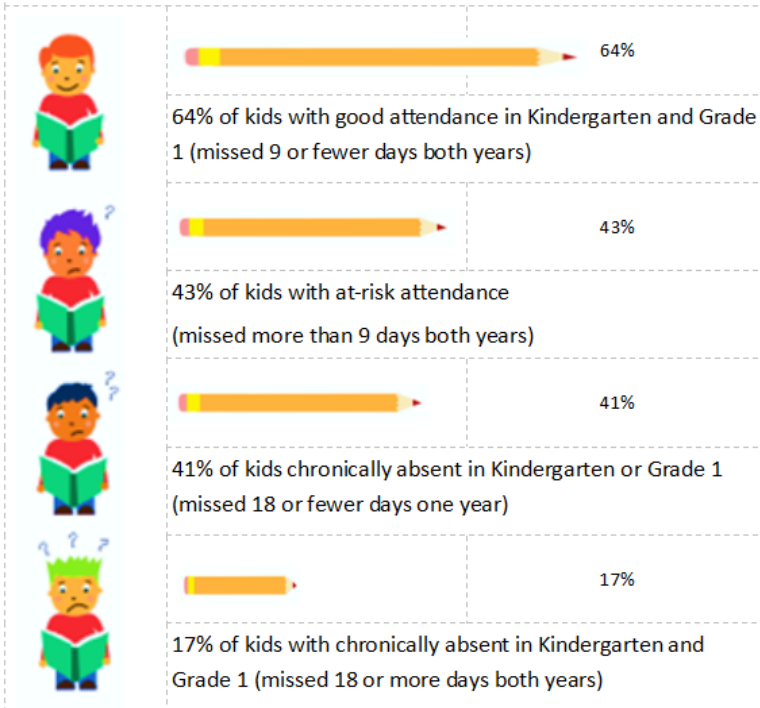
PA DAY

On Monday, April 8 all DSBN schools will be closed for a PA Day. To learn about the PA Day learning, please visit the [PA Days site by clicking here](#).



ATTENDANCE MATTERS – WHY IT MATTERS IN THE EARLY YEARS!

Who can read on Grade Level after Grade 3?



My child is in Kindergarten or Grade 1. Does their regular attendance really matter?

“If children don’t show up for school regularly, they miss out on fundamental reading and math skills and the chance to build a habit of good attendance that will carry them into college and careers. Preliminary data from a California study found that children who were chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade were far less likely to read proficiently at the end of 3rd grade.”
(attendanceworks.org.)

What can you do?

- Talk about the importance of showing up to school everyday, make that the expectation.
- Help your child maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night’s sleep.
- Try not to schedule dental and medical appointments during the school day.
- Don’t let your child stay home unless truly sick. Complaints of headaches or stomach aches may be signs of anxiety.

How many days is considered chronically absent?

A student that misses 18 days during the entire school year is considered chronically absent.

Did you know?

- Students should miss no more than 9 days of school each year to stay engaged, successful and on track to graduation.
- Absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school work, dealing with a bully or facing some other potentially serious difficulty.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- By 9th grade, regular and high attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.
- Missing 10 percent, or about 18 days, of the school year can drastically affect a student’s academic success.
- Students can be chronically absent even if they only miss a day or two every few weeks.
- Attendance is an important life skill that will help your child graduate from college and keep a job.

If you require some assistance improving your child’s attendance, please contact your child’s teacher or the school office. Supports are available to support regular attendance at school. This information is used with permission of Attendance Works.

WOODLAND BOOK EXCHANGE

Are you going to be doing some spring cleaning? Not sure what to do with your books that are no longer being read? We have a solution. During the week of April 15 to April 19, donate your gently used books for our first Woodland book exchange. There is no cost for this event! On Earth Day, (Monday, April 22), the books will be set out in the gym in categories. Each class will visit during the school day to select new books to take home. Students that donated two books will have the opportunity to choose two books. Parents are invited to join us from 3:20 – 5:00 pm to peruse our book donations. We are hoping to have books at a variety of reading levels and interests, from birth to adult. Books that are damaged will not be accepted. This is an inexpensive and environmentally friendly way to bring new reading material into your home. We will also accept adult books so that parents are able to participate and get some new reading materials as well. Please ensure the content of the books is appropriate for school. Magazines will not be accepted. Thanks for your participation and let the reading begin!

SCHOLASTIC BOOK ORDERS

The [April Scholastic Book Club](#) orders are open and flyers will come home next week! Every order placed by our families earns rewards for our staff to build our school library. When placing an order, we kindly ask those students in Grades 1-8 use class code RC299022. Please note that orders must be placed prior to the 20th of each month as all school orders will be shipped at the same time. If you are making a purchase as a gift, please let the office know and we will arrange a pick up option that works for you. Otherwise, we will send all orders home with the students. Happy reading!

CREATIVE MINDS SHOWCASE – SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE!

All students are invited to participate and to demonstrate your creative thinking around the theme “Spirit of Adventure”. Your entry can be anything you can imagine about ‘spirit of adventure’. Students may create using on of these categories: Lego, 3D, Technology, Culinary, Visual Arts, Writing, Photography, Science Fair or Miscellaneous. These projects will be completed at home. [Please see the information flyer that has been sent home.](#) Interested students are asked to complete the [commitment form \(click here\)](#) by April 18 to ensure there is sufficient interest to move forward with this event. Our showcase date is scheduled for May 9.

LOCKDOWN DRILL

All schools within the DSBN practice lockdown procedures as part of the school's emergency preparedness. The simulation will give students and staff an opportunity to implement our School and Board Emergency Response Plan to ensure the safety of all students and staff, should an emergency lockdown situation occur.

This is to inform you that Woodland Public School will be involved in a practice lockdown procedure on April 23, 2024. Similar to fire evacuation drills, classroom teachers will review the steps that students must follow during a lockdown. As always, staff will make sure students are prepared and feel safe during the practice. The practice lockdown is expected to take approximately ten minutes. If you require any additional information, please contact me at the school.

Keeping students and staff safe while at school is paramount to us. Practicing safety drills helps our students and staff to respond appropriately in the event of a real emergency. If you have any questions about this or any of our safety drills, please contact me at the school.

APRIL SPIRIT DAYS

Our Wolfpack will be recognizing the following dates. We encourage all our Wolves to participate. For our spirit days, we love creativity!

Date	Spirit Day	Purpose of the Day
Tuesday, April 2	Celebrate the Spectrum for World Autism Day	On Tuesday, April 2, wear tie-dye to show your support as we Celebrate the Spectrum for World Autism Day. This is an opportunity to provide spaces of support and advocacy for our diverse communities, learn about autism and how to make our communities more inclusive for people on the autism spectrum.
Friday, April 26	Homeroom Challenge Spirit Day	Each homeroom will choose a spirit day of their choosing. Which homeroom will have the greatest participation? Teachers will let families know what their ‘theme’ is for this spirit day.

SPECIAL LUNCH OPTIONS

We plan two special lunch options for each month. When planning our lunch option, we try to alternate between a 'healthier' option and something more fun. We also have a variety of dietary needs that need to be considered. In order to ensure all dietary needs are accommodated and planned for, we order meals that are packaged individually for each student. All orders will be available through School Cash Online and late orders cannot be accepted. Orders close at 9:00 am on the due date.

Lunch Date	Lunch Option	Order Window through School Cash Online
Friday, April 5, 2024 Friday, April 12, 2024 Friday, April 19, 2024 Friday, April 26, 2024	Popcorn Creamy Dill, White Cheddar, Butter & Salt, and Sweet Kettle Corn	Closes the prior Friday at 9:00 am *April 5 closed on March 28 @ 9:00 am
April 4, 2024	Boston Pizza Individual Pizzas (cheese, pepperoni, or gluten-free cheese)	Closed Thursday, March 28 at 9:00 am
Thursday, April 18, 2024	Firehouse Subs 6" or 12" white, whole wheat or gluten-free subs with a variety of toppings	Closes Friday, April 12 @ 9:00 am
May Milk Card	May Milk Card Chocolate or white milk card for the month of May Last milk card for the school year	Closes Friday, April 26 @ 9:00 am

EXTRA-CURRICULARS UPDATES

Spectators for Sporting Events - Supervision is provided for team members and students assisting in the game (such as scorekeeping). Supervision is not provided for other students as staff are busy coaching the game. Due to the limited size of our stage and seating availability, the priority for spectators will be for families of our Woodland players and the visiting team.

Activity	Day of the Cycle and Meeting Time	Grades for Student Involvement	Staff Supervisor
Junior Basketball	Practices at nutrition breaks Games are Tuesdays and/or Thursday (see schedule)	Grades 4-8	Mr. Luke, Ms. Bond (girls) Mr. Luke, Mrs. Wright (boys)
DSBN Writes	Tuesdays at first break	Grades 4 - 8	Mrs. Worth
Art Club	Fridays at first break	Grades 4 - 8	Mrs. Strooband
Chess Club	Grades 4-8 meet Mondays/Wednesdays at second break Grades 1-3 meet Tuesdays at second break Chess Tournament for interested members of Chess Club open for Grades 4-8 on April 19 at Smithville Public School	Grades 1-8	Mrs. Strickland
DSBN Concours	French Speaking Competition will be held on April 15 for the five students representing Woodland	Grade 4-8	Mme. Niece
Intermediate Badminton	Tryouts will begin after the Easter Break - Stay tuned for additional details! Grades 6-8 in-school tournament	Grades 6-8	Mme. Niece

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL – TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2024

Our third School Advisory Council meeting was held on Tuesday, February 13, 2024. All School Advisory Council meeting agendas and minutes will be posted on the [Woodland website](#) once they are approved. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

PROM PROJECT NIAGARA

Grade 8 Graduation is coming! We encourage students to come in clothes they feel comfortable wearing to celebrate their milestone achievement. Prom Project Niagara is a one-day, fun, free formal wear extravaganza for girls and guys! Students can select their perfect head-to-toe look for their prom, formal, or **graduation** for FREE! If you know of a student who could use this program, please join us on Saturday, May 4, from 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at St. Catharines Collegiate. More information will be shared shortly!

DSBN eFLYERS

Many community events and activities are posted on the DSBN eFlyers website. I encourage you to take a look, on occasion, to ensure you do not miss any community events that might be of interest to you or your family. To view the eFlyers, please follow the simple instructions:

1. Log onto our website: www.dsbnschools.org
2. Click on "Community" tab
3. Click on "eFlyer Request" and you may browse through the 'Recent eFlyers' to find offerings from a variety of community organizations.

MOVING TOWARDS A FRAGRANCE/SCENT-REDUCED ENVIRONMENT AT WOODLAND

Within our Woodland family, we have students and staff who have sensitivities to fragrances and scents. Exposure to these scents can trigger serious health reactions in individuals with asthma, allergies, migraines, or chemical sensitivities. By working together to reduce fragrances within our building we can help our Woodland family members and community members feel safe and healthy when they are in our building.

What can you do to help?

- Be considerate of those who are sensitive to fragrances or scents.
- Avoid using these products in the school.
- If fragrances or scented products must be used, do so sparingly. A general guideline for fragrances and scented products is that they should not be detectable more than an arm's length away from you.
- Discuss this with your child.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness, consideration, and co-operation in making Woodland safe for everyone.

ANAPHYLAXIS – BE NUT AWARE!

Anaphylaxis is a severe and potentially life-threatening reaction to certain food substances. We have students in our school that suffer from a severe allergy which can cause an anaphylactic reaction. An anaphylactic reaction is an allergic reaction so severe that in some cases, it can be life threatening. These children have a severe allergy to nuts. Prevention is the best approach. Therefore, we ask your cooperation in not sending any snacks or lunches containing nut products with your child.

DSBN SOCIAL WORKER SUPPORT AVAILABLE

Do you have questions about your child's mental health and well-being, such as anxiety, behaviour or self-harm?

Do you need support in accessing supports in the community?

Do you need advice for setting goals to help with regular school attendance?

Do you have any questions or looking for support regarding a certain aspect of parenting?

If these are some questions that you have, please speak with your child's teacher or Mrs. Worth. All DSBN schools work with a DSBN Social Worker who supports families to provide an additional layer of support to help our students and families achieve success. Our DSBN Social Workers are an invaluable member of our Woodland team.

STAY INFORMED AND CONNECTED

In our busy lives, events can sometimes be overlooked. Technology allows us multiple ways to connect with families. The following is a list of ways we use to connect with families to ensure all families are aware of the many events happening throughout the year.

SCHOOL WEBSITE - woodland.dsbm.org

Please take some time to visit the Woodland Public School new and updated website.

SCHOOL MESSENGER - Using the School Messenger program, all families will receive an email on Sunday afternoon (Monday on a long weekend) with reminders about events for the upcoming week. If you are not receiving these emails, please check your contact information with the office to ensure we have the most current information.

SOCIAL MEDIA - Please follow us on these social media platforms ([Facebook](#), [X \(formally Twitter\)](#) and [Instagram](#)) to see updates on exciting events. All posts will be updated on our school website as well. We are #Wolfpackproud, #WoodlandDSBN, and look forward to sharing how we #Ignitethelearning!

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - All newsletters will be posted to the school website and sent via School Messenger through email on the first school day of the new month. Accessing the newsletter through the website or email allows you to click on links to learn more about items highlighted in our newsletters.



Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter

April 2024

Connecting to the Curriculum

Your child might start learning about various parts of healthy human growth and development based on their grade and the [Ontario Health and Physical Education \(2019\) curriculum](#). One important topic that is covered is consent.

Starting the Conversation of Consent: Connecting The Curriculum to Home

(Parents of Elementary aged students)

With our School Health Nurses

Our Public Health Nurses Jenn and Austin discuss how to start the conversation of consent, and how to connect the curriculum to home.

- **Watch here:** [Starting the Conversation of Consent - Connecting the Curriculum to Home](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions about Puberty](#) – as your child starts learning more about human development, our school health team wants to support adults with answering some of those tricky questions.

Niagara Ontario Health Team – Events Calendar

The [Niagara Ontario Health Team](#) created an events calendar tool to highlight the diverse activities happening in our region. This initiative highlights the importance of health and wellness. It also serves as a valuable link, connecting community members to resources available in Niagara.

The [calendar](#) makes it easier to find and explore new things to do. It also helps create meaningful connections in our community. Visit today to learn more about what is going on near you!



Benefits of Risky Play



Did you know that letting kids [play freely outdoors](#), even if it involves a bit of risk, is super important for their growth and well-being? Learn about the benefits of exciting play that might seem a little risky, and how it can help kids develop better physically, mentally, and socially. Let's rethink how we see risks and explore how adventurous play can actually help kids stay healthier and happier in the long run. Join us in creating a world where every child has the chance to thrive!

For more information on what it is meant by risky play, check out [Active For Life webpage](#).

Happy Oral Health Month!

Niagara Region Public Health Dental Program offers **FREE** dental clinics for children and youth 17 and under throughout Niagara.



Appointments are available for children in:

- Niagara Falls on Tuesdays
- Thorold on Mondays (afternoon and evening) and Wednesdays
- Welland on Thursdays

[Niagara's Mobile Dental Clinic](#) also travels around Niagara to various locations throughout the week.

All of our dental clinics offer free dental assessments, cleanings, fluoride and sealants. To book an appointment [contact the Dental Program](#) or [book a dental assessment online](#).