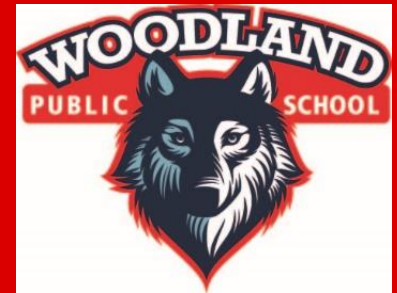


THE PULSE OF THE WOLF PACK Woodland Public School

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February 2024

#IGNITETHELEARNING

#WOODLANDPROUD

#WOODLANDEXCELLENCE

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

It is important that we ensure we are maintaining balance with our families. Please ensure you take some time to care for your physical and emotional health and well-being. What can you do as a family to balance these needs? Take a family walk, play with your dog in the backyard, build a snowman, or perhaps bake some special treats. Sending uplifting messages can also improve our own mood. When we share our gratitude, it helps us feel more positive, build strong friendships, and deal with challenges. Tell someone why they are important to you. If you would like to send a "Shout Out" to someone in our Woodland community, please send us an email to wol@dsbn.org and we will share your thanks or congratulations with them!

With Term 1 Report Cards and the Kindergarten Communication of Learning coming home on February 15th, this is a great opportunity to reflect on your child's progress and set some goals for the remainder of the year. If you have any questions, comments, and or concerns, please contact your child's teacher. Please see the important information in regard to our Term 1 report cards and the Term 1 Kindergarten Communication of Learning.

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.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL – TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024

Our second School Advisory Council meeting was held on Tuesday, November 14, 2023. 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, February 13, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

STAFF UPDATES – WELCOME MR. IRVINE!

On behalf of the staff, I am excited to welcome Mr. Irvine, Head Caretaker, to our Woodland team, effective Monday, February 5. Welcome to the team Mr. Irvine!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Black History Month.....February
- Woodland Spirit Wear DayFeb. 1
- [Kindergarten Open House](#).....Feb. 1
- 100th Day of School.....Feb. 9
- School Advisory CouncilFeb. 13
- Valentine's DayFeb. 14
- Term 1 Reports and Kindergarten Communication of Learning sent homeFeb. 15
- Family Game DayFeb. 15
- [PA Day](#).....Feb. 16
- Family Day HolidayFeb. 19
- Niagara Falls Art GalleryFeb. 20
- Scholastic Book Fair BeginsFeb. 27
- Family Math Night and Art Show .Feb. 27
- Anything Pink Day.....Feb. 28
- Hearing and Vision ScreeningFeb. 28
- Grade 4/5 TripFeb. 29
- Kindergarten Stay and Play.....Feb. 29

PA DAY

On Friday, February 16 all DSBN schools will be closed for a [PA Day](#) and all schools will also be closed as we recognize Family Day on Monday, February 19.



FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month is a time to celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Black Canadians and their communities. Black communities have been a part of the fabric of Canadian heritage since the 1600s when Mathieu Da Costa arrived. Black communities in Canada have a rich history that highlights the resilience, innovation and determination of Black people on these lands. To learn more, the [Black History Month Slides](#) on the DSBN website is available for families to access resources and ideas to provide meaningful learning opportunities.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

Do you know a child who was born in 2020? If so, spread the word that Kindergarten registration is here! Please visit the [DSBN Kindergarten registration link](#) for more details and save Thursday, February 1, 2024, and drop in anytime between 10:00 – 6:00 pm for our Kindergarten Open House event! Are you unable to make it to our open house? If so, connect with the school and we can make arrangements for a visit. If you have any questions, please contact the office.



BECOME AN ARGONAUT AT DSBN ACADEMY

Learn about the DSBN Academy at the Open House on **Tuesday, February 6, 2024 from 6:00- 8:00 pm!** Join us to find out:

- How this unique program prepares students to attend, and succeed at, college and university
- What extra opportunities are offered and how your child can benefit
- If the DSBN Academy is a good fit for your child

The DSBN Academy is a Grade 6-12 public school designed to support and empower students to be the first in their family to graduate from college or university. Staff and students are committed to the belief that, with hard work, all students can achieve their dreams.

Online registration will close on **FEBRUARY 26, 2024. Limited spots available. More information will be available shortly. Believe. Achieve. Become an Argonaut.**

TERM 1 REPORT CARD UPDATE

Elementary Provincial Report Card (Grades 1-8) and the Kindergarten: Communication of Learning

The Elementary Provincial Report Card (Grades 1-8) and the Kindergarten: Communication of Learning will be issued on February 15. Report cards give a summary of student achievement at the end of each term. Teachers use their professional judgement and consider factors such as consistency, recent improvement and amount of evidence in order to determine students' grades or marks. Teachers and students work together to gather evidence of their learning over time from observations, conversations and student products.

GRADE 1 FRENCH IMMERSION REGISTRATION

The French Immersion program (offered at French Immersion sites) is open to all Year 2 Kindergarten students until Tuesday, February 20, 2024. If you want your child to develop a high proficiency and fluency in Canada's two official languages, French Immersion has a great deal to offer. For more information about French Immersion in the District School Board of Niagara, [please click here](#).

WINTER IS HERE!

With the cold and wet weather upon us, we have a few reminders for comfortable and safe outdoor play during the winter months:

1. Bring appropriate outdoor clothing to school daily (hat, mitts, jacket, snow pants, and boots).
2. Have dry indoor shoes and keep an extra outfit at school too (in case shirt and pants get wet outside).
3. Students are not permitted to throw snow or slide on ice patches. Students who disobey these rules will be sent indoors to the office.

If you need a winter coat, snow pants, boot, hats, gloves, or mitts, please contact the school office by phone or email (wol@dsbn.org) to inquire about the support we can provide in getting these much needed items for your children.

Kindergarten children will also continue to have outdoor exploration time during the winter months.

Our 2 outdoor fitness breaks will occur regularly throughout the winter except in when an extreme cold weather alert is issued by the Niagara Region. For this reason, it is essential that students come prepared for the weather! We appreciate your efforts!

IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES

There are times in Niagara when weather conditions are so poor that we must cancel student transportation, and/or close schools to preserve the safety of students and staff. The decision to cancel transportation and/or close schools is not taken lightly; a variety of factors are considered when making this choice. To learn more about how these decisions are made, please go to <https://www.dsbn.org/inclementweather>.

Transportation Cancellations:

Information about transportation delays and cancellations are posted to <https://portal.nsts.ca/Cancellations.aspx>. When transportation is cancelled, every effort is made to communicate the decision by 6:00 am on the day of the cancellation. There are times when transportation is cancelled, but schools remain open. If, on those days you feel it is best for your child to stay home, please report your child's absence <https://dsbn.org/safearrival/> so we can make sure they are safe at home.

School Closures:

When the decision to close schools is made, it refers to all schools. Every effort will be made to share school closure information before 6:00 am on the day of the school closure. You will find it on dsbn.org, all school websites, DSBN social media, and local media share the news widely as well.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK ORDERS

The [February Scholastic Book Club](#) orders are open! 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. We will host an in person Scholastic Book Fair at the end February, providing an opportunity for 'in-person' purchases to students and families. Happy reading!

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL – TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024

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FEBRUARY SPIRIT DAYS

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

Date	Spirit Day	Purpose of the Day
Thursday, February 1	Woodland Spirit Day	As we are hosting our Kindergarten Open House today, we encourage our Wolves to show their school pride and wear their Woodland gear or the colour red! Let's show our visitors that we are proud to be Woodland Wolves!
Wednesday, February 14	Valentines Day	February 14 is Valentines Day and students are encouraged to wear Valentine apparel or red, white, or pink.
Wednesday, February 28	Anything Pink Day	Pink Shirt Day is recognized on the last Wednesday in February in Canada. We encourage our Woodland Wolves to wear anything pink on Wednesday, February 28.

VALENTINE'S DAY – FEBRUARY 14

As Valentine's Day is approaching, we have been working on reimagining what Valentine's Day will look like this year. We will celebrate Valentine's Day on Wednesday, February 14, 2024. Students are invited to wear clothing to celebrate the day (red, pink, hearts). If you are sending cards for the class, please ensure you include all members of your child's classroom community. We kindly ask that our Kindergarten student have their cards to the school by Friday, February 11. This will provide the time required to ensure that the cards are distributed in our Kindergarten class as it does take a little longer with our youngest Wolves! Individual classes may have their own classroom-based activities planned for the day, which will include a focus on friendship and kindness and showing our appreciation for our classmates in different ways.

Food Safety is another issue worth discussing at this time of year. Students at Woodland are reminded regularly that **we do not share food**. One of the reasons for this expectation is that we have a number of students that have significant, and in some cases, life threatening food allergies (not only to peanuts) and other significant dietary needs that may cause serious health complications. Although strongly discouraged, if a parent/guardian is wanting to bring food items for the purpose of sharing (e.g., Halloween, birthdays, holidays, etc.), the following needs to take place:

- parent communication with homeroom teacher prior to bringing any food items for the purpose of sharing.
- food items would need to be individually wrapped and peanut/nut free.
- the individually wrapped food items will be provided to the students by a teacher prior to students leaving at the end of the school day (i.e., placed in backpacks), therefore the decision can be made at home as to what to do with the item (eat, discard, etc.).
- individual 'Dollar Store' items (e.g., erasers, pencils) are preferred over food items due to safety (anaphylaxis) and nutrition concerns.

FAMILY GAME DAY – THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

After such a positive response to our Family Literacy Event of Snuggle Up and Read, we wanted to offer another family event to kick off the Family Day weekend in February. On Thursday, February 15, we invite families to join us at Woodland, starting at 2:15 pm for an hour of board games. Bring your favourite family board game, find a spot in the school and enjoy each other's company as you play some games together to kick off the Family Day long weekend.

FAMILY MATH NIGHT AND ART SHOW – TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

The staff at Woodland is excited to welcome our families to celebrate our math learning and the arts! All classes will work with the Niagara Falls Art Gallery on February 20 (please see School Cash Online) to create an art project. These projects will be on display during the evening of February 20. Also, each class will be highlighting the fun that can be had learning math. Families are encouraged to visit each classroom. In addition, we will have some hot chocolate and the Scholastic Book Fair will be open for purchases. Please join us anytime between 5:00 – 7:00 pm on Tuesday, February 27.

WEAR ANYTHING PINK DAY – WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Anti-Bullying Day, also known as Pink Shirt Day, is recognized on the last Wednesday in February in Canada. Pink Shirt Day is a platform for engaging students and building knowledge in bullying prevention, acts of kindness, upstandership and supporting students through critical conversations. Everyone has the power to prevent bullying. Being an upstander is one of the best ways to make a difference in our school. Wear Anything Pink Day reminds us that everyday we have the opportunity to do something kind for someone else. What can you do show kindness to someone at school?

What is bullying?

Bullying is aggressive behaviour that is typically repeated over time. It is meant to cause harm, fear or distress or create a negative environment at school for another person. Bullying occurs in a situation where there is a real or perceived power imbalance.

Is conflict the same as bullying?

People may sometimes confuse conflict with bullying, but they are different. Conflict occurs between two or more people who have a disagreement, a difference of opinion or different views. Conflict between students does not always mean its bullying. Children learn at a young age to understand that others can have a different perspective than their own, but developing the ability to gain perspective takes time and the process continues into early adulthood (Stepping Stones: A Resource on Youth Development, page 26). (The above information is taken from www.ontario.ca/page/bullying-we-can-all-help-stop-it). Sometimes there are mean moments.

How can I be an upstander?

- Be a friend
- Interrupt the bullying
- Speak up
- Stop rumours and mean messages from spreading
- Tell an adult
- Remember that you are brave and your actions make a difference

EXTRA-CURRICULARS UPDATES

Please note that if NSTS transportation is cancelled, any after school extra-curriculars will also be cancelled.

Activity	Day of the Cycle and Meeting Time	Grades for Student Involvement	Teacher Supervisor
Intermediate Basketball Intramural	Intramural games will be held during recesses starting the week of February 5.	Grades 7 - 8	Mrs. Leontis
Speech Club	Option to participate in the Kiwanis Speech competition on Saturday, February 24 (please connect with Mrs. Leontis for details) All participants will present their speeches to the speech club starting February 12.	Grades 7 – 8	Miss Bridges
DSBN Writes	Tuesdays at first break	Grades 4 - 8	Mrs. Worth
Art Club	Fridays at first break	Grades 4 - 8	Mrs. Strooband
Gymnastics Club	Practices after school on Thursdays from 3:20 – 4:20	Grades 4 - 8	Miss Bridges
Chess Club	Grades 4-8 meet Mondays/Wednesdays at second break Grades 1-3 meet Tuesdays at second break	Grades 1-8	Mrs. Strickland
DSBN Concours	French Speaking Competition will be held in April Practices will be once per week at first break	Grade 4-8	Mme. Christina (Bisnauth)

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, February 2, 2024 Friday, February 9, 2024 Friday, February 23, 2024	Popcorn Creamy Dill, White Cheddar, Butter & Salt, and Sweet Kettle Corn	Closes the prior Friday at 9:00 am *Orders for Feb. 23 close on prior Thursday @ 9:00 am
Thursday, February 8, 2024	Boston Pizza Individual Pizzas (cheese, pepperoni, or gluten-free cheese)	Closes Friday, February 2 at 9:00 am
Wednesday, February 14, 2024	Hot Chocolate Day 12 oz cup of hot chocolate Option to add a large marshmallow	Order closes Tuesday, February 13, 2023
Thursday, February 23, 2024	Urban Cravings Choice of a Rice Bowl or Salad Bowl and/or Sunrise Smoothie (gluten-free and vegan options)	Closes Friday, February 16 @ 9:00 am
February Milk Card	February Milk Card Chocolate or white milk card for the month of February	Closes Friday, January 26 @ 9:00 am

GRADE 8 GRAD PHOTOS – THURSDAY, MARCH 7

Grade 8 Graduation photos are scheduled for Thursday, March 7 in the morning. All students are encouraged to wear a white, button-down shirt and a tie for the boys. Further information will be sent home when we get closer to photo day.

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.

PARKING LOT SAFETY REMINDERS

Our parking lot is an incredibly busy place during morning drop off and afternoon pick up and ensuring the safety of our students is a primary concern.

1. Please remind your child(ren) to look both ways in the parking lot. Even though it might not be a street, cars are coming and going, so looking left and right for traffic is important.
2. Bus lines and car lines are separate and we ask that you kindly only enter and exit using the appropriate entry as marked. Please do not enter through the exit or drive through the bus lane.
3. No running or horseplay in the parking lot.
4. Please be patient. Please wait until the car in front has moved prior to proceeding rather than trying to go around a car.
5. If your child can take a bus, please consider this option as this reduces the congestion from cars dropping off and picking up, making the parking lot safer for all our students.

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.dsbn.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.

THE NOSE KNOWS: NO SCENTS MAKES SENSE

Scented products have chemicals that can cause health reactions in people with asthma, migraines, allergies, or environmental sensitivities. Please help keep our air breathable for everyone and use unscented or scent reduced products where possible. Woodland is a Scent-Reduced Environment. Some staff and students have a sensitivity to odours, smells, and scents. Please do not wear, or send your child with, perfume, cologne, after shave, or scented body lotion into the school.

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.

School Cash Online is a safe, reliable portal that will ensure the security of your information. The system is already active. You are able to gain access through the School Cash button which has been placed on our school website. We are asking that you click on the button and follow the simple instructions to register. Registration should take less than five minutes. If you registered last year, you do not need to register again!

If you require some assistance registering for School Cash Online, please visit the office and we will be happy to help you get started.

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.dsbn.org

Please take some time to visit the Woodland Public School website. Our website includes current newsletters, school calendars, code of conduct, school council information, a school year calendar, classroom websites, and bell times. Our website also includes the most recent Facebook posts and Tweets.

SCHOOL MESSENGER - Using the School Messenger program, all families will receive an email on Sunday afternoon (Monday's 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](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)) to see updates on exciting events. All posts and tweets will be updated on our school website as well. We are #Woodlandwolves, #Wolfpackproud, and #WoodlandDSBN!

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.



Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter

February 2024

Welcome to Kindergarten!

Do you have a little one starting Kindergarten?

Parents and caregivers may have inquiries about what to anticipate as their children embark on their school journey. Working collaboratively with teachers, support staff, students, and parents, your School Health Nurse strives to create a healthier school community.



Check out our Welcome to Kindergarten video that reviews a few helpful reminders from Public Health!

- English: <https://youtu.be/mkJcbqwxwzzk>
- French: <https://youtu.be/eu20sVNoTOU>

Eating Disorders Awareness Week

From **February 1st to 7th 2024** join, National Eating Disorder Information Centre and, eating disorder groups nationwide come together to observe [Eating Disorder Awareness Week](#). This dedicated week of action aims to educate the public about eating disorders, raising awareness of their impact, dispelling harmful stereotypes and myths, and highlighting available support for those living with or affected by these disorders.

Discover the support services provided by the National Eating Disorder Information Centre for [parents and caregivers](#). Below are some resources worth exploring:

- [Niagara Region x National Eating Disorder Information Centre “Transform the Narrative” Livestream](#)
- [A Parents' and Caregivers' Guide to Supporting Youth with Eating Disorders](#)
- [A Guide to Discussing Your Concerns with Your Child's Primary Care Provider](#)
- [Coping Strategies for Families and Partners of an Individual Living With an Eating Disorder](#)