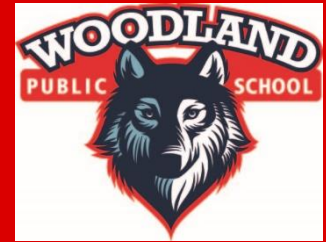


# THE PULSE OF THE WOLFPACK

## Woodland Public School

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# September 2023

#IGNITETHELEARNING

#WOODLANDPROUD

#WOODLANDDSBN

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

WELCOME TO THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR! On behalf of the staff at Woodland, I would like to welcome back all our returning students and families. For our students and families new to Woodland, we are excited that you will be joining our 'Wolfpack' this year. A new year is always filled with possibilities. We know that this year will be full of new learnings, new experiences, new opportunities, and new friendships. There is a great deal of information in this newsletter and I appreciate the time you are giving to reading all this information!

I encourage our families to visit the ['DSBN Welcome Back to school – Elementary Students'](#) webpage. You will find resources and answers to some questions you may have as you prepare for your child's return to school, including:

- a link to ["Kindergarten Frequently Asked Questions"](#)
- information about transportation
- a link to the 2023/24 [Elementary School Year Calendar](#)

The first day of school brings life back to the building, such as seeing smiling students eager to share their summer tales and hearing excitement in the air as students settle into their new classrooms. Thank you to Mr. Jones and Ms. Foster for the excellent job they have done this summer getting the school ready to greet our students and to Mrs. Craig for her ability to organize and multi-task to ensure all staff have what they need to provide a safe learning environment for our Wolves. Our amazing Woodland team of educators and support staff are here to keep our school safe as we begin our 2023-2024 'Learning Journey'! #Ignitethelearning

### PREVALENT MEDICAL CONDITIONS

If you have a child with a prevalent medical condition (Anaphylaxis, Asthma, Diabetes, and/or Epilepsy or others) we want to make sure we have a current Plan of Care to support your child. All parents of children with prevalent medical conditions are asked to complete a Plan of Care and submit to the school. You can [download the forms here](#). For more information, please contact the school.



### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

School Office Opens .....	Aug. 28
Labour Day.....	Sept. 4
First Day of School.....	Sept. 5
Grade 7 Immunizations .....	Sept. 20
<a href="#">Terry Fox Day</a> (wear colour house colours) .....	Sept. 22
School Council Meeting .....	Sept. 26
Rowan's Law Day (wear purple) .....	Sept. 27
Open House (Meet the Teacher) .....	Sept. 28
National Truth and Reconciliation Day (wear orange).....	Sept. 29

### WOODLAND SCHOOL CALENDAR

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.



## BELL TIMES AND SUPERVISION

Woodland entry and dismissal times will be as shown. Please note that morning supervision begins at 8:45 am. PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE EARLY. We will be busy preparing for student arrivals. Bus students are supervised at 3:20 p.m. until they have boarded their buses for home.

Morning Supervision Begins	8:45 a.m.
Day Begins - Period 1	9:00 a.m.
Period 2	9:50 a.m.
Nutrition Break	10:40 a.m.
Fitness Break	11:00 a.m.
Period 3	11:20 a.m.
Period 4	12:10 p.m.
Nutrition Break	1:00 p.m.
Fitness Break	1:20 p.m.
Period 5	1:40 p.m.
Period 6	2:30 p.m.
Dismissal	3:20 p.m.

## MENTAL HEALTH FAMILY SUPPORTS

As the return to school approaches, most students typically experience a variety of emotions; some may be excited, others may be nervous or worried, and most will have mixed feelings. There are many ways that parents and caregivers can help prepare students for a mentally healthy return to school. The DSNB has compiled some high-quality, current resources, which are available on our website at <https://www.dsnb.org/programs-services/well-being/parent-resources>. We encourage our families to visit the Parent Resources page frequently throughout the school year to access updated information.

## MEET THE 2023-2024 WOODLAND STAFF

Mrs. K. Worth, Principal Mrs. G. Craig, Administrative Assistant Mr. D. Jones, Caretaker Ms. L. Foster, Evening Caretaker			
HOMEROOM TEACHERS		SCHOOL-BASED TEACHING STAFF	
Kindergarten Team	Mrs. A. Wright Ms. E. Goddard	LRT/Rotary	Mrs. T. Strickland
Grade 1/2	Ms. K. Bond	French and Rotary	Mme. Bisnauth
Grade 2/3	Mrs. G. Gabriel	SUPPORT STAFF	
Grade 4/5	Mrs. P. Strooband	Instructional Coach	Ms. J. Grosvenor
Grade 6	Miss B. Bridges	Youth Counselor	Ms. A. Tew
Grade 7/8	Mrs. A. Leontis	Social Worker	Mr. D. Pierce
		Lunchroom Supervisors	Mrs. R. Ruddy Mrs. A. Roscoe Mrs. W. Sterk

## CLASS ORGANIZATION

Please note that should our student enrolment increase or decrease during the first week of school, we may need to reorganize our classrooms to meet the primary class size cap of 20 students per classroom. It may be possible that your child may (or may not be) in the same classroom that was posted on the first day of school. I will keep you informed if student enrolment changes will result in a reorganization. I understand that this can cause some disruption and is a difficult process, but we will do our best to make the transition as smooth as possible. **Changes in class placements will only occur should a reorganization be necessary.**

## HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER

Woodland will be utilizing agendas again this year for students in Grades 1-6 to support communication between home and school. Our Intermediate students in Grades 7 and 8 will be using Google Classroom for assignments and reminders. Electronic communication through email or class platforms such as Google Classroom or D2L is encouraged. If you would like to meet with your child's teacher, parents are welcome to call the school to arrange a time to connect with the classroom teacher.

## WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING TO SCHOOL?

We understand that many families like to purchase school supplies. As always, you are welcome to do this but please keep it simple (pencils, erasers, pencil crayons or markers, scissors, and a calculator for our students in Grade 6-8). However, the school will provide all necessary learning materials. If you need these items, many of our community partners will be providing schools with supplies. Please let the office know. **Please label all items with your child's name to ensure any lost items are returned to their owner.**

Kindergarten	Grades 1-8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A <b>BACKPACK</b> that is large enough to carry their lunch bag.</li> <li>○ <b>LUNCH</b> - Consider packing food in containers that can be easily opened by your child. Healthy snacks are encouraged.</li> <li>○ <b>REFILLABLE WATER BOTTLE</b></li> <li>○ <b>HEADPHONES</b> to use with technology. Headphones that cover the ears work best. Place headphones in a labeled bag (e.g., a large Ziploc).</li> <li>○ <b>INDOOR RUNNING SHOES</b> that will be kept at school. (e.g., Velcro and slip on shoes preferred to encourage independence)</li> <li>○ <b>OUTER CLOTHING</b> (e.g., jacket, snow pants, etc.) appropriate for the weather.</li> <li>○ A <b>CHANGE OF CLOTHES</b> that will be kept in their locker. Place clothes in a labeled bag (e.g., a large Ziploc bag).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>OUTDOOR CLOTHING</b> - In addition to fitness breaks, a portion of your child's day may include outdoor learning. Please send your child to school dressed for the weather.</li> <li>○ <b>PAIR OF INDOOR SHOES</b></li> <li>○ <b>CHANGE OF CLOTHING FOR GYM CLASS (OPTIONAL FOR GRADES 4-8)</b></li> <li>○ <b>REFILLABLE WATER BOTTLE</b></li> <li>○ <b>LUNCH</b></li> <li>○ <b>BACKPACK</b></li> <li>○ <b>HAT AND SUNSCREEN</b></li> <li>○ You may choose to provide your child with some basic <b>SCHOOL SUPPLIES</b>; however, the school will supply all necessary learning materials.</li> <li>○ <b>HEADPHONES</b> to use with technology, in a labeled bag (e.g., a large Ziploc)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Things my child should not bring to school from home:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Toys or stuffed animals</li> <li>● Any food containing any nut or nut product (please see <b>ANAPHYLAXIS – BE NUT AWARE!</b> information in the newsletter)</li> <li>● Shared foods (e.g., cupcakes, Timbits due to dietary restrictions)</li> <li>● Perfume or cologne products (please see <b>THE NOSE KNOWS: NO SCENTS MAKES SENSE</b> information in the newsletter)</li> </ul>	

## TRANSPORTATION – NSTS REMINDERS

Most of our Wolves arrive at Woodland using transportation provided by Niagara Student Transportation Services (NSTS). For updated school bus rules and protocols, visit [nsts.ca](http://nsts.ca).

- Parents/guardians/students eligible for transportation must notify NSTS that they intend to use transportation in order to receive service. Students that Opted-In in the previous school year are automatically Opted-In for this school year.
- Verify the Opt-In status of your child and complete the Opt-In/Opt-Out Transportation Form if you need to change their status from what is displayed in your child's transportation record. Opt-In to Transportation is required for an eligible student to be assigned to the bus.
- Only riders authorized by NSTS are allowed to ride the bus. Bus drivers are authorized to transport only students listed by NSTS on the passenger manifest and seating plan to ride their bus.
- Consider signing up under "My Subscriptions" in the parent portal to be notified through email of any delays in your child's transportation.
- If you haven't already done so, please download the BusPlanner Delay app for easy access to your child's transportation updates. Download the app on the [Apple App Store](https://www.apple.com/app-store) or [Google Play Store](https://www.google.com/playstore)!

To view transportation arrangements, visit [nsts.ca](http://nsts.ca) and sign-in to the Parent Portal. For questions about transportation, visit [nsts.ca](http://nsts.ca), email [general@nsts.ca](mailto:general@nsts.ca) or call 905-357-6787

Parents may choose to drive their child to school. Please do not use the circular driveway, as this is reserved for the buses that transport our Wolves. Parking is available in the large parking lot on the north end of the property. Please be patient and help to ensure the safety of all our students and families!

## STUDENT SAFETY – ENTRY AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

Your child's safety is very important to the staff of Woodland Public School.

The Ministry of Education has a "Safe Welcome Program" as a part of the comprehensive Safe School Action Plan. To comply with the Ministry's program, and most importantly to ensure student safety, all parents and visitors are asked to PLEASE CHECK IN AT THE OFFICE. All visitors and guests of Woodland Public School, including parents, are asked to only access the school through the front door, check in at the office, and sign in using the "Visitor Sign In" book located in the main office. Please be aware that all exterior doors will be locked at all times. Our students have been reminded that they are not to open the door for anyone, as access into the school will only occur through the front main entrance door. Our visitors will be required to ring the bell for the lock to be released by the staff, and then proceed to the office. We strive to maintain our school as a safe and secure learning environment for our students. All students will be expected to enter and exit through their assigned doors during regular entry and dismissal times. Students arriving late or leaving early must report to the office.

We are asking that parents of all students (Kindergarten and older students) please allow your child to enter the school with their classmates and to develop the independence and routine of the settling into their classrooms. This is also to ensure the safety of our students as any visitors in the hallways are to sign in at the office prior to going down to classrooms.

If you are dropping off an item for your child or picking them up for an appointment, you may simply check in at the office as per usual and allow one of our staff members to take care of your request.

Parents who are meeting their child at the end of the school day are asked to wait outside of the building to ensure the smooth and safe dismissal of ALL the children. Should your child need to be picked up sometime during the school day for appointments, please come to the office and wait for your child to arrive at the office. Students should make all arrangements for after school activities before arriving at school in the morning. Please help us in promoting responsibility amongst our students. If you would like to speak to a teacher before or after school, please call in advance to make an appointment.

### MORNING ARRIVAL

**DO NOT ARRIVE AT SCHOOL TOO EARLY!** Parents will say goodbye at the school designated drop off area and staff will direct students to their class designated area. Teachers will be greeting their class communities outside at their class' area every morning.

For the safety and security of all students within our class communities:

- Supervision staff are on duty.
- Students must be on time and follow all routines that support the well-being of the whole school.
- Parents are asked to say good-bye to their children at the school yard gates and allow them to enter the school yard to join their friends with the support and guidance of their teachers.
- There are two locations designated as drop-off and pick-up points (see details below). One area for our Kindergarten students and one area for our Grades 1-8 students.

### GRADE 1-8 DISMISSAL

All students in Grades 1-8 will be escorted by their teacher for dismissal. Bus students will be supervised and will be meeting at our bus loading zone. Staff will escort bus students to the loading zone and to the bus. Please note that our parking lot can get crowded during dismissal time. We encourage students that are eligible for transportation to take the bus. This helps to limit the amount of traffic in our parking lot during dismissal. If you do need to pick up your child, please exercise patience!

### KINDERGARTEN ENTRY AND DISMISSAL

Our Kindergarten classes will meet their teachers in the morning and be dismissed at the end of the day by the doors at the circular driveway for entry and dismissal. If Kindergarten students arrive after the bell, parents will be asked to say good-bye to their child at the front doors and your child will be brought to their classroom by a staff member. If your Kindergarten child arrives by bus, they will be greeted at the bus stop by a member of our Kindergarten team.

At the end of the day, students will be dismissed from the doors at the circular driveway directly to parents/guardians/caregivers one at a time and when the teacher makes direct visual contact with each parent. Bus students will be directly guided to their waiting location by school staff and be monitored until they board the bus.



## MAP OF ENTRY AND DISMISSAL GATES



## FITNESS AND NUTRITION BREAKS

All students will have two 40-minute breaks each day, consisting of a 20-minute fitness and 20-minute nutrition break, supervised by staff. Supervised by a staff member, students in grades 1-8 will have a 20-minute nutrition break to eat lunch. Due to a variety of dietary restrictions within our Wolfpack community, we ask that students not share food. More information will follow about special lunch options and our milk program.

During their fitness break, students will engage in 20-minutes of outdoor time. All students in Grades 1-8 will be enjoying their fitness break at the same time.

## ATTENDANCE

Attendance is taken twice daily. Please help us to ensure the safety of our students by reporting your child's absence, late arrivals or early dismissals through the [Safe Arrival system](#). Your co-operation reporting absences, lates or early dismissals will assist Mrs. Craig immensely. If we do not hear from you, we will call you either at home, on your cell, your place of employment and your emergency contacts if we cannot reach you. Students who arrive late to school (morning or afternoon) must report to the office. In order to minimize classroom disruptions and to honour the learning in the classroom, parents will not be able to escort their child to their classroom. A staff member will meet the child at the front door and will ensure the child gets safely to their class.

How can I report my child's absence or late arrival? Whether it's an illness, a medical appointment or other important event, there are times when students may need to be away from school. Using the [Safe Arrival](#) system, parents will be able to report daily absences, and even schedule absences in one of three ways:

1. Call toll-free before bell time: 1-866-606-5567
2. Logging on to the web portal (<https://go.schoolmessenger.ca/#/account/login>). Using this website, you can set up your account to report and schedule absences.
3. Using your smart phone or tablet. Simply [download the SchoolMessenger app](#). The app is compatible with both Apple and Android devices.

Please report all absences prior to bell time for the current day. If your child has an upcoming appointment, you can also schedule future absences by using one of these three methods. Please do not contact the school directly to report your child's absence. For more information, please visit: <https://dsbn.org/safearrival/>

If you are changing your child's pick-up time, the office must know by 2:45 pm as it gets busy near the end of the day and some classes may be extending their learning outside at that time.

## DAYS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Niagara Region is growing more diverse in creed and/or religious beliefs and practices. The District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) is committed to fostering diverse, equitable, and inclusive learning and working environments that promote acceptance and protect individuals from discrimination and harassment based on the protected grounds under the Ontario Human Rights Code. Creed and/or religion is one of the grounds that is both an individual right and a collective responsibility. The DSBN recognizes and embraces the creed diversity represented in its students, staff, and community members.

As we start our school year, I invite you to share with me your family's most significant creed-based holiday(s). We will work together through the accommodation request process as Woodland Public School recognizes the importance of families celebrating their creed and/or religious beliefs and practices.

The DSBN has created a [Family Guide: Recognizing and Respecting Creed Diversity](#) to support families in requesting accommodations. This guide has also been translated into the following languages; Arabic, French, Hungarian, Korean, Mandarin, Spanish, Urdu and Vietnamese, which can be viewed on the [DSBN Equity webpage](#). For a list of Days of Significance, please refer to the [Days of Significance Calendar](#).

## BICYCLE SAFETY

Bicycles are healthy forms of transportation to and from school (for students in Grade 4 and older) but must be walked onto the property and appropriately stored, using the bike rack at the front of the school to securely lock their bike. Students must wear helmets when riding a bicycle to school and are prohibited from riding through the parking lot because it is very dangerous to do so!

## PLAYGROUND REMINDERS

To ensure students are safe on the playground equipment, there are a few important notes regarding the use of the equipment. The playground structure is unavailable before school. We will not have the required supervision at this time. The playground is also not available after school as there is no supervision for students at the end of the school day. There will be plenty of opportunities for students to utilize the equipment during their fitness breaks and at other times throughout the day. When the weather turns colder, and the ground is frozen, the playground equipment will be off limits until the ground is softer again. Finally, students should be wearing closed-toe shoes while on the playground equipment. Flip flops are not safe footwear while climbing!

## SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL – LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

We understand that the partnership between home and school is vital to your child's success. We would love to have you join our Woodland School Advisory Council. [Please take a minute to complete the survey by clicking here!](#) to indicate your interest in attending the school advisory council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 26, 2023 and whether you would like to be considered for an elected position on the Woodland School Advisory Council. We are required to have a minimum of 4 meetings per school year but may schedule additional meetings depending on the needs of council. Meetings are usually held on a Tuesday evening. Our tentative schedule of meetings for the 2023-2024 school year is as follows:

- September 26, 2023 @ 6:00 pm
- November 14, 2023 @ 6:00 pm
- February 13, 2024 @ 6:00 pm
- April 16, 2024 @ 6:00 pm
- May 28, 2024 @ 6:00 pm

Also, if you are interested in a position on the school council, the nomination form can be completed through this survey as well. Elections for positions will be held during the meeting on September 26, 2023.

## SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

We know that you have many different priorities competing for your attention each day. To respect your valuable time, we'd like to make it a little easier and less time consuming for you to connect with our school. With [School Cash Online](#), you will be able to approve permission forms and make payments for any of these items online. Understanding that we're quickly becoming a cashless society, we know it can sometimes be a challenge to find exact change for items and then send it to school through your child's backpack. Using [School Cash Online](#), you'll be able to use your debit, credit card or echeque to make quick and easy payments online. It will also allow you to track payments made and receive an invoice for your purchases. As we are trying to minimize papers travelling between school and home, we encourage all families to register for [School Cash Online](#). We will be using this platform to send out important beginning of the year information that you can approve with the click of a button!

[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 contact the office and we will be happy to help get you set-up and ready to go!

## IMPORTANT FORMS TO SIGN

With the beginning of a new school year, it is important to verify that the school has the most up-to-date information. With this in mind, there are a few forms that must be signed. The back to school forms that are required to be returned include:

- ✓ Student Verification Information Form (please see below for further information)

The following forms are available through [School Cash Online](#). For a paper copy, please contact the office:

- ✓ Permission to Participate - DSBN Curricular (Physical Education) Athletic Program form.
- ✓ an " Information Technology Digital Citizenship Agreement" which must be signed in order for students to use technology within the school.

## STUDENT VERIFICATION INFORMATION FORMS

During the first week of school, you will receive a computer printout of your child's information on file. Please check this and make any changes, fill in any missing information, and return it to the school promptly. In the interest of health and safety, it is important that students' medical and personal information is updated each year. Please let us know if any of the information changes during the school year to ensure we have the most up-to-date contact information.

## DRESSING FOR SUCCESS

Everyone has their own unique style and aesthetic. We celebrate students' individuality and respect their ability to express themselves. Our only expectation is that all students come to school dressed appropriately for a learning environment.

When deciding clothing, we ask that all members of our school community are mindful of:

- Health and safety concerns,
- The dignity and well-being of all students and staff (i.e., clothing that is free of inappropriate or discriminatory imagery or wording).

## WHAT IF I NEED TO GET SOMETHING TO MY CHILD?

If your child has forgotten something that they cannot do without, we kindly ask that you ring the bell at the front door and let our staff know who the item is for. In order to reduce learning disruptions, staff will take care of delivery for you. We will see that your child receives it.

## WHAT IF I NEED TO COMMUNICATE WITH MY CHILD?

As we work to reduce distractions and disruptions during our learning time, we encourage all communication to go through the school office. Students sending or receiving messages on their personal devices is a distraction in the classroom. Mrs. Craig is available to assist with any communication. Students needing to communicate with parents due to illness or other reasons, will be asked to come to the office rather than use their personal devices.

## PARENT ACCESS TO THE SCHOOL

One of our goals is to maintain a safe school environment that minimizes the number of classroom disruptions to ensure we maximize our learning time. For this reason, parents are asked to remain at the front doors or in the foyer for pick-up and drop-off of students. Parents will not have access to classrooms and unscheduled visits are not permitted. Please note that ALL visitors must make an appointment with the office prior to entering the school.

## STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

School Student Accident Insurance forms will be sent home during the first week of school. Please consider purchasing this insurance as the DSBN does not provide medical coverage for students. Remember to send those insurance forms directly to the company. Do not return the envelope to the school. We encourage you to purchase this low-cost student accident insurance that will protect your children from accidental injuries, particularly dental injuries.

## PARENTAL AGREEMENTS AND DOCUMENTS

Please inform the school if there are custody orders for your child. Any relevant custody orders MUST be kept on file at the office. Please ensure that the school always has the most recent custody orders for your child(ren).

## 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.

## RESPONSIBLE USE OF PERSONAL ELECTRONICS AT SCHOOL

The District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) has Policies ([D-01: Digital Technology Use by Students](#) and [G26: Use of Mobile Devices by Students](#)) that support the appropriate use of electronics in the classroom. To enhance the learning and empowerment of our students and maintain an effective and safe electronic learning environment, the DSBN requires that all students follow the rules for responsible use of technology as stated in the DSBN Digital Citizenship Agreement and Information Technology Consent (available through School Cash Online).

In addition, if a student wishes to use their personal electronic devices, such as a phone, in the school setting, we ask that parents review the following expectations with your child:

- If the device is to be present in the classroom the purpose is solely educational and with teacher's direction and permission.
- The use of this device must not interfere with anyone's learning.
- To protect the privacy and safety of students and staff, personal electronics CANNOT be used to take photographs or videotape, unless under the direct supervision of a teacher for academic purposes.
- Students should not be using their personal phones to call or text without teacher knowledge. Contact with parents must always happen through the office to ensure student safety.
- Devices are never to be used in private areas such as change rooms and washrooms.
- When devices are not in use, they must be turned off and stored in a secure location (i.e., locker, backpack)

DSBN schools and staff will not be held responsible for damage, loss, or theft of personal electronic devices.



## SCHOOL SPIRIT DAYS AND COLOUR HOUSE TEAMS

The Woodland staff are excited to continue building our school spirit. We are continuing our cross-graded colour house teams. Returning students will continue to be in their same colour house as last year. New members of our Wolfpack will be assigned to a colour house. We will have friendly competitions between 'Colour Houses' to earn points for their team by participating in spirit days and challenges. This will continue to strengthen our Woodland community. All spirit days and special days will be communicated through the monthly newsletters and weekly updates to parents. We encourage all students and families to participate in these special days throughout the year.

## SEPTEMBER SPIRIT DAYS AND DAY SO RECOGNITION

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
Friday, September 22	Terry Fox Day - Woodland Spirit Day	We will honour Terry Fox and support cancer research through our annual Terry Fox walk which will take place on the school grounds. We challenge all students to wear their colour house colours on this day. (Students will get their colour house colour by the end of the first week of school.) <a href="#">If you would like to donate to the Terry Fox Foundation, please click here and you can donate on behalf of our Woodland Wolves.</a>
Wednesday, September 27	Rowan's Law Day - Wear Purple	<p>Rowan's Law was named for Rowan Stringer, a high school rugby player from Ottawa, who died in the spring of 2013 from a condition known as second impact syndrome (swelling of the brain caused by a subsequent injury that occurred before a previous injury healed). Rowan is believed to have experienced three concussions over six days while playing rugby. She had a concussion but didn't know her brain needed time to heal. Neither did her parents, teachers, or coaches.</p> <p>Rowan's Law and Rowan's Law Day were established to honour her memory and bring awareness to concussions and concussion safety. We wear purple on this day as this was Rowan's favourite colour.</p>
Friday, September 29	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	<p>The message behind this day is Every Child Matters and is an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools and communities to honour survivors, families and communities. To take the opportunity to talk, teach and learn about residential schools to ensure that the history and legacy remains a vital component of the reconciliation process.</p> <p>On Friday, September 29, please join our school staff in wearing an orange shirt. We hope to see all of our students and many community members wearing orange on September 29.</p>

## LEARNING COMMONS

Did you know that our Woodland library offers eBooks for our students in addition to the titles we have in our learning commons? To see our catalogue of books, visit the [Online Library](#) link on our Woodland website. Explore the site and search for titles that we have in our school library and also eBooks and audiobooks you can access anytime from the comfort of your home. All students will be given the opportunity to take home a maximum of two library books at a time. Students will periodically receive a reminder notice of any late books. This year we will have to charge for lost books. The cost will be \$5.00 for soft cover books and \$10.00 for hardcover books to offset the cost of replacing the lost books.

## EXTRA-CURRICULARS UPDATES

We are looking forward to offering a variety of extra-curricular opportunities for our Wolves during the 2023-2024 school year. Cross-country and both Junior and Intermediate co-ed soccer always start quickly so please stay tuned for further details!

## 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.dsbm.org](http://www.dsbm.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.

## OPEN HOUSE MEET THE TEACHER EVENT – THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

We are planning an Open House Meet the Teacher Event for Thursday, September 28. Details will be communicated when they are finalized. This is an opportunity to tour the school and meet your child's teacher. Please remember that this is an informal event. If you would like to discuss specific concerns, please schedule an appointment with the teacher to ensure your privacy and the teacher's undivided attention.

## SO MANY WAYS TO 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](http://woodland.dsbm.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.

**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.

# DSBN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR



## 2023-2024 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

- First and Last Day of School
- Holiday / School Closed
- Professional Development Day

September 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

November 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			4-10	5-1	5-2	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					7-1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

January 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

February 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				10-4	10-5	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

March 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					12-3	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

April 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			15-8	15-9	15-10	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

June 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

### RECOGNIZING DAYS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The DSBN believes in building a culture of appreciation and inclusion, where students know they are valued, respected and celebrated. In addition to this school year calendar, there is also a calendar for [Days of Significance](#) that occur throughout the year.

This calendar highlights culturally-relevant events and tools to cultivate young minds to embrace their genius, appreciate our differences and disrupt oppression so we all can live harmoniously.

[Please visit www.dsbni.org/equity/days-of-significance-calendar](http://www.dsbni.org/equity/days-of-significance-calendar) to view this calendar and resources.

## NIAGARA REGION PUBLIC HEALTH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



### Eyes Ready for the School Year!

Proper vision is important for a student's learning and social development. Proper vision is important for a student's learning and social development. A full eye exam by an eye doctor (optometrist) is the best way to ensure a healthy eyes and good vision.

The Eye See...Eye Learn® program is for students in junior and senior kindergarten to have a full eye exam (covered by OHIP) with a participating optometrist. If a child needs glasses, they will receive a free pair donated by Plastic Plus, Modern Optical Canada and the participating optometrist. For children aged 19 and under, OHIP covers the cost of a complete annual eye exam and any follow-up assessments that may be required.

A yearly eye exam is recommended – [find an eye doctor near you](#).

For more information, please visit <https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/schools/vision-screening.aspx>

### Safely Packing Lunches

#### 1. Clean

- Wash your hands for 20 seconds with soap and water before preparing any meal
- Make sure you sanitize countertops, utensils and any lunch boxes or lunch bags
  - For surfaces and lunch boxes/bags: mix 2.5 ml (1/2 tsp) of bleach with 1 L (4 cups) of water.
  - Apply to surface and let stand briefly.
  - Rinse with clean water and air dry or use a clean towel.
- Wash raw fruits and vegetables before eating

#### 2. Keep Cold Food Cold

- Meat, chicken, seafood, eggs, and dairy products must stay cold to stay safe. Use frozen packs to keep food at or below 4°C (40 F).
- Use an insulated lunch bag and place freezer packs between foods that need to stay cold. Refrigerate the night before to get your lunch bag off to a cool start.

#### 3. Keep Hot Food Hot

- Hot food must stay hot at above 60°C (140°F). Use insulated containers and keep them closed until ready to eat or take your food cold and reheat it



For more information visit [https://www.niagararegion.ca/living/health\\_wellness/food-safety/default.aspx](https://www.niagararegion.ca/living/health_wellness/food-safety/default.aspx)