

THE PULSE OF THE WOLF PACK

Woodland Public School

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November 2024

#IGNITETHELEARNING

#WOODLANDPROUD

#WOODLANDEXCELLENCE

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

When parents are engaged in their child's learning, the child will do better at school. With this in mind, November is an excellent time to reflect on how we are working together to support your child's learning.

All students will receive their Progress Report Card on Thursday, November 21, marking the mid-way point for Term 1. Please take some time to review, with your child, their strengths and next steps that have been identified in the progress report. On the evening of November 28, you will have the opportunity to discuss your child's progress to date during the parent-teacher conferences. You will receive information shortly from your child's teacher on booking a conference time. If you have any concerns or questions at other times, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher. If you require 2 copies of your child's report card, please let the office or your child's teacher know.

DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER

As cooler weather approaches, please be aware that children are expected to be dressed appropriately for the weather conditions every day. Coats, hats, boots and mittens/gloves are soon going to be necessary for your child to enjoy the outdoor fitness breaks and outdoor learning time. Students that are well enough to be at school are expected to be outside with their friends during fitness breaks as indoor supervision is not available during this time.

REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY

On Monday, November 11, the students at Woodland will participate in a [Remembrance Day assembly](#) and will recognize a moment of silence. We would like to take this opportunity to honour all the family and friends of our school community that have given of themselves to serve Canada. If you have a family member or a friend that you would like to honour at our assembly, please submit a photo (in uniform if possible) with the following information: name of the student, name of veteran or person currently serving and relationship to the student, rank (if known), years of service (if known), any other relevant information you are willing to share. This information is due by November 4 to be included in the assembly. Please note that if you shared this information last year, you do not need to resubmit the information. Our ceremony will begin at 10:45 am. Students involved in cadets or scouting are invited to wear their uniforms. Community members and families are welcome to attend our ceremony and remember with us.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Treaties Recognition WeekNov. 3-10
- Grade 6-8 TripNov. 5
- Indigenous Veteran's DayNov. 8
- Remembrance DayNov. 11
- MacMillan's Fundraiser EndsNov. 11
- School Advisory CouncilNov. 12
- Odd Socks DayNov. 18
- Progress Reports Go HomeNov. 21
- Parent Teacher ConferencesNov. 28
- Colour House DayNov. 28
- PD DayNov. 29
- Breakfast with the WolvesNov. 30

PA DAY

Friday, November 29 has been designated as a PA Day for the District School Board of Niagara.



KINDERGARTEN COMMUNICATION OF LEARNING: INITIAL OBSERVATIONS AND THE ELEMENTARY PROGRESS REPORT – GRADES 1-8

On November 21, students in Kindergarten will bring home the Communication of Learning Initial Observations report. This provides parents/guardians with an overview of the initial observations of their child's learning and early evidence of growth in learning related to the overall expectations in the Kindergarten Program. It also provides information about appropriate next steps to further your child's learning. It serves as the basis for discussion with parents/guardians and as a support for parents'/guardians' ongoing participation in their child's learning.

Also, on November 21, parents of students in Grades 1-8 will receive their Elementary Progress Reports. Although it looks much like the Report Card, the Progress Report has a very different intent. The purpose is to share early and specific feedback on your child's development of work habits and the learning skills. Reporting on the Progress Report is about looking forward and setting a course for the learning journey ahead.

Based on the evidence that teachers see, as well as what teachers know about learning at this grade level, the report communicates the path your child is on towards achieving the grade level expectations by the end of the year. The Progress Report does not include letter grades or percentage marks for academic subjects; it instead identifies whether your child is progressing very well, well or with difficulty. For subjects in which your child is 'Progressing with Difficulty', the teacher will discuss specific next step plans needed for success. Progress reports are intended to be part of discussions, interviews, or conferences with students and are part of ongoing communication with parents and students about student achievement throughout the year. We look forward to partnering with you and your child for a year of great learning and growth.

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 DSNB Days of Significance calendar on the first of each month. [Click here](#) for more information about the DSNB Days of Significance calendar.

STUDENT ABSENCE REPORTING

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. Della Manna 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.

TREATIES RECOGNITION WEEK

Ontario has designated November 3-10, 2024, as Treaties Recognition Week with the goal of promoting education and awareness about treaties and treaty relationships. DSNB joins with other school boards across Ontario in encouraging schools to support learning about treaties as an important aspect of our province's history. I encourage our families to take a few minutes to view the video "[Voices from Here](#)" with Rick Hill. For more information on treaties, go to <https://www.ontario.ca/page/treaties>.

MACMILLAN'S FUNDRAISER – CLOSES NOV. 11

We're excited to be participating in a MacMillan's Fundraising initiative, selling cookie dough and other bakery and meal items. We are working in conjunction with the Niagara Elementary Instrumental Music program, however, all funds raised by Woodland students will go towards our Woodland playground funds.

All students have brought home an order sheet. If you need another order sheet, please contact the office. Although you may view the catalog online [by clicking here](#), all orders must be submitted through the school as we cannot process online orders at this time. If you are paying by cheque, please make cheques payable to Woodland Public School.

We encourage our students to offer these products to family and friends, but we ask that students do not go door-to-door to sell these items.

All orders are due on Monday, November 11, 2024. Orders will be available for pick up on Monday, December 9, 2024, just in time for some holiday gatherings! We will communicate a pick-up window closer to December 9, but we usually are able to have the orders ready for pick up close to the end of the school day and will offer a window of time after school for pick up. Orders must be picked up on this day as we will not have freezer storage for the items.

If you have any questions, please contact the office. We appreciate your support of Woodland Public School!

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.dsbns.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, DSBNS social media, and local media share the news widely as well.

LOCKDOWN DRILL

All schools within the DSBNS [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 November 6, 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 the school.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our second School Advisory Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 12. All School Advisory Council meeting agendas and minutes will be posted on the [Woodland web site](#) once they are approved. We look forward to seeing you there!

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.

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.

DSBN PIC CONFERENCE – STUDENT WELL-BEING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

This year's conference is on **Wednesday, November 6 from 4:00 to 8:15 pm at Eden High School in St. Catharines**. The event is offered at no cost to families and is an ideal opportunity for parents and caregivers to connect with each other and hear from community partners about important topics relevant to your child(ren).

The theme is Student Wellbeing in the Digital Age. With 14 presentation topics to choose from, participants can choose to attend two one-hour sessions including: Social Media and Mental Health, Cyber Safety, Technology Addiction, and Proactive Parenting. Thank you to those that will be attending. Registration closed October 30, 2024.

BULLYING AWARENESS AND PREVENTION WEEK

The week of November 17 to 24, 2024 is Ontario's Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week. To kick off this week, we are having "Odd Sock Day" on Monday, November 18. Why is Odd Sock Day Important? The day sends an important message that we should all be allowed to be ourselves, free from bullying, and helps us celebrate Anti-Bullying Week in a fun and positive way. Any day is an appropriate day to have a Pink Shirt Day throughout the school year, but we will be acknowledging Wednesday, February 26, 2024 as Wear Anything Pink Day to celebrate a positive school climate.

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.

PICTURE RETAKE DAY

For those students who missed photo day, retakes will be held on Thursday, November 28, 2024. If you had a photo taken but require a retake after seeing your proofs, please let the office know.

EXTRA-CURRICULARS UPDATES

We are looking forward to offering a variety of extra-curricular opportunities for our Wolves during the 2024-2025 school year. Here is what is currently being offered!

Activity	Day of the Cycle and Meeting Time	Grades for Student Involvement	Teacher Supervisor
Intermediate Volleyball	Season runs through the second week of November Tournament December 3 @ Canada Games Park (information to follow)	Grades 7 - 8	Ms. Bond
Junior Tripleball	Practices during recess breaks Intramural Tournament information to come	Grades 4-6	Mme. Niece
DSBN Writes	Reading and Writing Club Meet Wednesday's, second break DSBN Writes Conference - December 16, 2024 (information to follow)	Grades 4-8	Mrs. Worth
Lego Robotics	First break – listen to announcements for dates	Grades 4-8	Mrs. Wright

NOVEMBER 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
Monday, November 18	Odd Socks Day	What is Odd Socks Day? Odd Socks Day is an annual event that encourages people to wear mismatched socks as a way of celebrating diversity and promoting inclusion. Monday, November 18th we will be kicking off Anti-Bullying Week by wearing our Odd Socks to celebrate what makes us all unique. Why is Odd Sock Day Important? The day sends an important message that we should all be allowed to be ourselves, free from bullying, and helps us celebrate Anti-Bullying Week in a fun and positive way. Life's too short to spend time matching socks...lol!!!
Thursday, November 28	Colour House Day	We will be having a colour house day on Thursday, November 28. Students are encouraged to wear something in the colour of their colour house. We will be having a "Colour House Game Day". Students will play board games with their colour house team. If your child has a favourite game, they are welcome to bring it to school on this day.

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. All funds raised through our lunch options will be directed to extra-curricular programs at Woodland.

Lunch Date	Lunch Option	Order Window through School Cash Online
Friday, Nov. 1, 2024 Friday, Nov. 8, 2024 Friday, Nov. 15, 2024 Friday, Nov. 22, 2024	Popcorn Creamy Dill, White Cheddar, Butter & Salt, and Sweet Kettle Corn	Closes the prior Friday at 9:00 am

Thursday, November 7, 2024 Thursday, December 12, 2024	<u>Boston Pizza</u> Individual Pizzas (cheese, pepperoni, or gluten-free cheese)	Closes the prior Friday at 9:00 am
Thursday, November 21, 2024	<u>Big Marcos Chicken Fingers and Potato Wedges</u> Individually packaged Chicken Fingers and Potato Wedges	Closes Friday, November 15 at 9:00 am
December Milk Card	<u>December Milk Card</u> Chocolate or white milk card for the month of December	Closes Thursday, November 28 at 9:00 am

SCHOLASTIC BOOK ORDERS

The November Scholastic Book Fair orders are now open and flyers will come home this 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. Stay tuned for more information as we finalize our dates. Happy reading!

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
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.

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 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 note that we will be streamlining our Social Media presence. Woodland will continue to update and post to our [Instagram](#) platform effective November 1. 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

November 2024

HEAD LICE



Students are now back into the swing of things and spending lots of time with friends and classmates during school and after school. Lice can spread regardless of a student's age. Head lice are spread by direct head-to-head contact or by sometimes sharing items like combs, brushes, hats, pillows, etc. Anyone can get head lice, it's not a sign of poor personal hygiene or an unclean environment.

Check out School Health's new webpage on head lice for more information: [Head Lice - Niagara Region, Ontario](#)

YOUTH VAPING PREVENTION

Caring adults have an important role to play in helping kids make decisions about their health. Vaping is harmful and addictive, so we must empower young people with the right health information and refusal skills to ensure they don't start vaping.

- Vaping risks include:
- Addiction to nicotine – nicotine changes how the youth brain develops affecting learning, memory, concentration,
- and impulse control.
- Exposure to cancer-causing chemicals and metals
- Lung damage
- Increased stress and anxiety
- Increased likelihood of smoking cigarettes

In November, elementary schools across Niagara Region will be receiving vaping resources for grade 7 and 8 classrooms. To complement the in-class education, we encourage parents and caregivers to learn about vaping and tips on how to talk to your kids about it. For more information, or to download the parent/caregiver Let's Talk About Vaping resource visit: <http://www.notanexperiment.ca/parents>.



EpiPen® AND AUTO-INJECTORS

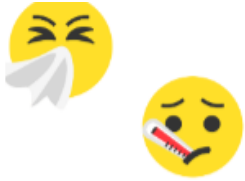
During the school day, your child will be in contact with many staff members and other children, moving around to different locations inside and outside. Remember to check if your child's EpiPen® Auto-Injectors are up to date (not expired).

Check out [Food Allergy Canada - elementary school](#) for some great tips and [resources!](#)





PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS THIS RESPIRATORY ILLNESS SEASON



Infections like COVID-19, flu and RSV increase in the fall and winter months. While anyone can get very sick, infections can be especially devastating to the most vulnerable in our community. This includes older adults and people with underlying medical conditions.

There are simple actions we can take to help protect ourselves and others. Use layers of protection:

- Stay up to date with vaccinations
- Stay home if sick
- Consider wearing a mask (for example, based on the setting, your personal risk factors, or comfort level)
- Keep up good hand hygiene – use soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Cover coughs or sneezes with a tissue or into the upper sleeve
- Regularly clean and disinfect high touch surfaces
- Keep indoor air fresh and circulating

Learn more on [our website](#) or check out our [downloadable resource](#).

NIAGARA PARENTS

Niagara Parents provides a variety of services to help you raise a happy and healthy family. Individuals can connect with a Public Health Nurse instantly in whichever language they are most comfortable speaking.

Services offered:

- Questions or concerns about parenting, your child's health, or pregnancy.
- Parenting classes, breastfeeding support, prenatal appointments and more.
- Postpartum support
- Links to services within the community
- Connect with a Public Health Nurse Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. through phone, live chat, video call, or email. Live chat is available in 90 different languages.

Find Niagara Parents on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [Twitter](#) for different activities you can do with your kids, relevant resources and virtual events for parents.

niagara parents
Providing supports & services to help you raise a happy and healthy family

Connect with Niagara Parents

Live chat or speak with a public health nurse in **90 different languages available:**

- niagararegion.ca/parents
- 905-684-7555 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7555
- parents@niagararegion.ca
- Niagara Parents
- niagaraparents

Niagara Region