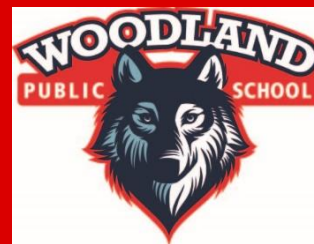


THE PULSE OF THE WOLF PACK

Woodland Public School

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



December 2024

#IGNITETHELEARNING

#WOODLANDPROUD

#WOODLANDEXCELLENCE



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As we look ahead to the month of December and the end to the year 2024, I find myself reflecting on the year. Each year brings change to our lives, but it has also shown us how, when we work together, support each other, and focus on the positives, that anything is possible! Thank you to our amazing community (parents, students, and staff) for supporting each other to make Woodland Public School an amazing place to be.

As the calendar year is coming to an end, it is a time to reflect on our fortunes and spread some kindness and generosity to our wider St. Catharines community. It is always a fantastic time to 'give back'. Whether it be through food donations to Community Care, supporting your favourite charity with the priceless gift of your time, all donations are greatly appreciated with all our community partners at this time and throughout the year.

Don't forget that there are many simple gifts to give, like a smile, a kind word, or a random act of kindness. On behalf of the staff at Woodland, we wish you a holiday season filled with joy, peace, and good health!

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. 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.

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.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- [Food Drive Begins](#).....Dec. 2
- Int. Volleyball TournamentDec. 3
- French Immersion Open House (Jeanne Sauvé).....Dec. 5
- Family Gingerbread EventDec. 5
- MacMillan's Fundraiser Pick UpDec. 9
- [Food Drive Ends](#).....Dec. 13
- Bundle Up DayDec. 13
- DSBN Writes ConferenceDec. 16
- Grade 8s to Sir Winston.....Dec. 16
- Grade 8s to CollegiateDec. 18
- PJ Day.....Dec. 20
- Last Day before winter breakDec. 20
- School ResumesJan. 6

WINTER BREAK

Winter Break is from Dec. 23 to Jan. 3 inclusive. We look forward to seeing our families on January 6, 2025!



MEDICATIONS

Prescription medication that is to be taken according to a fixed schedule requires that the parents arrange to have the pre-dosed medication provided to the school with an '[Authorization of Provision of Oral/Topical Prescription Medication](#)' form. This form must be completed by the parent(s)/guardian(s) and be forwarded to the office prior to the providing of any prescription medication. Please note that medications should be stored at the office and not in student's backpacks. This ensures the medication is not lost or misplaced. Please note that this applies to all medications, including those that are required for short-term use. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

MACMILLAN'S FUNDRAISER – PICK UP DEC. 9

Thank you to the families that participated in the MacMillan's Fundraiser. All funds raised by Woodland students will go towards our Woodland playground funds. 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!

GRADE 1 FRENCH IMMERSION OPEN HOUSE

At the DSBN, French Immersion starts in Grade 1. That's why our French Immersion schools are hosting **in-person French Immersion Information Nights** for parents and caregivers on **Thursday, December 5 at Jeanne Sauvé French Immersion Public School**. This is your first opportunity to visit the school, meet the staff, get to know the registration process, and learn what DSBN's French Immersion program has to offer your child. [Interested in Attending? RSVP Today!](#)

WOODLAND GIVES BACK! COMMUNITY CARE INITIATIVES

Woodland is excited to host our annual Community Care Food Drive until December 13. Your donations will ensure families in our larger St. Catharines community feel that they matter! For further details about our Woodland Community Care food drive, [please click here](#). Thank you to all our families for donating so generously to support our larger St. Catharines community!

SCHOLASTIC BOOK ORDERS

The December 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. Due to the shorter month, orders must be placed prior to December 9th. 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!

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.

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.

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.dsbnschools.org/inclementweather>.

Transportation Cancellations: Information about transportation delays and cancellations are posted to:

<https://portal.nsts.ca/Cancellations.aspx>. The BusPlanner Delays App is a free mobile application that can be downloaded and provides real-time "push" notifications for delays and cancellations related to a specific school or route, directly to your mobile device. 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: both in-person and remote/virtual learners. Every effort will be made to share school closure information before 6:00 am on the day of the school closure. You will find information on [dsbn.org](https://www.dsbnschools.org), all school websites, DSBN social media, and local media share the news widely as well.

Elementary Schools: Optional Snow Day activities for Kindergarten to Grade 8, will be available on the DSBN website on days when schools are closed due to inclement weather.

Secondary Schools: When secondary schools are closed, students are reminded they may access a course's online platform (D2L or Google Classroom) to review classroom notes, lessons, and complete any outstanding assignments or projects.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our second School Advisory Council meeting was 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. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 6:00 pm. New members are always welcome to join.

DECEMBER 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
Friday, December 13	Bundle Up Day	Winter is officially around the corner! Bundle up in your favourite sweater, hat, and/or scarf to stay warm today!
Friday, December 20	PJ Day	One of the most popular spirit days of the year, we invite our students to wear their PJs and stay cozy and warm as we prepare to head off on our Winter Break for some rest and relaxation! Bedhead is optional!

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	Tournament December 3 @ Canada Games Park (information to follow)	Grades 7 - 8	Ms. Bond
Junior Tripleball	Practices during recess breaks Intramural Tournament December 5	Grades 4-6	Mme. Niece
DSBN Writes	Reading and Writing Club Meet Wednesday's, second break DSBN Writes Conference - December 16	Grades 4-8	Mrs. Worth
STEM Club	First break – listen to announcements for dates	Grades 4-8	Mrs. Wright

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, December 6, 2024 Friday, December 13, 2024 Friday, December 20, 2024	Popcorn Creamy Dill, White Cheddar, Butter & Salt, and Sweet Kettle Corn	Closes the prior Friday at 9:00 am
Thursday, December 12, 2024	Boston Pizza Individual Pizzas (cheese, pepperoni, or gluten-free cheese)	Open now and closes Friday, December 6 at 9:00 am

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.

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.

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.

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 visit our [Instagram](#) platform for updates and reminders. 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

December 2024

ROUTINE VACCINATION AND IMMUNICATIONS

Protect your children from vaccine preventable diseases this school year by ensuring their routine vaccinations are up to date.

If your child missed their opportunity to receive any routine vaccine(s), it is important to get them back on schedule.

Learn more about the [vaccinations for children in school](#) and which vaccine(s) your child may need on our [website](#).

All vaccines for children under 18 years of age must be [reported to Public Health](#).

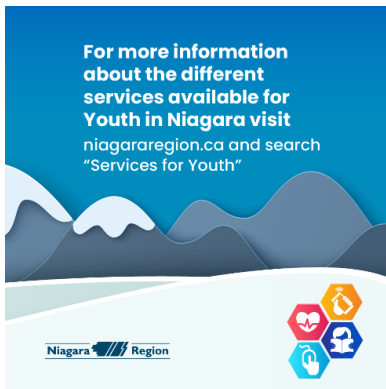
Every time your child receives a vaccine, you must report it:

- [Online](#)
- Phone: 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425

*Please note, you **do not** need to report any COVID-19 or influenza (flu) vaccination details.*



HOLIDAY EXPECTATIONS



The holidays may be a difficult time for your child. A change in routine and different holiday expectations can be stressful and isolating. Here are some tips and resources to share with your child throughout the holiday season:

1. **Validate Feelings:** Let your child know it's okay not to feel happy during the holidays. Their thoughts and emotions are valid. Encourage open conversations about any concerns.
2. **Find Quiet Relief:** When things get overwhelming, suggest to your child that they find a quiet place to take a break. This can help alleviate anxious feelings.
3. **Explore Support:** Help your child discover available support services and guide them in accessing what they believe will be most beneficial. Use this time to prepare them for post-high school life and independence.

For more information about the different services available for

Youth in Niagara visit: <https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/schools/youth-services.aspx>

DISCOVER THE BENEFITS OF YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY!



Looking for a safe and welcoming space to relax, learn, and connect? Libraries offer more than just books—they're a free resource for promoting mental wellbeing, accessing technology, and engaging with your community. Whether you're seeking a quiet spot to unwind, attending a workshop, or discovering new hobbies, your library has something for everyone. Visit your local library today!

Learn more about libraries in your area and the services they offer by visiting: [Public Libraries Niagara](#).



Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter

December 2024

GIVING BACK

Supporting families in need during the holiday season is a wonderful way for the community to come together and make a positive impact. Here are some charities and organizations in the Niagara Region, or those that have a presence in the area, that you can consider supporting:

A charitable organization affiliated with your church

[St. Vincent de Paul](#)

[Community Care](#)

[Newark Neighbours](#)

[Salvation Army Community and Family Services](#)

[Pelham Cares](#)

[The HOPE Centre](#)

[Project SHARE](#)

[Grimsby Benevolent Fund](#)

[Port Care Reach Out Centre](#)

[Open Arms Mission](#)

[United Way Niagara](#)

[Niagara Nutrition Partners](#)

