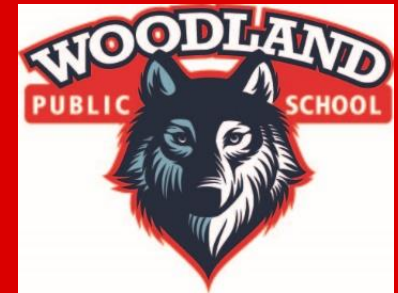


THE PULSE OF THE WOLF PACK

Woodland Public School

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

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



December 2022

#WOODLANDWOVES

#WOLFPAKPROUD

#WOODLANDDSBN

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As we look ahead to the month of December, the holiday season, and the end to the year 2022, I find myself reflecting on the year. The year has brought continued 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.

There is so much beauty in the rich traditions of many faiths during this time. What is truly wonderful about this time of year is the common bonds we share, regardless of our beliefs. Whether you celebrate Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Christmas or Khushali, family values and the feeling of kindness and helping others, is what we have in common.

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 and gym classes. Students will continue to have gym classes outside during this 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.

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

- Grade 8 Day at Sir WinstonDec. 1
- [Sir Winston Open House](#).....Dec. 1
- Raffle Basket donations due.....Dec. 2
- Intermediate Volleyball Tournament
.....Dec. 6
- Boston Pizza Lunch.....Dec. 8
- Bake Sale Items Due.....Dec. 9
- Breakfast with the Wolves.....Dec. 10
- Walking in a Woodland Wonderland
between 5 – 7 pm.....Dec. 12
- Junior Tripleball Tournament.....Dec. 14
- Holiday Colours Spirit DayDec. 16
- Creative Sweater DayDec. 21
- Pita Pit LunchDec. 22
- Festive Headgear DayDec. 22
- 'Twas the Day Before Winter Break PJ Day
.....Dec. 23
- Last Day before winter breakDec. 23
- School Resumes.....Jan. 9

PA DAY

Winter Break is from Dec. 26 to Jan. 6 inclusive. We look forward to seeing our families on January 9, 2023, after a restful and healthy



WOODLAND GIVES BACK! COMMUNITY CARE INITIATIVES

Woodland is excited to be participating in a few charitable drives during this time of year as we reflect on our fortunes and spread some kindness and generosity to our wider St. Catharines community. We have our annual Community Care Food Drive until December 9 and our Adopt-a-Family campaign that wrapped up on November 28. I would like to thank the 7 families and 2 staff members, including the Sterk family, that donated to our Adopt-a-Family Campaign. Your donations have ensured two 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!

EDUCATION FOUNDATION OF NIAGARA (EFN) TEACHER TRIBUTE

Are you looking to show your appreciation to your child's teacher or school staff member but not sure how to do that during this time? Please consider making a donation in honour of someone through the [EFN Tribute Gift Campaign](#). Your gift makes an immediate impact on the lives of DSNB students - whether it's through helping with basic necessities, through providing scholarships, or by enhancing their learning environment. To learn more about EFN, please visit their website at efnniagara.dsbnschools.org.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Thank you to all of our families for supporting our Scholastic Book Fair. The students were excited to browse the titles and of course the 'school tools' such as erasers and secret pens. It was amazing to be able to open up the event to our families during our Parent-Teacher conferences on Thursday evening. Thanks to your generous support, and our Wolves love of reading, Woodland was able to purchase \$620 in books to add to the library. Once these titles are processed, they will be available for our Wolves to 'check out' during a library period.

WALKING IN A WOODLAND WONDERLAND – ART FESTIVAL

The staff at Woodland is excited to welcome our families to celebrate the arts at our first art festival – Walking in a Woodland Wonderland. All classes are busy working on art projects with a 'nature in winter' theme. Please join us anytime between 5:00 – 7:00 pm on Monday, December 12 to walk the halls of Woodland and view our amazing artistic creations while sipping on some hot chocolate.

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.

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.

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](https://www.dsbn.org), all school websites, DSBN social media, and local media share the news widely as well.

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.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our third School Advisory Council meeting was held on Tuesday, November 29. 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 7, 2023, at 6:00 pm. New members are always welcome to join.

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.

EXTRA-CURRICULARS UPDATES

We are looking forward to offering a variety of extra-curricular opportunities for our Wolves during the 2022-2023 school year. Here is what is currently being offered!

| Activity | Day of the Cycle and Meeting Time | Grades for Student Involvement | Teacher Supervisor |
|-------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Intermediate Co-Ed Volleyball | Tournament Date - December 6 at Niagara College | Grades 7 - 8 | Ms. Bond |
| Junior Co-Ed Tripleball | Tournament Date - December 14 | Grades 4-6 | Mme. Niece |

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 16 | Holiday Colours | With Hannukah starting tomorrow (December 17) and Christmas and Kwanzaa around the corner, we invite our Wolves to wear colours that represent your favourite holiday! Perhaps you would like to wear red/green for Christmas, blue/white for Hannukah, red/green/black for Kwanzaa. Does your favourite holiday or celebration happen in a different month? That is ok! Wear pink/red for Valentines, green for St. Patrick's Day, red/yellow/blue/green for Holi and or perhaps pink/purple/red for Lunar New Year and the year of the rabbit. Be creative and represent your favourite holiday or celebration! |
| Wednesday, December 21 | Creative Sweater Day | The first day of winter in the Northern Hemisphere is marked by the winter solstice, which occurs on Wednesday, December 21, 2022, at 4:48 p.m. The winter solstice happens on Wednesday, December 21, 2022! This is the astronomical first day of winter in the Northern Hemisphere and the shortest day of the year. As we try to keep warm in winter, we are often wearing sweaters. Wear a cozy comfy sweater today! Perhaps it is a sweater that a grandparent knitted for you or a sweater to represent your favourite holiday. |
| Thursday, December 22 | Festive Headgear Day | Represent your favourite festive tradition with some holiday headgear. Maybe you will choose a hat, a scarf, or some hair accessories! Perhaps you want to celebrate the arrival of winter and wear a toque today! Show your creative flair today! |
| Friday, December 23 | 'Twas the Day Before Winter Break 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! |

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 |
|-----------------------------|--|--|
| Thursday, December 8, 2022 | Boston Pizza Individual Pizzas (cheese, peperoni, or gluten-free cheese) | Open now and closes Friday, December 2, 2022, at 9:00 am |
| Thursday, December 22, 2022 | Pita Pit Variety of pitas | Opens Friday, December 9 and closes Friday, December 16 at 9:00 am |

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. 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.