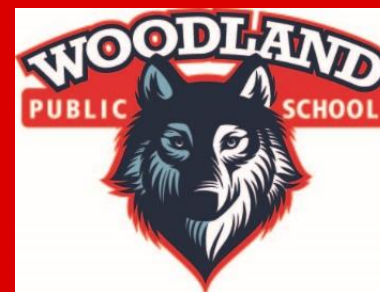


# THE PULSE OF THE WOLF PACK

## Woodland Public School

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February 2023

#WOODLANDWOVES

#WOLFPACKPROUD

#WOODLANDDSBN

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

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

With Term 1 Report Cards and the Kindergarten Communication of Learning coming home on February 16th, this is a great opportunity to reflect on your child's progress and set some goals for the remainder of the year. If you have any questions, comments, and or concerns, please contact your child's teacher. Please see the important information in regard to our Term 1 report cards and the Term 1 Kindergarten Communication of Learning.

### WOODLAND SCHOOL CALENDAR AND DAYS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Woodland Public School calendar is available on the school website, or by [clicking here](#). In addition to our school events, you will find a link to the DSBN Days of Significance calendar on the first of each month. [Click here](#) for more information about the DSBN Days of Significance calendar.

### FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February is Black History month. During Black History Month, Canadians celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Black Canadians who, throughout history, have done so much to make Canada the culturally diverse, compassionate, and prosperous nation it is today. Just a few of the notable people who have helped shape Canadian heritage and identity are Harriet Tubman, Viola Davis Desmond, and the Honourable Lincoln Alexander. Do you know why Harriet Tubman has a DSBN school named after her? Do you know why Viola Desmond is on the \$10 bill and why we recognize Lincoln Alexander day on January 21? We look forward to celebrating many achievements and contributions of Black Canadians, past and present, throughout the month.



### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Black History Month.....February
- World Hijab Day.....Feb. 1
- Woodland Spirit Wear Day.....Feb. 2
- [Kindergarten Open House](#).....Feb. 2
- School Advisory Council.....Feb. 7
- Boston Pizza Lunch.....Feb. 9
- 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School.....Feb. 10
- Valentine's Day.....Feb. 14
- Term 1 Reports and Kindergarten Communication of Learning go home.....Feb 16
- Hot Chocolate Day.....Feb. 16
- PA Day.....Feb. 17
- Family Day Holiday.....Feb. 20
- French Immersion Registration Ends.....Feb. 21
- Pink Shirt Day.....Feb. 22
- Subway Lunch.....Feb. 23

### PA DAY

On Friday, February 17 all DSBN schools will be closed for a PA Day and all schools will also be closed as we recognize Family Day on Monday, February 20.



## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

Do you know a child who was born in 2019? If so, spread the word that Kindergarten registration is here! Please visit the [DSBN Kindergarten registration link](#) for more details and save Thursday, February 2, 2023, and drop in anytime between 10:00 – 6:00 pm for our Kindergarten Open House event!



## BECOME AN ARGONAUT AT DSBN ACADEMY

DSBN Academy is a very unique school. It is specially designed to support students in becoming the first in their family to graduate from college or university. A Grade 6 to 12 public school, DSBN Academy is for any First Generation Student who is committed to the goal of achieving a post-secondary education.

Interested? Learn about the school at **DSBN Academy's Open House!**

- ❖ **Date:** Tuesday, February 7, 2023
- ❖ **Time:** 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- ❖ **Location:** DSBN Academy – 130 Louth Street, St. Catharines

**Attend the Open House to find out:**

- ❖ How we prepare students to attend, and succeed at, college and university
- ❖ What extra opportunities we offer, and how your child can benefit
- ❖ Why DSBN Academy could be a good fit for your child
- ❖ How to become a student at DSBN Academy


[Visit our website](#) to learn all about what DSBN Academy is, and what it takes to become an Argonaut. Online registration will open on **January 10, 2023** here: [ACADEMY.DSBN.ORG/APPLY](https://ACADEMY.DSBN.ORG/APPLY). Registration will close on February 27, 2023. Staff and students are committed to the belief that, with hard work, all students can achieve their dreams.

**Believe. Achieve. Become an Argonaut.**

## DSBN Academy Open House

February 7 | 6:00 - 8:00pm

Empowering students to become the first in their family to graduate from college or university.



[Learn More](#)

## TERM 1 REPORT CARD UPDATE

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

The Elementary Provincial Report Card (Grades 1-8) and the Kindergarten: Communication of Learning will be issued on February 16. Report cards give a summary of student achievement at the end of each term. Teachers use their professional judgement and consider factors such as consistency, recent improvement and amount of evidence in order to determine students' grades or marks. Teachers and students work together to gather evidence of their learning over time from observations, conversations and student products.

This year, the Ontario Ministry of Education updated [the math curriculum](#) for Grades 1 to 8 which started in September 2020. The new mathematics curriculum is part of a [four-year math strategy](#) designed to:

- Improve student performance in math
- Help students solve everyday math problems
- Increase students' employability to attain the jobs of the future

## GRADE 1 FRENCH IMMERSION REGISTRATION

The French Immersion program (offered at French Immersion sites) is open to all Year 2 Kindergarten students from Monday, January 9, 2023, until Tuesday, February 21, 2023. If you want your child to develop a high proficiency and fluency in Canada's two official languages, French Immersion has a great deal to offer. For more information about French Immersion in the District School Board of Niagara, [please click here](#).

## WINTER IS HERE!

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

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

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

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

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

## IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES

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

### Transportation Cancellations:

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

### School Closures:

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

## SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL – TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2023

Our third School Advisory Council meeting was held on Tuesday, November 29, 2022. 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.

## FEBRUARY SPIRIT DAYS

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

Date	Spirit Day	Purpose of the Day
Thursday, February 2	Woodland Spirit Day	As we are hosting our Kindergarten Open House today, we encourage our Wolves to show their school pride and wear their Woodland gear or the colour red! Let's show our visitors that we are proud to be Woodland Wolves!
Friday, February 10	100 <sup>th</sup> Day of School	This is the 100 <sup>th</sup> day of school. Students are invited to wear something to celebrate 100 <sup>th</sup> day of learning at Woodland. Let's see how creative we can be Wolves!
Tuesday, February 14	Valentines Day	February 14 is Valentines Day and students are encouraged to wear Valentine apparel or red, white, or pink.
Wednesday, February 22	Pink Shirt Day	Pink Shirt Day is recognized on the last Wednesday in February in Canada. We encourage our Woodland Wolves to wear anything pink on Wednesday, February 22.

## VALENTINE'S DAY – FEBRUARY 14

As Valentine's Day is approaching, we have been working on reimagining what Valentine's Day will look like this year. We will celebrate Valentine's Day on Tuesday, February 14, 2023. Students are invited to wear clothing to celebrate the day (red, pink, hearts). If you are sending cards for the class, please ensure you include all members of your child's classroom community. We kindly ask that our Kindergarten student have their cards to the school by Friday, February 11. This will provide the time required to ensure that the cards are distributed in our Kindergarten class as it does take a little longer with our youngest Wolves! Individual classes may have their own classroom-based activities planned for the day, which will include a focus on friendship and kindness and showing our appreciation for our classmates in different ways.

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

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

## FAMILY GAME DAY – THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

After such a positive response to our Family Literacy Event of Snuggle Up and Read, we wanted to offer another family event to kick off the Family Day weekend in February. On Thursday, February 16, we invite families to join us at Woodland, starting at 2:15 pm for an hour of board games. Bring your favourite family board game, find a spot in the school and enjoy each other's company as you play some games together to kick off the Family Day long weekend.

## PINK SHIRT DAY – WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

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

### What is bullying?

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

### Is conflict the same as bullying?

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

### How can I be an upstander?

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

## EXTRA-CURRICULARS UPDATES

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

Activity	Day of the Cycle and Meeting Time	Grades for Student Involvement	Teacher Supervisor
Intermediate Basketball	Boys play on February 2, 6 and 13 Girls play on February 6 Practices are held during recess breaks	Grades 7 - 8	Mrs. Gabriel
Speech Club	Meetings Tuesdays at second break Speech presentations February 21 – 23 to the speech club Option to participate in the Kiwanis Speech competition on Saturday, February 25 (please connect with Miss Bridges for details)	Grades 7 – 8	Miss Bridges
Forest of Reading	<u>Silver Birch Express Grades 3-4</u> Tuesdays first break <u>Silver Birch Grades 5-6</u> - Thursdays second break <u>Red Maple (Grade 7-8)</u> - Wednesdays second break	Grades 3 - 8	Mrs. Worth
Gymnastics Club	Practices after school on Wednesdays, from 3:20 – 4:20	Grades 4-8	Miss Bridges

## 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, February 9, 2023	<b><u>Boston Pizza</u></b> Individual Pizzas (cheese, peperoni, or gluten-free cheese)	Open now and closes Friday, February 3 at 9:00 am
Thursday, February 16, 2023	<b><u>Tim Horton's Hot Chocolate</u></b>	Opens Friday, February 3 and closes Friday, February 10 at 9:00 am
Thursday, February 23, 2023	<b><u>Subway</u></b> Choice of a 6 or 12 inch sub with a variety of toppings. Gluten-free options are available.	Opens Thursday, February 9 and closes Thursday, February 16 at 9:00 am
March Milk Card	<b><u>March Milk Card</u></b> Chocolate or white milk card for the month of March	Opens Friday, February 10 and closes Friday, February 24 at 9:00 am

## GRADE 8 GRAD PHOTOS – TUESDAY, MARCH 7

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

## DSBN SOCIAL WORKER SUPPORT AVAILABLE

**Do you have questions about your child's mental health and well-being, such as anxiety, behaviour or self-harm?**

**Do you need support in accessing supports in the community?**

**Do you need advice for setting goals to help with regular school attendance?**

**Do you have any questions or looking for support regarding a certain aspect of parenting?**

If these are some questions that you have, please speak with your child's teacher or Mrs. Worth. All DSBN schools work with a DSBN Social Worker who supports families to provide an additional layer of support to help our students and families achieve success. Our DSBN Social Workers are an invaluable member of our Woodland team.

## PARKING LOT SAFETY REMINDERS

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

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

## DSBN eFLYERS

Many community events and activities are posted on the DSBN eFlyers website. I encourage you to take a look, on occasion, to ensure you do not miss any community events that might be of interest to you or your family. To view the eFlyers, please follow the simple instructions:

1. Log onto our website: [www.dsbn.org](http://www.dsbn.org)
2. Click on "Community" tab
3. Click on "eFlyer Request" and you may browse through the 'Recent eFlyers' to find offerings from a variety of community organizations.

## THE NOSE KNOWS: NO SCENTS MAKES SENSE

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

## ANAPHYLAXIS – BE NUT AWARE!

Anaphylaxis is a severe and potentially life-threatening reaction to certain food substances. We have students in our school that suffer from a severe allergy which can cause an anaphylactic reaction. An anaphylactic reaction is an allergic reaction so severe that in some cases, it can be life threatening. These children have a severe allergy to nuts. Prevention is the best approach. Therefore, we ask your cooperation in not sending any snacks or lunches containing nut products with your child.

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

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

## STAY INFORMED AND CONNECTED

In our busy lives, events can sometimes be overlooked. Technology allows us multiple ways to connect with families. The following is a list of ways we use to connect with families to ensure all families are aware of the many events happening throughout the year.

### SCHOOL WEBSITE - [woodland.dsbn.org](http://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.