

THE PULSE OF THE WOLF PACK Woodland Public School

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January 2022

#WOODLANDWOVES

#WOLFPACKPROUD

#WOODLANDDSBN

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome back! We hope that your holiday season was restful and refreshing and you were able to celebrate the season in a safe and healthy way with those in your household.

On Monday, January 3, the Ontario government announced that schools will be closed for in-person learning until January 17. For DSBN students, this means that temporary at-home learning will begin on Tuesday, January 11, as Monday, January 10 will be used to give staff time to prepare. Homeroom teachers will be contacting students directly on Monday. The DSBN will be offering families flexible learning options until the end of January. As we learn additional details, they will be shared here: <https://www.dsbn.org/covid-19-information/covid-19-updates> and on both the DSBN and Woodland social media platforms.

On behalf of our entire staff, best wishes for a happy and healthy 2022!

WOODLAND GAVE BACK

On behalf of the staff at Woodland and Community Care, I would like to send out a 'huge' thank you to our Wolfpack for the amazing generosity that was shown during our Community Care Food Drive and our Adopt-a-Family. Thank you to our Woodland Community for ensuring a family had a fantastic holiday and for donating 748 items for the food drive to ensure all of our less fortunate families in our larger St. Catharines community felt cared for and supported. A special thank you to the following families for their donations to our Adopt-a-Family Campaign: the Hawthorne Family, the MacGregor Family, and to the other 11 families and staff members that donated so generously.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

Do you know a child who was born in 2018? If so, spread the word that Kindergarten registration is almost here! Please visit the [DSBN Kindergarten registration link](#) for more details and to download a copy of DSBN's book, "Barkley's First Day".



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- French Immersion Registration Begins Jan. 10
- Welcome Back – Remote Learning Begins Jan. 11
- Hat Day Jan. 14
- Artisan Card Contest Closes Jan. 17
- PIC Virtual Speaker Series Jan. 17
- PA Day Jan. 21
- School Advisory Council Meeting Jan. 25
- Family Literacy Day Jan. 27
- Woodland Spirit Day Jan. 28

PA DAY

On Friday, January 21 all DSBN schools will be closed for a PA Day in which teachers will be engaged in assessment and evaluation activities.



STUDENT RECOGNITION

During the month of December, Woodland students were recognized for their work as a learner for their learning skills and/or academics, as an individual for their character traits, and as a community member for contributing to the school and/or classroom. The following students were recognized:

<u>MRS. WIENS AND MRS. SCAPILLATI</u> Walter, Elizabeth, Owen	<u>MRS. MASTERSON</u> Thomas, Raelyn	<u>MRS. GABRIEL</u> Brody, Audrey
<u>MRS. SULISZ</u> Owen, Kylie	<u>MISS BRIDGES</u> Kaz, Elizabeth	<u>MRS. LEONTIS</u> Meena, Julia, Isaac
<p>SHOUT OUTS: CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR WOLVES THAT CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR SPIRIT DAYS AS ONE WAY TO EARN POINTS FOR YOUR HOUSE TEAM. OUR STANDINGS AS OF DECEMBER 23, 2021 ARE AS FOLLOWS: KINDER SQUAD: 859 GRADE 1/2 CREW: 1151 TEAM 'DINO'MITE (GRADE 2/3): 1063 THE MIGHTY WOLVES (GRADE 4/5): 1084 THE BEAUTIFUL BARNEY'S (GRADE 6/7): 896 THE AUTOBOTS (GRADE 7/8): 763</p>		

SCHOOL CULTURE SURVEY COMING JANUARY 17 – 31, 2022

We're working towards building an equitable and inclusive school culture across the DSBN, and hearing from you and your child is an important part of this work.

We are proud to be offering the DSBN School Culture Survey to students, families, and staff. You and your child will have the opportunity to share how you experience your school to help us better understand how we can build and maintain a positive culture for all.



What is the School Culture Survey? The School Culture Survey is a valuable opportunity for students in Grades 4-12, their families and DSBN school staff to help us learn more about your experiences at school. The questions will be organized into five main factors that help create your school culture: Well-Being; Caring and Safe Schools; Sense of Belonging; Equity and Inclusion; Teaching and Learning.

When can Students Grades 4-8 and their Families do the Survey? Students in Grades 4-8 will be asked to take the survey during class time between January 17-31, 2022. Families will be sent the survey to take within this time as well. This survey will be entirely anonymous and confidential. While it is voluntary to take, the more responses we receive, the more effective the DSBN can be in supporting your family moving forward.

Where Can I Learn More About This? Check out the Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Team's website for more information and Frequently Asked Questions: <https://www.dsb.org/equity/school-culture-survey>.

Please reach out to the school directly for additional questions. We're here to help!

DSBN ACADEMY: VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE COMING SOON

Learn about the DSBN Academy at the Virtual Open House on **Tuesday, February 15, 2022!** Join us to find out:

- How this unique program prepares students to attend, and succeed at, college and university
- What extra opportunities are offered and how your child can benefit
- If the DSBN Academy is a good fit for your child

The DSBN Academy is a Grade 6-12 public school designed to support and empower students to be the first in their family to graduate from college or university. Staff and students are committed to the belief that, with hard work, all students can achieve their dreams.

Online registration opens in January at ACADEMY.DSBN.ORG/APPLY. Registration will close on **FEBRUARY 25, 2022**. Limited spots available.



WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY TO DSBN ACADEMY?

- Student must live within the Niagara Region
- Student is entering Grade 6, 7 or 8 in September 2022
- Student would be the first in their family to graduate from a college or university program
 - If a sibling has attended post-secondary but the parent(s)/guardian(s) have not, the student is still considered a First Generation Student
- Student is achieving current grade level expectations or just below
- Student has demonstrated the potential for achieving “good” or “excellent” learning skills
- Student is willing to attend a school that may be out of their community with free transportation provided
- Student understands there are mandatory after-school academic supports and *ENCORE* programs
 - After-school *ENCORE* options include: Mixed sports, Board games, Photography, Yoga, Makerspace, Choir, Reading, and many more!
- Families understand that the DSBN Academy is a single track pathway beginning in Grade 9 (academic level only)

If you have any questions, please contact: Derek.Harley@dsbn.org - Elementary Principal

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) to inquire about the support we can provide in getting these much needed items for your children.

All students will continue to have gym classes outside, in the winter months, weather permitting. 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!

GRADE 1 FRENCH IMMERSION REGISTRATION



**Was your child born in 2016?
It's time to register for
FRENCH IMMERSION.**

The French Immersion program (offered at French Immersion sites) is open to all Year 2 Kindergarten students and will close on Tuesday, February 22, 2022. 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. [Check out this video about our program!](#) For more information about French Immersion in the District School Board of Niagara visit www.dsbni.org/fi. To register for the virtual open house, please click on the image to the left.

PIC VIRTUAL SPEAKER SERIES – TAKING CARE OF YOU

PIC is very excited to welcome Anne Murray in a free, virtual presentation on "Taking Care of You". Save Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. to participate in this presentation.

Date: Wednesday, January 19, 2022

Time: 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Registration link: <https://www.dsbni.org/pic/speakerseries.html>

PARENT'S ROLE IN KEEPING SCHOOLS SAFE

As you are aware, all staff and students must self-screen every day before attending school. As part of our ongoing commitment to student safety, and as recommended by the Ministry of Education and Niagara Public Health, we added an active screening process that allows schools to verify if the daily school screening has been completed. Each day, if the student screener is not completed a follow up email will be sent to parents reminding them to complete it at that time. Everyone has a role to play in keeping families safe and reducing the spread of COVID-19. One of the most effective strategies is keeping COVID out of our schools and the daily COVID assessment is essential in achieving this goal. Please note that the DSBNI is not collecting any specific health data about students or the results of the screening. Our system only reports confirmation that the screening has or has not been completed.

[The Daily Screening Tool can be found by clicking here and using your child's login information to complete the screening process.](#) We thank you for your cooperation in completing the Daily Screening Tool each day.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our third Woodland School Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 25 @ 6:30 pm. Previous agendas and minutes are posted on the [Woodland web site](#). All minutes will be posted once they are approved. Our tentative schedule of meetings for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year is as follows:

- January 25, 2022 @ 6:30pm
- March 22, 2022 @ 6:30pm
- May 24, 2022 @ 6:30pm

New members are always welcome to join and meetings may be added if the need arises.

Save the Date | WEDNESDAY
JANUARY
19th
2022

6:30-7:00PM

Please join us for our
Virtual Information Night for families
considering French Immersion!

HOST SCHOOLS:
Central French Immersion Public School
Dalewood French Immersion Public School
McKay Public School
Princess Elizabeth Public School
Prince Philip French Immersion Public School

[Click here to register for the info night!](#)

JANUARY SPIRIT DAYS – JANUARY 14 AND JANUARY 28

Hang on to your hats and celebrate in style on National Hat Day. Celebrated each year on January 15th (we will celebrate on January 14th), don your favorite fedora, cap, cloche, derby, sunhat, toque, beanie or snapback. Dig out your ceremonial best and tell the story behind it.

On January 28, we challenge all students and staff to wear your Woodland gear or our school colour (red) to show your school pride!

FAMILY LITERACY DAY: LEARNING IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Family Literacy Day takes place every January 27th to raise awareness about the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family. Since 1999, thousands of schools, libraries, literacy organizations and other community groups have taken part in the initiative. ABC creates free learning and promotional resources for anyone that wants to get involved. Taking time every day to read or do a learning activity with children is crucial to a child's development, improving a child's literacy skills dramatically, and can help a parent improve their skills as well.

On January 27, we encourage your families to recognize this day 'Learning in the Great Outdoors'. Spending time in nature provides many benefits, not just for bodies, but for minds too. This year get outside and exercise both your mind and body together as a family. You can make outdoor time fun family learning time all while enjoying the wonders of Canada's Great Outdoors! [Click here are ideas from ABC Literacy on how to 'make outdoor time, fun family time'.](#)

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

With School Cash Online, you will be able to approve permission forms and make payments for 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. The link to School Cash Online can be found on the [Woodland Public School website](#).

IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES

Transportation and School Closures

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.dsb.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: both in-person and remote 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 it on 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.

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.

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.

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.dsbnschools.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 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.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM NIAGARA REGION PUBLIC HEALTH

Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter



COVID-19 UPDATE

Niagara Region Public Health recommends all eligible individuals be vaccinated against COVID-19.

For children 5 to 11 years of age, appointments can be booked for a COVID-19 vaccine at a child friendly Public Health clinic through the [provincial portal online](#) or by calling 1-833-943-3900. Additional information is available through [COVID-19 Vaccination in Children and Youth](#) webpage and fact sheets in [multiple languages](#).

Up-to-date information on COVID-19 and vaccine eligibility is available on Niagara Region Public Health's [website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). Public health professionals are available to answer any questions through the COVID-19 Info-line Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

- 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074, press 7
- [COVID-19 Info-Line wait times](#)
- [Chat online](#) in 90 different languages with auto-translate

The COVID-19 vaccination is the best line of defense for preventing the spread of COVID-19 in schools and protecting our entire community.

REPORTING VACCINATIONS FOR YOUR CHILD

Public Health works to protect your child in the event of an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease. Parents, legal guardians, or students aged 16 and over are responsible for reporting directly to Public Health. Even if your child's vaccinations are up-to-date, the information may not have been reported to Public Health. A vaccination record is either an immunization record (yellow card) or a valid exemption form.

Every time your child receives a vaccine, be sure to report it:

- Online at www.niagararegion.ca/vaccines
 - By phone: 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425
- OR
- Fax: 905-688-8225

[Find out which vaccinations are required and recommended](#) for children

attending school. Please note that at this time, we ask that you **do not** report any COVID-19 or influenza (flu) vaccination details.

Not sure if your child's vaccination records are up-to-date? Talk to your doctor or call the Vaccine Team at 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425.

Report your child's vaccines to Public Health

Health care providers do not do this for you.

niagararegion.ca/vaccines

Niagara Region

HELPING YOUTH COPE WITH SOCIAL ANXIETY

As COVID-19 restrictions loosen, social anxiety can be especially common in youth who may have felt socially isolated over the past year and a half. It is normal to occasionally feel shy, self-conscious or get nervous in social situations.

For example, it is perfectly normal to get the jitters before giving a speech. However, if your child has social anxiety, they might worry for weeks ahead of time, say they are sick to get out of it, or they may feel shaky or faint during the speech.

Signs of Social Anxiety:

- Blushing, sweating, dry mouth, rapid heartbeat, shaking, tightness in chest
- Avoiding social gatherings
- Avoiding eye contact
- Worrying excessively
- Refusing to go to school

If your child is experiencing social anxiety, and their nervousness persists, affects concentration, or causes panic, have connect them with a health care provider as soon as possible.

Useful Anxiety Resources:

- [How to talk to your Child about Anxiety](#)
- [Anxiety in Youth - Anxiety Canada](#)
- [Social Anxiety Disorder | CAMH](#)

KIDS IN THE KITCHEN

Looking for ways to engage your child in the kitchen while promoting their food skills and safety?

- Explore resources from *GrowingChefs! Ontario* for ways your child can learn and develop a healthy relationship with food [Homepage | Growing Chefs! Ontario \(growingchefsontario.ca\)](#)
- See [parent and family instructional videos](#) such as monthly kid-friendly recipes, kitchen safety tips and more!
- See other videos on the *Growing Chefs! Ontario* YouTube Channel [Growing Chefs! Ontario - YouTube](#)

Additional Resources:

- [Building healthy eating habits \(pdf\)](#)
- [Raising a healthy eater \(pdf\)](#)
- [Supporting your picky eater \(pdf\)](#)



MR. H's ARTISAN CARD CONTEST

DSBN Director of Education Warren Hoshizaki, or “Mr. H” as he is known as in schools, is giving students an opportunity to show off their skill and creativity by designing artisan cards.

WHAT'S AN ARTISAN CARD?

DSBN Artisan Cards commemorate what's special about the different months and events of the year. Each student entering the contest is asked to pick one month or an occasion and create a piece of artwork about what makes that month stand out. For example, September marks the start of the new school year, in June, many of our thoughts turn to summertime. Let your imaginations run wild and create artwork that will inspire and delight.

For inspiration, take a look at our days of significance calendar <https://www.dsbni.org/equity/days-of-significance-calendar>

HOW DO I ENTER?

SIMPLE!

- Create your artwork. It can be any medium you prefer, including digital, mixed media, or traditional drawings and paintings
- Bring it to your school along with a signed permission form

OR

- Take a clear photo of your artwork and permission form and email them to communications@dsbn.org

PLEASE NOTE:

Due to the volume of submissions, only *winning entries* will be returned.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I WIN?

Mr. H is a big believer in celebrating successes big and small. Students whose artwork is chosen to become an Artisan Card will be recognized at a virtual Board meeting on Tuesday, February 22, 2022. Where Mr. H and the Board of Trustees will congratulate students. A certificate and a package of printed cards featuring the winning artwork will be sent to each winner. Students will also be featured in a short video explaining their artwork.



Take a look at some previous winning art!



THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 2022



PERMISSION TO PARTICIPATE FORM

DSBN Director of Education Warren Hoshizaki, known as Mr. H in schools, would like to give students an opportunity to show off their skill and creativity by designing artisan cards. To enter, create a piece of artwork to commemorate a month of the year and what makes it special.

HOW TO ENTER:

- Create artwork
- Send your artwork to your child's school or email with permission form to: communications@dsbn.org

DEADLINE: MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 2022

SUBMISSION CRITERIA:

- All artwork must include a signed consent form (below)
- Submissions must be original DSBN student work
- Can be any medium: mixed media and digital artwork will be accepted
- Please note: Due to the volume of submissions, only winning entries will be returned

STUDENT RECOGNITION:

- Students will receive a set of their own cards that include their name, grade and school
- Students will be invited to be recognized at the virtual Board Meeting on February 22, 2022
- We will compile a short video with your child briefly explaining their artwork

Student Name (please print): _____

School: _____ **Grade:** _____

Title of Artwork: _____

Teacher's Name: _____

Consent: I hereby grant the District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) permission to use my child's artwork and to take photographs of my child and use their name for use in any and all media publication in connection with the above identified contest for such purposes as publicity, illustration, advertising, fundraising and web content. I also authorize DSBN to distribute my child's artwork to third parties for the purpose of accomplishing the goals described above.

I have read and understand the above and agree to the conditions outlined above.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____