

Issue # 1

September 2021



Williamsburg P.S.

WilliamsburgPS@ddsb.ca

The Williamsburg Connection

Message From the Office

Welcome back students and families for another wonderful school year at Williamsburg P.S. We send a warm welcome to new students and families in our community this year and know you will become a large part of our WPS family.

Over the summer we had a few additions and changes to the staff. We are pleased to welcome Ms. Telford to Grade 5, and Mrs. Binning and Mr. Haley to Grade 6. We also welcome Mrs. Greco who is the DECE working with Mrs. Jeffs in Room 108 and Ms. Patterson who is the DECE working with Mrs. Corry in Room 106.

Some good-byes are in order as well. Mrs. Watson and Mrs. Lyons have both moved onto other schools in the DDSB and there are not enough words to thank them for their years of dedication and support they gave to the students here at WPS. We wish them all the best at their new schools. And finally, we want to share that the Chief Custodian– Mr. Badgley, retired from the DDS as of July 31. We thank him as well for his years of service at the school and wish him all the best in his retirement.

We owe a great big thank you to the custodial staff– Ms. Whittaker, Mr. Green and Mr. McKinlay for their hard work this summer. The school looks amazing and is ready for our students. All of us appreciate the time and effort you took to make the school ready for another amazing year of learning and fun.

The last two pages of the newsletter contains information about the requirement to do a daily Covid symptom screening with your child(ren) before they leave for school in the morning. There is a link to the Ontario Covid screener that can be used. Please ensure that you are doing this each and every morning to help ensure safety for all here at WPS.

Finally, you will find information about the SCC on page 5 of the newsletter and a Nomination form is located on the last page. We hope to see new faces at our first SCC meeting this year.

Please be sure to stop by and introduce yourself when you are at school. Both Mrs. Kerr and I are looking forward to working with all families this year. We recognize the importance of having parents and guardians as our partners in education.

Have a great year everyone !

Ms. Spencer and Mrs. Kerr

Follow us @WPSwolves



Principal: Stephanie Spencer

Vice-Principal: Allison Kerr

Administrative Assistants: Jennifer Wilson

Lori Cicinelli

Chief Custodian: Laurie Whittaker (Acting Chief)

Superintendent of Education– Margaret Lazarus

Trustees: Niki Lundquist 289-404-9383

Christine Thatcher 905-425-0343

Scott Templeton 905-442-3566

2021-2022 Williamsburg Staff

FDK

Mrs. Bird (105)
Mrs. Corry and Ms. Patterson (106)
Mr. Anderson and Ms. Williams (107)
Mrs. Jeffs and Mrs. Greco (108)

Primary

Grade 1: Mrs. Manning (101)
Grade 1: Mrs. Price (102)
Grade 2: Mr. Roberts (103)
Grade 2/3: Mrs. Hawn (207)
Grade 2/3: Mr. Schoonderbeek (206)
Grade 3: Mrs. MacDonald (208)

Junior

Grade 3/4: Ms. Raveendran (203)
Grade 4: Ms. Phagoo (204)
Grade 4/5: Mr. Brdarovich (205)
Grade 5: Ms. Telford (202)
Grade 5/6: Mr. McGonigal (201)
Grade 6: Mrs. Binning (209)
Grade 6: Mr. Haley (211)

Junior/Intermediate School Support Class:

Mr. Thompson, Mr. Lee and Ms. Roach (210)

Intermediate

Grade 7: Mrs. Downey (212)
Grade 7: Ms. Lewis (215)
Grade 7/8: Mr. Tzountzouris (213)
Grade 8: Mr. Hawthorne (214)
Grade 8: Mr. Harlock (216)

SERT: Mrs. Shaddick and Mr. Pitcher

Teacher/Librarian: Ms. Plue

Coverage: Mr. McComb, Mrs. Rent, Mr. Winters

Flexible Support Educational Assistants:

Mrs. Michalewski

Administrative Assistants: Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Cicinelli

Chief Custodian: Ms. Whittaker

Evening Custodians: Mr. Green and Mr. McKinlay

Vice Principal: Mrs. Kerr

Principal: Ms. Spencer


Side by Side Family Centre

In partnership with the Durham District School Board, the [Side By Side Family Centre](https://www.sidebysidefamilycentre.org) will be supporting Black students ages 6-12 years old and their families in Durham Region to deliver highly targeted, community-based, and culturally relevant advocacy supports. This initiative was developed to identify and address systemic barriers to Black students' achievement, equity, and well-being. The aim is to increase positive relationships within the school system and better support Black students with successful transitions educational attainment and retention. The Student Family Advocate, Mr. Nicholas Barham, will provide advocacy support, pathway planning, culturally relevant mentorship programming, and anti-Black racism resources for teachers and administrators. Don't hesitate to get in touch with Mr. Barham at nicholasb@sbsfamilycentre.com or 647-405-0299.

Student and Family Advocate



HERE TO SUPPORT BLACK FAMILIES AND STUDENTS

AGES: 6-12
PICKERING, AJAX, WHITBY



- Newly identified students
- Questions about IEP or IPRC
- Managing School Contacts
- Needing Meeting support
- Pathway to success planning
- Anti Black Racism Support
- More

For more information Contact:
Nicholas Barham - Student and Family Advocate
E: Nicholasb@sbsfamilycentre.com P: 647-405-0299

Supported by Ministry of Children,
Community and Social Services

www.sidebysidefamilycentre.org

Orange Shirt Day

September, 30

Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission (SJM) residential school commemoration event held in Williams Lake, BC, Canada, in the spring of 2013. It grew out of the account of a young girl, Phyllis, having her shiny new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school at the Mission. This has provided us with an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential schools happening annually. The date was chosen because it is the time of year in which children were taken from their homes to residential schools, and because it is an opportunity to set the stage for the continued creation of a safe, equitable and inclusive school environment as the school year begins. Orange Shirt Day is also an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come.

On this day, we wear orange to remember the experiences of former students of Residential Schools and to commit to ongoing reconciliation.



Safe Schools Report Bullying Now

The DDSB works with its school communities to prevent bullying in our schools. Bullying is unacceptable.

Report Bullying Now was created to provide students, parents and community members the opportunity to report bullying at their school through the internet.

All DDSB school websites and the board's site have a button on them which reads "Report Bullying Now". Anyone can click on this link and report bullying.

At Williamsburg, we are committed to providing a positive school environment for everyone. Our staff implement a number of proactive strategies to prevent incidences of bullying. If bullying does occur, it is important that it is reported to school staff. The sooner trusted adults intervene, the more quickly situations can be resolved.



Anaphylaxis and Allergies

WPS has several children with allergies in classrooms throughout the school. As such, we are a Nut Aware building. Please read the information sent home by the classroom teachers if there are immediate concerns in your child's classroom. We are collecting updated medical information now from families to ensure our records are accurate. Staff do training each year to ensure all are familiar with emergency procedures and how to use Epi-Pens and Allerjects correctly. Do not hesitate to ask questions if you require further information. You can also check out Sabrina's Law on the DDSB web site.

STUDENT DROP OFF AND PICK UP

Thank you for following the procedures WPS has put in place for the safe arrival and dismissal of all students at the school. This is always a priority and during the pandemic new steps have been put in place to help us all remain safe. Please remember the only Kiss N Ride loop is located at the front of the school during morning arrival. Students can exit the vehicle, and then walk through the opening at the primary yard to go to their designated class line-up spot. At the end of the day, the loop is closed to allow parents/guardians to meet the primary students in that space to head home for the day. We thank everyone for wearing masks while on school property while continuing to practise physical distancing where possible,

VISITORS TO Williamsburg PS.

In normal times, visitors are always welcome at WPS. While we have extra Covid-19 measures in place, people in the school need to be limited for safety purposes. Please call the school to arrange a telephone meeting when needed. If meeting in person is required, we will set up an appointment for that. We look forward to the day— hopefully soon— where we can welcome all back into the building.

Picture Day is Coming!

*We are very excited to share that we have been informed that photo companies will be allowed to come back to schools this year for School Photo Days. Our day is scheduled for **September 28**. Due to Covid protocols, we are not able to have class group photos done at this time. All photos will be individual portraits. An email will be sent to families next week with more information.*

It will be wonderful to have updated pictures of our students this year.

Get ready to smile!!!



Bicycle Safety

Students are welcome to ride bikes to school in the nice weather. Please ensure bikes are locked up at the bike racks and helmets must be worn. Bikes must be walked on school property to keep everyone safe. We suggest scooters and skateboards be left at home and not brought to school.

LUNCH FACILITIES

Lunch research has clearly shown that it is healthier for students to go home for lunch, if at all possible. Children who stay at school for lunch are expected to behave in a courteous, respectful manner towards staff, supervisors and one another. Eating lunch at school is a privilege. Students who stay at school for lunch are not permitted to leave school property unless they have written permission from parents/guardians.



School Community Council

Calling all interested parents and guardians!

If you would like to work on the 2021-2022 School Community Council, please complete the nomination form on the last page and send it to Ms. Spencer. Please include: your name, your children's names and grades, your interests in serving on the council and your phone number.

The SCC helps to make WPS a better place for learning by discussing ideas with the administrators and running activities to raise funds for our school events.

Our first meeting will be Thursday October 7 at 6:30 pm. We look forward to welcoming new and returning members. We will continue to hold our SCC meetings again this year via Google Meet. Please email the school to request the link.



Terry Fox Run

The WPS community has a long standing tradition of participating in the annual Terry Fox Run that happens all across Canada to remember his legacy and support cancer research. Many of us have personal stories of the impact of cancer in our families and this is a way we can all contribute to the help find a cure.

We will join thousands of other schools for the Terry Fox Run on Wednesday September 29th. More information will be sent home over the next week.



News Flash

Lunch Room Supervisors Needed

The DDSB employs many people as lunchroom supervisors to ensure the safety of our students during the lunch hour.

We are in need of some people as **supply** lunchroom supervisors at WPS this year. If you are interested in applying for a position, please call Mrs. Wilson or Mrs. Cicinelli to receive and employment application package.

Foodless Celebrations!!

As we have numerous allergies in our school, it is difficult to celebrate holidays and events with cake and treats. A great way to recognize your child's birthday is to donate a book to his/her classroom with a nice inscription including his/her name and date!

Please refrain from sending in treats for the whole class for parties at holiday times as well. We will honor special events with Foodless Celebrations.

This also aligns with our current Covid-19 protocols where we are limiting items being brought in from homes to school.

We appreciate your support in this.



Student Accident Insurance

Providing safe learning environments is a strong and constant focus at the Durham District School Board. Families should however recognize that there is always a potential risk of injury with field trips, sports and other student activities both on and off school grounds. Accidents can happen, despite precautions to prevent them. Accidental injuries may involve medical, dental or other expenses not covered by provincial health care or employer group plans.

Please be aware that the Durham District School Board does not provide accident insurance coverage for student injuries. For your convenience, we do make available a Student Accident Insurance program through Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada. This program offers a variety of plans and benefits at affordable prices.

All rates are one-time annual premiums. The insurance agreement is between **you** and **Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada**. For complete details please refer to the *insuremykids Protection Plan* information/application form or visit their website at: www.insuremykids.com.

Any questions should be directed to Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada toll free at 1-800-463-5437.

Dates To for September

Sept 3-7	PA Day No school for students
Sept. 9	First Day of School
Sept. 28	School Picture Day
Sept. 29	School Terry Fox Run
Sept. 30	Orange Shirt Day
Oct. 11	Thanksgiving Holiday– schools are closed

School lunches and snacks that make the grade!



Vegetables and fruit are a quick and healthy solution for school snacks and lunches. Children like to eat foods they help to prepare. Involving your children in adding more vegetables and fruit to their own lunches can be fun, productive and healthy at the same time.

Healthy snacks have at least 2 of the 4 food groups and healthy lunches have at least 3 of the 4 food groups in Canada's Food Guide. Try to include at least one fruit or vegetable with every meal and snack.

Sample Ideas

	Day 1	Day 2
Snack (am)	Cucumber with low fat cheese cubes *	Strawberries with low-fat yogurt**
Lunch	Tuna on whole grain bread with an apple	Cooked chicken with veggies in a whole wheat pita
Snack (pm)	Banana with low fat yogurt** dip	Celery, mini carrots with hummus

*low-fat cheese (20% M.F. or less)

**low-fat yogurt (2% M.F. or less)



durham.ca

Information available in accessible formats.



"The beginning is the most important part of the work." Plato





Durham Region Health Department **Facts about...**



COVID-19 What to do if my child is sick and was not exposed to a known case?

All children, students, visitors, or staff must screen for COVID-19 every day before going to school or childcare. Use the school and childcare screening tool which can be found at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

The screening tool will let you know if your child should be attending school or childcare or not. It will also let you know if your child should isolate and get tested.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

Fever and/or chills

- Temperature of 37.8 degrees Celsius/100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher

Cough

- New or worsening (e.g. continuous, more than usual if chronic cough), including croup (barking cough, making a whistling noise when breathing)

Shortness of breath

- Out of breath, unable to breathe deeply, wheeze that is worse than usual if chronically short of breath (not related to other known causes or conditions such as asthma, chronic heart failure, etc.)

New decreased or loss of taste or smell

- Not related to other known causes or conditions (e.g. seasonal allergies, neurological disorders, etc.)

Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea

- Not related to other known causes or conditions (e.g. transient vomiting due to anxiety in children, irritable bowel syndrome, etc.)

over...

905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 | durham.ca/health

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.



What do I do if my child has symptoms?

If your child is sick, they should stay home. If they are having symptoms of COVID-19, they should be tested and isolate while awaiting test results or until they receive an alternative diagnosis from a health care provider.

Household members of the sick child are required to self isolate until the child receives a negative COVID-19 test result or are provided with an alternative diagnosis by a healthcare professional. However, if the household members are asymptomatic and fully vaccinated or previously positive within the past 90 days, they are not required to self isolate.

How can I get my child tested?

You can book an appointment for COVID-19 testing in Durham Region by completing the online assessment form at covidswab.lh.ca or <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/assessment-centre-locations>.

If any members of your household test positive for COVID-19, you will be contacted by Public Health directly with more detailed advice.

When can my child return to school or childcare?

If your child has not been exposed to COVID-19 and you get a negative result, or a known alternative diagnosis from a healthcare provider, they can return to school or childcare once fever free and symptoms are resolving for 24 hours or 48 hours for gastrointestinal symptoms (e.g. nausea, vomiting or diarrhea).

September 2, 2021

905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 | durham.ca/health

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.



VICTIM SERVICES OF DURHAM REGION
PRESENTS:

DOMESTIC SEX TRAFFICKING OF YOUTH DURING COVID-19: PARENTS & PREVENTION

Tuesday, September 21st, 2021

6:30 to 8:30 PM

Online via Zoom

REGISTER: [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/PPNSEPTEMBER](https://tinyurl.com/ppnseptember)

AN ONLINE WORKSHOP THAT EMPOWERS CAREGIVERS AND
COMMUNITY MEMBERS WITH PSYCHO-EDUCATION ON HUMAN
TRAFFICKING TO PREVENT YOUTH FROM BEING TRAFFICKED.

IN THIS SEMINAR, WE WILL:

- UNDERSTAND HOW HUMAN TRAFFICKING OCCURS IN DURHAM REGION
- LEARN HOW YOUTH CAN BE RECRUITED & LURED IN
- LEARN HOW COVID-19 HAS INCREASED YOUTH VULNERABILITY
- UNDERSTAND WHAT MAKES YOUTH VULNERABLE
- LEARN HOW TO IDENTIFY IF YOUTH ARE BEING TRAFFICKED
- UNDERSTAND WHAT ONLINE SAFETY IS & HOW TO IMPLEMENT IT
- LEARN HOW TO SPEAK TO YOUTH ABOUT THIS TOPIC
- HEAR FROM A SURVIVOR
- HEAR FROM THE PARENT OF A SURVIVOR

victimservicesdurham.ca
victimservices@drps.ca
(905) 721-4226
1 (888) 579-1520 ext. 3400
@vsdurhamregion

For questions and concerns, please email: jcusato@drps.ca



Williamsburg PUBLIC SCHOOL
School Community Council (SCC) Nomination Form 2021-2022

- A. ☐ I wish to declare my candidacy for an elected position as a parent/guardian representative on the School Community Council (SCC) for the 2021-2022 school year.

I am interested in the following executive positions(s):

<input type="checkbox"/> Chair	<input type="checkbox"/> Co-chair
<input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer	<input type="checkbox"/> Secretary
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Rep	

☐ Yes ☐ No I am an employee of the Durham District School Board.

- B. ☐ I am interested in participating in the School Community Council (SCC) as a member at large (not an elected, executive role).

☐ Yes ☐ No I am an employee of the Durham District School Board.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Business or Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

I am the parent/guardian of _____, who is currently a student of Williamsburg Public School.

- C. ☐ I wish to nominate _____ (parent of _____ at WPS to the executive position of _____. (SCC Executive roles are listed in the box).

Signature

Your Full Name Printed

Date

You will be notified when your nomination has been received by the school office. Thank you for your interest in holding an elected position within the SCC and for your involvement in your child(ren)'s school. Nomination forms are requested by September 29, 2021 by 3:00 p.m.

Nomination Form Receipt

The nomination form for parent/guardian representative on the School Community Council for

_____ at Williamsburg Public School
Parent/Nominee's Name

has been received by _____
Principal _____
Date