

Issue # 1

September 2022



**Williamsburg P.S.**

[WilliamsburgPS@ddsb.ca](mailto: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.

We are pleased to welcome back to staff Mrs. Gillespie and Mrs. Rojas who have worked at DDSB@Home these past few years and Mrs. Cook who worked in Programs at the Ed Centre last year.

Over the summer we had a few additions and changes to the staff. We are pleased to welcome Mr. Sheehan, Mrs. Hutchinson, Mrs. St. Jean, Ms. O'Reilly, Mrs. Currie and Mrs. Karagianis to our amazing team.

Some good-byes are in order as well. Mr. Haley has moved to another school and we thank him for being an important part of our team last year. We wish him well!

We owe a great big thank you to the custodial staff– Ms. Whittaker, Mr. Green, and Ms. Kirby 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.

We will be hosting a Welcome Back/Meet our Staff event on Wednesday September 21st. There will be a Scholastic Book Fair on site and school spirit wear will be on sale as well. Families will have an opportunity to visit classrooms and meet the staff. More details will be sent home next week with event times included.

The last page of the newsletter contains information about the requirement to do a daily Covid symptom screening with your child(ren) before 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. If your child is ill, please do not send them to school as per the updated guidelines sent by the Ministry of Health and CMOH.

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**

**Chief Custodian: Laurie Whittaker**

**Superintendent of Education– Stephen Nevills**

**Trustees: Niki Lundquist 289-404-9383**

**Christine Thatcher 905-425-0343**

**Scott Templeton 905-442-3566**

## 2022-2023 Williamsburg Staff

### FDK

Mrs. Greco and Mrs. St. Jean (105)  
Mrs. Corry and Mrs. Currie (106)  
Mr. Anderson and Mrs. O'Hara (107)  
Mrs. Rent and Mrs. Williams (108)

### Primary

Grade 1: Mrs. Manning (101)  
Grade 1: Mrs. Price (102)  
Grade 1/2: Mr. Roberts (103)  
Grade 2: Mr. Sheehan/Mrs. Jeffs (104)  
Grade 2/3: Mrs. A, MacDonald (208)  
Grade 3: Mrs. Hawn (207)  
Grade 3: Mr. Schoonderbeek (206)

### 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: Ms. O'Reilly (201)  
Grade 6: Mrs. Binning (209)  
Grade 6: Mrs. Hutchinson (211)  
Grade 6/7: Mrs. Rojas (212)

### Intermediate

Grade 6/7: Mrs. Rojas (212)  
Grade 7: Ms. Lewis (215)  
Grade 7/8: Mr. Tzountzouris (213)  
Grade 8: Mr. Hawthorne (214)  
Grade 8: Mrs. Cook (216)

### Junior/Intermediate School Support Class:

Mrs. Gillespie, Mr. Lee and Ms. Roach (210)

SERT: Mrs. Shaddick and Mr. Pitcher

ESL: Mrs. J. MacDonald

Teacher/Librarian: Ms. Plue

Coverage: Mr. McComb, Mr. Harlock, Mr. Winters, Mrs. Caryi, Mrs. J. MacDonald

Flexible Support Educational Assistants:

Mrs. Devlin and Mrs. Karagianis

Administrative Assistants: Mrs. Wilson

Lead Custodian: Ms. Whittaker


Evening Custodians: Mr. Green

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](#) 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](mailto: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](mailto:Nicholasb@sbsfamilycentre.com) P: 647-405-0299

www.sidebysidefamilycentre.org

Ontario  
Supported by Ministry of Children,  
Community and Social Services

# 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 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 all students to leave school property in a safe manner. Parents/guardians are welcome to meet their children on the school yard when they are dismissed from their classes.

## VISITORS TO Williamsburg PS.

Visitors are always welcome at WPS. We still have a few extra Covid-19 measures in place. If possible please call the school to arrange a telephone meeting when needed. If meeting in person is required, please come to the front door and press the buzzer and we will open the door. If you need to drop something off for your child, please follow the same procedure as above and we will deliver the item.

## Picture Day is Coming!

*We are pleased to welcome back Edge Imaging to take our school photos for the 2022-2023 school year. Our school photo day is scheduled for **September 28**. 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!!!*

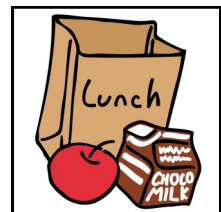


## Bicycle Safety

**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 2022-2023 School Community Council, please complete the nomination form that will be sent home with students and send it back to school 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 Wednesday September 28th 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 23rd . More information will be sent home over the next few weeks.



## **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 and possible full-time. If you are interested in applying for a position, please call Mrs. Wilson 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. There are many different ingredients in foods and some are not always listed. We want our students to be safe while here at WPS. 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.

We appreciate your support in this.



# 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.

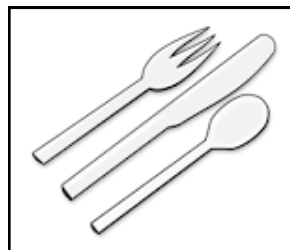
On this day, we wear orange to remember the experiences of former students of Residential Schools and to commit to ongoing reconciliation.



## Water Bottles and Cutlery

As many of you know, Canada is moving toward the removal of single-use plastic products to help protect the environment. Sourcing plastic spoons and forks is getting more difficult and we can't always provide them if students forget their utensils. Please do your best to ensure utensils are packed in lunch bags for students to use when eating lunch and snacks at school.

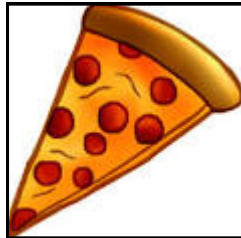
Staying hydrated at school is a must to do our best learning at school. All students are encouraged to bring water bottles to school every day. We have water bottle filling stations on both floors of the school and students are welcome to replenish whenever needed.





## School Pizza Lunch is back

We are pleased to be able to provide pizza lunch again this year as a school fundraiser. We will hold them on Thursdays, with our first one being Thursday September 29th. Orders will be placed via School Cash On-Line beginning Monday September 12th. We will provide cheese, cheese and pepperoni and students will have the choice to order a juice box as well. We appreciate the support for our students and the various school initiatives we provide for them this year.



## Popcorn and Cookie Sales at Lunch

Students will be able to purchase cookies and popcorn at lunch again this year. Both products are ordered through Healthy Selections. The cookies are peanut free and the popcorn is dairy and gluten free as well. Items are \$1/each and will be sold on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays beginning on Monday Sept. 12th. Students may only buy items for themselves and not classmates to ensure they are eating what is sent from home each day. This is another school fundraiser and proceeds are used to support events at school and to purchase resources as needed.



## Dates To for September

Aug.31-Sept. 1	PA Day No school for students
Sept. 6	First Day of School
Sept. 21	WPS Welcome Back Event
Sept. 23	School Terry Fox Run
Sept. 28	SCC meeting at 6:30 pm
Sept. 29	First School Pizza Lunch
Sept. 30	Orange Shirt Day
Oct. 10	Thanksgiving Holiday– schools are closed
Oct. 24	PA Day– no school for students



## 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](http://durham.ca)

Information available in accessible formats.



“Learning is treasure that will follow its owner everywhere.” Proverb

## Updated COVID-19 Guidelines

The government's new COVID-19 guidance is being applied province-wide including in school settings and has been modified as we enter the respiratory illness season this fall. Some key highlights include:

- If you are in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, continue to self-monitor for symptoms. There is no longer a need to isolate but the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario indicates that you should wear a mask for 10 days when in public.
- **If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 such as fever, cough, or runny nose, stay home from school, work and social events until your fever is gone and symptoms are improving, get a rapid antigen test or, if eligible, a PCR test.**
- After any self-isolation period (COVID-19 symptoms or a positive test result), individuals and their household contacts should continue to wear a well fitted mask for 10 days in the following situations:
  - all public settings including at school;
  - avoid non-essential activities where mask removal is necessary (e.g., playing a wind instrument, high contact sports where a mask cannot be safely worn, etc.); and
  - avoid non-essential visits to high-risk individuals (e.g. immunocompromised individuals, seniors, etc.) and settings (e.g. hospitals and long-term care homes).

The [COVID-19 screening tool](#) has been updated to include additional symptoms as we enter the respiratory illness season.

As a reminder to those already in school and those attending for the first-time next week, we would like to remind families to:

- Monitor students for symptoms associated with COVID-19 and other illnesses. Please ensure that you complete the [daily self-screening](#). **Do not send your child to school if they are sick.**
- Self-report absences due to positive COVID-19 test results through [SchoolMessenger](#). Statistics from the previous day will continue to be updated on the [DDSB website](#). Schools will continue to notify families via e-mail of a self-reported positive COVID-19 case in classrooms.

More information on return-to-school and FAQs can be found on our [Return to School Website](#)