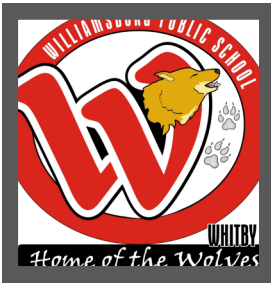


Issue # 1

September 2023



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 community.

We owe a great big thank you to the custodial staff– Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Green, and Mr. Careford 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 thank our amazing educators for their hard work the week of Aug. 28th, in coming to school to prepare their classrooms and planning for the arrival of the students.

We will be hosting a Welcome Back/Meet our Staff event on Wednesday October 4th. There will be a Scholastic Book Fair on site for you to browse for wonderful books and fun items. Families will have an opportunity to visit classrooms and meet the staff. More details will be sent home in the coming week with event times included.

School organization and class placements are on-going at this time. We are still experiencing new registrations and we will continue to place our new students into classrooms. Last year, we received additional staffing in mid-September due to increased enrolment and we anticipate this may happen again this year which will necessitate a reorganization of classes and student placements. At that time of reorganization, we will consider requests for class placement changes. Please remember that there are many factors that are considered when we build classes and not all requests can be accommodated. We have an amazing staff and WPS and students benefit from excellent instruction and guidance in all classrooms.

Please make note of the map on the last page of this newsletter that highlights the Kiss N Ride loop at the back of the school and the bus loop at the front of the school which is for buses only this year. Kiss N Ride is only open for arrival in the morning to expedite student arrival to class. Town of Whitby By-Law officers will also continue to monitor parking on the street to ensure school buses can enter the school parking lot.

Please be sure to stop by and introduce yourself when you are at school. We 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. Johnson

Follow us @WPSwolves



Principal: Stephanie Spencer

Vice-Principal: Trish Johnson

Administrative Assistants: Amira Azar

Jodi Brawn

Lead Custodian: Kyle Montgomery

Superintendent of Education– Stephen Nevills

Trustees: Michelle Arseneault 905-391-4201

Tracy Brown 905-706-6523

Christine Thatcher 905-425-0343

2023-2024 Williamsburg Staff

FDK

Mrs. Greco/Ms. Rizos (101)
Ms. Paulino/Ms. Joudrey (102)
Ms. Sali/Ms. Neely (103)
Mrs. Williams/ (104)
Ms. Borthwick/ Ms. O'Hara (105)
Mrs. Corry/ Mrs. St. Jean (106)
Mr. Anderson/Mrs. Millar (107)
Mrs. Rent/ Mrs. Soule (108)

Primary

Gr. 1 Mrs. Manning (204)
Gr. 1 Mrs. Byers-Slemon (112)
Gr. 1 Mrs. Price (205)
Gr. 1/2 Mrs. Jeffs (206)
Gr. 2 Mr. Robert (Portable 2)
Gr. 2/3 Mrs. Hawn (207)
Gr. 3 Mr. Schoonderbeek (Portable 1)
Gr. 2/3 Mrs. A. MacDonald (Portable 3)
Gr. 3 Ms. Phagoo (Portable 4)

Junior

Gr. 3/4 Ms. Raveendran (203)
Gr. 4 Mr. Brdarovic (Library)
Gr. 4 Ms. Heaney (201)
Gr. 5 Ms. Telford (2022)
Gr. 5 Mrs. Rojas (210)

Gr. 5/6 Mrs. Hutchinson (208)

Gr. 6 Mrs. Binning (209)

Intermediate

Grade 6/7: Mr. Sheehan (211)
Grade 7: Mrs. Petre (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
SERT: Mrs. Shaddick and Mr. Pitcher
Teacher/Librarian: Ms. Plue
Coverage: Mrs. J. MacDonald, Mr. McComb, Mr. Harlock, Mr. Winters, Ms. O'Reilly
Flexible Support Educational Assistants:
Mrs. Devlin and Mrs. Doran
Administrative Assistants: Ms. Azar
Mrs. Brawn
Lead Custodian: Mr. Montgomery
Evening Custodians: Mr. Green, Mr. Careford
Vice Principal: Mrs. Johnson
Principal: Ms. Spencer

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.

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. **The front of the school driveway is for Buses Only.** Please remember the only **Kiss N Ride loop is located at the back 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. 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 2023-2024 school year. Our school photo day is scheduled for **October 23rd**. 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!!!

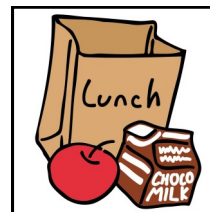


Bicycle Safety

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.



Return to School

Return to school information and frequently asked questions applicable to all DDSB schools are available on the DDSB website:

- [Return to school webpage](#)
- [Frequently asked questions](#)

This information covers a variety of topics including returning to school, technology, enrollment, inclusive student services, and much more. As always, our school's office is also here to assist you, but we hope this FAQ will be able to answer many of your questions that come up throughout the school year in advance of needing to reach out.

Pack a Safe Lunch

- ✓ Keep cold foods cold
- ✓ Keep hot foods hot
- ✓ Follow school policies on food allergies



For more information, or to receive a copy of the "Pack a Safe Lunch" pamphlet, call Durham Health Connection Line at 1-800-841-2729.



durham.ca/health



HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

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

Tips to Reduce Screen Time

Did you know? Recreational screen time should be no more than 2 hours a day for kids aged 5-17 years. Reducing screen time can improve learning, attention, language and social skills, self-confidence and overall health.

Also, reducing screen time to less than 2 hours a day allows more time for being physically active!

Use these tips to reduce screen time in your home:

- Be a role model! Limit your own media use
- Set limits and track screen time with a scheduling sheet
- Designate one day a week or month as a "screen-free day" for the whole family
- Prepare a list of active indoor or outdoor activities as an alternative to screen time
- Turn the television off and put away electronic devices during meals
- Remove televisions, computers and game consoles from your child's bedroom
- Just let them play...outside!



HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

durham.ca/physicalactivity



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

School Community Council

Calling all interested parents and guardians!

If you would like to work on the 2023-2024 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. It has been a few years since we have had a full-time SCC and we look forward to a positive turnout this year.

Our first meeting will be Wednesday October 11th at 6:30 pm. We look forward to welcoming new and returning members. We will hold our SCC meetings in person at the school .



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 Friday September 22nd . 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 Ms. Azar 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.

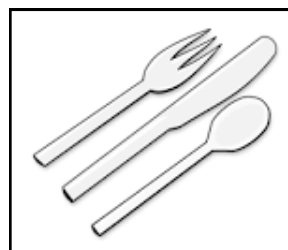
On this day, we wear orange to remember the experiences of former students of Residential Schools and to commit to ongoing reconciliation. As Sept. 30th is a Saturday, we will recognize this day at WPS on Friday Sept. 29th.



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 Tuesdays, with our first one being Tuesday September 26th. Orders will be placed via School Cash On-Line beginning Wednesday September 13th. We will provide cheese, cheese and pepperoni and students will have the choice to order a juice box as well. Prices will increase slightly this year due to an increase from Domino's. We appreciate the support for our students and the various school initiatives we provide for them this year.



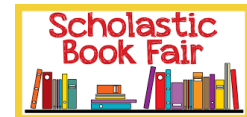
Welcome Back to School Event at WPS

Mark Your Calendars!

This year, we are holding our official Welcome Back/Meet the WPS Staff event on Wednesday October 4th from 5:30-7 pm. We hope any class reorganizations will be done by that point and you can spend time in the correct classrooms meeting the teachers your children will have for the year.

We will host the Scholastic Book Fair in the gym that evening as well which is fun and serves as a fundraiser for the school librarian to add more resources to our collection.

More details will be sent in the coming weeks!



Dates To for September

Aug.31	PA Day No school for students
Sept. 5	First Day of School
Sept. 22	Terry Fox Run
Sept. 26	First Pizza Day
Sept. 29	Orange Shirt Day observed at school
Sept. 30	Orange Shirt Day
Oct. 4	Welcome Back to School Event
Oct. 5	Area Cross Country Meet
Oct. 6	PA Day-
Oct. 11	First SCC Meeting @6:30 pm
Oct. 18	Family Fitness Night



Choose water first!

Sugary drinks are the main source of added sugar in the daily diet of children and youth. Examples of drinks with added sugar include pop/soft drinks and fruit flavoured drinks. Unsweetened fruit juice also has a lot of naturally occurring sugar. Too many sugary drinks can lead to tooth decay, weight gain, and obesity.

Parents can help to reduce the amount of sugary drinks children and youth consume by:

- Role modeling healthy eating behaviours such as drinking water during the day.
- Replacing sugary drinks at meals and snacks with water
- Sending children and youth to school with a refillable water bottle.
- Encouraging children and youth to eat whole vegetables and fruits instead of drinking juice.

For more information please visit durham.ca/healthyeating.



durham.ca/health



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

"New beginnings always start in the here and now." Richelle Goodrich

Parking Map for Bus Loop and Kiss 'N Ride

