



# What's Up at Westi?

Westminster Public School



September, 2021



Check out our Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/WestiWildcats>

## Parent Council Corner

We are always looking for new voices— the more ideas and input, the better. Our first School Council meeting is October 12th at 7pm. It will be a virtual meeting using the TEAMS platform in which we will be discussing executive positions for the 2020-2021 school year (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer). If you have an interest in holding an executive position on School Council, please send in your intent to run for a position by email to [jennifer.moore@ucdsb.on.ca](mailto:jennifer.moore@ucdsb.on.ca) by September 30th. If you would like to be a voting member of School Council, we would love to see you as well. Please let us know if you would like to join a dynamic team of parents who are interested in collaborating to improve and celebrate the student experience here at Westminster PS! This year we will be hoping for a parent representative from each classroom.

Our first virtual Parent Council meeting will be Tuesday October 12th 7pm  
Please contact the school to receive your TEAMS invitation.

Information on how to sign up for "My Family Room" so that you can receive emails and calendar updates from us can be found at the following link:

[http://www.ucdsb.on.ca/for\\_families/my\\_family\\_room](http://www.ucdsb.on.ca/for_families/my_family_room)



## STEO

If you have questions about your child's transportation, please contact "Student Transportation of Eastern Ontario" at:

[www.steo.ca](http://www.steo.ca) or 1-855-925-0022



## Health Unit E-Bits

**COVID-19 School Screening:** Complete the [school screening tool](#) every day to decide whether or not your child should be attending school, and for help on what to do next. For advice, you are also welcome to call the Health Unit's school/parent phone line at 1-866-236-0123.

**Mental Health Resources for the Return to School:** School will be different again this year, and change can be hard. Supporting our children's mental health is important. Check out this [Back to School Mental Health Toolkit](#). It has lots of resources, as well as 6 great tips for supporting your child mental health this fall. [School Mental Health Ontario](#) also has tips on how you can help your child feel confident and know what to expect for the return to school.

## Message from Administration –

J. Moore/J. Purvis

Welcome back Wildcats to our new year of learning!

The transition back to school has gone very smoothly. All the students are excited to be back learning alongside their friends. We are looking forward to sharing an amazing year of new learning opportunities.

Please reach out to our team if you have any questions. We would love to hear from you!

## Westminster is Nut Free and Scent Aware!

We would like to remind you that our school has students and/or staff with nut allergies. We kindly ask that you do not send products that contain nuts. There are food suppliers who are marketing peanut-free products that look, taste, and smell like peanut butter. These peanut butter substitute products can cause confusion and create an unsafe environment for our students and staff that are peanut anaphylactic. Therefore, due to the difficulty in differentiating between peanut butter and a peanut butter substitute, we do not allow these products in our school.

We have staff and students who are very sensitive to perfumes and scents. Please be scent aware to help

us keep our school community healthy!



Go, Wildcats!

## Student Information Verification, Walking Excursion and Media Release Forms

The information contained on these forms is **vital** if it becomes necessary to contact you in case of an emergency involving your child. Please review all information on the Student Information Verification Form for accuracy, make necessary changes and return it to your child's homeroom teacher. Also included is the Walking Excursion Form to allow students to walk off school property within a 2km distance, supervised by their teacher and the Media Release Form. All of these documents **must be completed, signed, dated and returned** to the school by:

**Monday, September 20, 2021.**



### Terry Fox

Our Terry Fox run/walk will take place on September 29th. Students will be participating in this activity within their classroom cohort. At this time we will not be able to collect money, if you would like to donate please visit:

<http://www.terryfox.ca/WestminsterPSBrockville>

### Masks/Hand Hygiene

Masks are required for all students from grades 1-6. Students in kindergarten are strongly encouraged to wear masks. Students will be taught how to store their masks as well as proper hand hygiene.



### Arrival/Dismissal

**Bus Students Arrival:** At 9:25 am, bus students will unload and wait to be supervised off the bus and into the school

#### Beginning of Day - Procedures for Drop Off and Walkers for Arrival

- Vehicles are NOT allowed to park in the Westminster Parking Lot
- Drivers are NOT to be exiting their vehicles
- If you would like to, or need to walk your child to the line or stand with them – you need to park off-site – we suggest the park parking lot to the east of the school
- Students are to be dropped off to staff in an orange vest (usually Mr. Purvis who is supervising the drop off and parking lot beginning at 9:10 am). This does take a little longer, but helps ensure student safety and organization of movement
- There is only a single lane of traffic – vehicles are NOT allowed to pass or drive through pylon dividers
- We strongly encourage parents and guardians to wear masks as you drop off and/or pick up your child(ren).
- At 9:25 am, students will be welcomed through the walker gate, one at a time and will be directed by staff to the appropriate entrance door for their class. Please do not arrive too early, as we are not able to have students on the yard before 9:25 am.

#### End of Day – Pick Up and Dismissal

- Parents who are picking up their child(ren) **must park offsite – the parking lot will also be closed to all traffic during dismissal to ensure the safety of students, parents and staff**
- Walkers not being picked up by a parent or guardian will be brought to the parking lot by staff and will line up socially distanced along the fence and dismissed at 3:50 pm
- Staff will be walking their classes out to pick-ups in the parking lot and doing hand offs directly to parents. Parents are to find the class number (which is posted on the fence) for their youngest child and wait there (socially distanced) for their child(ren) to be dropped off

### Orange Shirt Day

September 30th has been declared Orange Shirt Day annually to commemorate the residential school experi-

ence, to witness and honour the healing journey of the survivors and their families, and to commit to the on-going process of reconciliation.

We hope to have all our students join us in wearing an orange shirt that day. All our students will have the opportunity that day to listen to Christy Jordan-Fenton, author of Indigenous Children's Books.

