



Westminster Public School

Principal: J. Moore

Acting Vice Principal: C. Forrest



September, 2023



If your child has a **life threatening** condition, please ensure that you have communicated with Mrs. Morrison in the Office. We will complete a Plan of Care for your child. Medication can only be administered with signed paperwork from the Office and doctor.

Parent Council Corner

We are always looking for new voices—the more ideas and input, the better. Our first School Council meeting is September 19th. It will be a virtual meeting using the TEAMS platform in which we will be discussing executive positions for the 2023-2024 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 jen-nifer.moore@ucdsb.on.ca by September 12th. 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!

Our first virtual Parent Council meeting will be Tuesday September 19th at 6pm. 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/programs/Pages/MyFamilyRoom.aspx>

DAILY SCHEDULE

9:30 School Starts
12:00-12:40 Lunch/Recess
2:00-2:30 Recess
3:40-3:50 Dismissal Time

Essential Items to Bring to School

Water Bottle (all students require a water bottle to use our water bottle filling stations).

Lunch Kit/Backpack (we focus on litter-less lunches)

Indoor Shoes (please label all items sent to school)

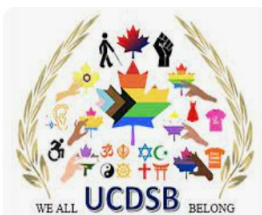
STEO

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

1-855-925-0022.



Go, Wildcats!



Health Unit E-Bits

Positive Parenting: Pay attention to how the start of school is going with your child or youth. Encourage conversation. Try asking questions such as: Who are you looking forward to seeing tomorrow? What is one thing you're hoping to do this week? How are you feeling about school today? What's one thing that made you excited today? Is there anything from today that makes you a little worried? Talk about what makes them feel uncertain and also what they might look forward to for the week. As feelings can change from day to day, do regular check-in's with your kids. For parenting tips and suggestions, call 1-800-660-5853, email triplep@healthunit.org or visit www.triplep-parenting.ca. Parenting matters!

Do you have younger children who haven't started school yet? Is their speech and language development on track? Children need a variety of skills, including communication and play skills, to be able to participate, learn, and have fun at school. They start learning these skills when they are babies and toddlers. The Language FREE assessExpress Preschool Speech and Language Program provides ment and therapy services for children from birth to JK in Lanark, Leeds, and Grenville. We can help you to be sure your child is on track. Don't wait! Go to our website www.language-express.ca for milestone checklists or to complete the online Communication Checkup. If your child is missing any of the expected skills call us or make an online referral through the Communication Checkup. Children born in 2020 must be referred by Sept. 1st, 2024. Parents can refer or get more information by calling 1-888-503-8885.

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!



Verification Forms

Student Information

Verification/Excursion/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 Excursion Form to allow students to walk off school property within a 2km distance, supervised by their teacher and the Media Release Form. These documents **must be signed, dated and returned** to the school by:

Monday, September 11, 2023.



Our Terry Fox run/walk will take place on September 22nd. We will be collecting "Toonies for Terry" to donate to the foundation.

Upcoming Dates

- Hot Lunch will begin in October
- School Open House September 14th from 5:30-6:30pm
- Book Fair in September 13th to 15th (open for parents on the open house evening)
- National Truth and Reconciliation Day Sept. 30th

Check out our Facebook page at:

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

Arrival/Dismissal Procedure

Bus Students Arrival: At 9:25 am, bus students will unload and 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 (this is to support student safety during these times)
- Drivers are NOT to be exiting their vehicles (duty teacher will assist with helping your child out of the vehicle)
- 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 Mrs. Forrest who is supervising the drop off and parking lot beginning at 9:20 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
- 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 since there is no supervision before this time.**
- Late Arrivals must report to the office to sign in.

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 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.

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 ongoing 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 be engaged in learning opportunities around Indigenous Education.

