



What's Up at Westi?



Westminster Public School



October, 2023



Check out our Facebook page at:

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

Parent Council Corner

Council held their first meeting on September 19th. The first order of business was organizing a fresh fruit and vegetable fundraiser. The funds help bring guest speakers, special activities into the school, as well as supports with transportation costs to various events for our students. Next Meeting is October 23rd at 6pm via TEAMS.

Message from Administration

J. Moore/C. Forrest

We have had a very successful transition back to school. Students are back into routine and there is great learning happening within our classrooms.

Teachers have been busy conducting baseline assessment data for each student to plan for literacy and numeracy instruction. These assessments will allow them to target skills that each child needs to succeed.

Our focus is on students' mental and emotional well-being. These are as essential as meeting their academic needs. I feel we are meeting this goal as we see happy students and engaged learners.

It was wonderful to see so many families at the open house. Our students enjoyed sharing with you the engaging learning environment they are part of each day and showing off all the new changes to our building that happened over the summer months.

We will be celebrating Halloween Tuesday October 31st at school. Watch for more information to come from the classrooms in the coming weeks. Reminder if any food items are sent in that we are an allergy safe school! Check with the teacher before sending items in to ensure everyone's safety.

HALLOWEEN

STEO

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

1-855-925-0022

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

We will not be posting bus cancellations or when a bus is running late on our Facebook page. It is important that you sign up for notifications about your bus through the STEO website. You will receive the most accurate and up-to-date notifications through their system.



Health Unit E-Bits

Dental Screening is Back! The Health Unit's Oral Health Team will be providing dental screening at all elementary schools in Leeds, Grenville & Lanark during the 2023-2024 school year. At a minimum, dental screening will be offered to all JK, SK, and Grade 2 students. Watch for more information about school dental screening and when we plan to attend your child's school. If your child has urgent needs before this time, and it would be a financial hardship to cover the cost of dental treatment, contact the Oral Health Team to learn more about the Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO) program. Call 1-800-660-5853 or visit: [Healthy Smiles Ontario - Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit](#)

Walktober is almost here! October is Walk to School Month. While the weather is still nice, consider walking your children to school instead of driving. This will create less traffic and pollution around the school contributing to safer school zones. Live too far away from the school? Try parking a block away from the school and walking the rest of the way. The active journey outside can reduce stress, depression, and anxiety, increase happiness and supports healthy brain development in children. You may also create some great memories with your kids along the way. For more information on active school travel and safety tips visit: [Active School Travel - Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit](#)

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!



Feeding the Community

We are collecting food for our local food bank. Bring in non-perishable items to help us fill the boxes in our front foyer. October 2nd—6th.

Health and Safety

Fire Prevention Week coming up in October.

We have had our 2 Fire Drill practices in September and will complete our last one during fire prevention week with the fire fighters here to watch us. Students will be focused on learning about fire safety during the fire prevention week.

A lockdown drill will be happening in October as well, as per Ministry requirements under safe schools.

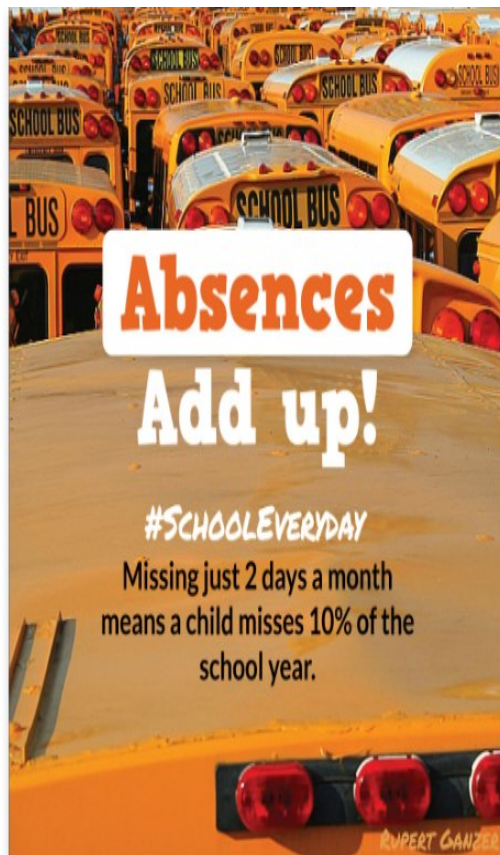
If your child has a life threatening condition, please ensure that you have communicated with Mrs. Morrison in the Office. We will complete a Plan of Care for your child. Medication can only be administered with signed paperwork from the Office and doctor.



Please use the cross walks during arrival and dismissal times. We have amazing crossing guards that are there to keep people safe! Central is a very busy road and we want to ensure everyone's safety during these busy times of day.

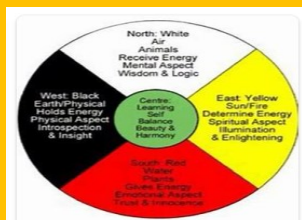
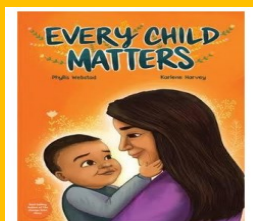


Attendance Matters



National Truth and Reconciliation Day is September 30th. There will be an event at Hardy Park that families can take part in.

At school we will be holding an Orange Shirt Day on September 29th. Our students will be engaging in many different learning opportunities this week around Indigenous education and exploring some new resources.



National Day for Truth and Reconciliation will be honoured at Hardy Park on Saturday, September 30th from 10:00-4:00. All are welcome to join to reflect on the legacy of residential schools, the 94 Calls to Action, and the findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. They will have a fire keeper, finger weaving, drumming, medicine wheel teaching, the Kawartha Reconciliation Quilt, traditional foods and several vendors. This event is sponsored by the Brockville NDTR Committee, Tsi Kanonhkhwatsheri:yo IIPCT, RTO District #48 and the Brockville Public Library.

Weather is changing and the days are growing colder. Please remember to encourage your children to dress appropriately for the weather to ensure they stay dry and warm during our fun outdoor play time each day.



SEPT 30

NATIONAL DAY
FOR TRUTH AND
RECONCILIATION

