



February 2024 Newsletter Westminster Public School



Principal Message

As we welcome in February, we are also looking forward to the second half of the school year. It's amazing how quickly time races by and that the year is more than half over! It just goes to show you that being as busy as we have been here at Westminster with learning, playing, and recess clubs that time passes by quickly. The kids are having fun at Anime Club, Chess, Checkers and Card Club, Talking Club, Leadership Club, Equity/Inclusion Club, Yoga Club and intramurals. The junior volleyball teams have been practicing for their tournament day at BCI on February 13th and our students involved in the musical production of Beauty and the Beast, plus our winter talent show are practicing daily to prepare for the big performances.

Report Card – Feb 15th

Report cards go home on Feb. 15th and will reflect the learning from September until the end of 1st term. If you have any questions about your child's progress, please reach out to the teachers. The most important thing you can do to support your child's success and academic growth is to keep continuous communication with your child's classroom teachers, discuss your child's learning with them at home and read daily with them.

JK/K Registration ~

For new junior kindergarten students, we are now accumulating names for next year. If you have a child or know of someone who expects to start school in September, please let the office know.

You can register two ways: **Online: myfamilyroom.ca** **By phone: 613 345 5552**

We look forward to welcoming new students and being part of their educational journey.



Kindergarten Open House will be April 11th 5:00-6:30pm

Valentines ~ Feb 14th

If your child(ren) would like to bring in Valentines for their classmates, reach out to your teachers for specific details. If you want to bring in treats to share with the class, please ensure they are store bought, pre-packaged and peanut free. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the office at 613-345-5552.



Parent Council Update:

Thank you for the wonderful support with the fundraisers we have done so far this year. We raised \$2843.75 to support our children in lowering costs of field trips they are involved in and supporting extra special activities for all our students.

Next Parent Meeting is Feb 26th at 6pm. If you would like to attend, please reach out to the school or the Chair of council: Brodie Church. We will be starting to plan the fun family event that will take place in June for our students and their families. Our council also put in a proposal for a pro-grant with the Ministry of Education to give us some funding to host a literacy night here for parents. If our proposal gets accepted, we are hoping to hold this event in May.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

UCDSB schools make efforts throughout the year to celebrate the valuable contributions of all Canadians. The communities that we serve are more diverse than ever before and it is very important that all students, staff and families see themselves reflected in our schools and school curriculum.

February is Black History Month across Canada. Our students will be celebrating Black History Month in many different ways. Here are some things you can do at home:

- Read books, graphic novels and poetry by Black authors
- Learn the history of Black History Month (check out www.cbc.ca/kids)
- Watch the Heritage Minutes stories of Chloe Cooley, Jackie Shane and Richard Pierpoint on Histoica Canada (www.historicacanada.ca/heritageminutes)



Inclement Weather ~

For the 2023-2024 school year when school transportation is cancelled...Announcements regarding the cancellation of school bus and special vehicle transportation will be made no later than 6:15 a.m.

Parents/guardians and students can verify if buses are cancelled by accessing:

1. STEO's website at www.steo.ca and clicking on the link "Bus Delays or Cancellations."
2. STEO's free Bus Planner App for your Apple or Android device. Use the access code STEO.
3. STEO's Parent Portal for email updates on delays and cancellations (alerts) specific to your child's transportation. Visit www.steo.ca and scroll down to PARENT PORTAL LOGIN to create an account.
4. STEO [Facebook page](#) or on Twitter @STEO_news and @steocancels
5. STEO's inclement weather hotline at 866-629-0629 (updated no later than 6:15 a.m.)
6. UCDSB Social media platforms, including the school district Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/UCDSB>), Twitter (@UCDSB), and Instagram (@uppercanadaDSB), as well as the Facebook page of your child's school.
7. Parents registered with My Family Room will receive bus cancellations through their preferred communication, email, text message or telephone. If you are not signed up for My Family Room, you can do so here: <https://myfamilyroom.ca/>

Please do not call the bus companies directly for inclement weather cancellation updates, as the STEO website will reflect the most accurate information. Winter weather conditions can change suddenly. If roads become impassable during the school day, or if they are judged to be too risky, students will be kept at school until either their parents/guardians can pick them up or it becomes safe to resume school vehicle transportation.

Health Unit News

February 17th is Random Acts of Kindness day. To celebrate, consider visiting www.randomactsofkindness.org for easy, practical ways to help you make kindness the norm at home and in the community. Resources are FREE, including a kindness calendar, quotes, videos, posters, grab and go games and more!

Physical Activity Outdoors. The positive effects of physical activity are increased when it is done outdoors in nature. According to [ParticipACTION](#), being active outside can boost mood, increase energy, decrease stress and anxiety, increase physical activity and more! To enjoy the outdoors this winter and avoid cold injuries, remember to [dress for the weather](#) and learn [how to prevent frostbite and hypothermia](#).