



Williamson Road Public School / Newsletter



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October 2009
www.24willy.com

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Community Spirit!

We are off to a great start, already working at achieving some of our goals for a successful year. We will continue our focus on “Community” in the following 4 key areas:

Community of Learners – continued focus on student success, working towards common goals, opportunities to bring students together through curricular activities as well as special interest groupings.

Professional Learning Community – continued collaboration amongst all teachers, sharing of ideas, best teaching practices, sharing of resources, team planning, , coaching, team teaching .

Community Partnerships – engaging parents through invitation and opportunities to celebrate your children’s achievements and successes, providing relevant information regarding program choices, volunteers in the classroom, increasing opportunities for all members of the community to share important events, celebrations and information.

Global Community – focus on citizenship and social responsibility, healthy living, Life in Action fundraising initiatives and outreach opportunities.

Our community focus has already begun with all of our students participating in the Thanksgiving Food Bank drive, collecting non-perishable items for those less fortunate. As you will discover in this newsletter, our professional learning community of teachers has also begun their collaborative work, creating learning communities in their classrooms that emphasize our focus on student success and the continuation of our Professional Book Club which has grown to include 16 teachers this year. As well, our Eco Schools committee, made up of teachers and parents, has begun implementing “Green” initiatives throughout the school including Boomerang Lunches.

Our “Welcome to Willy Evening” on September 23rd was a great success. A special thank you goes out to all of our teachers and support staff for the time taken to prepare their classrooms and handouts for this event. Our hallways were filled with excitement that reflected parent interest and involvement. With great appreciation, we thank our School Council for their efforts and success in planning our Welcome BBQ. As noted above, this was the first of many opportunities this year to come together as a school community. We will continue to develop a strong partnership between home and school and invite our parents to play an active role in your child’s education. You are always a welcome member of this vibrant community!



Photo Day Reminder

Photo Day is Wednesday, October 14th!

Musical Notes

The Orff Choir, Gds. 3, 4, 5, and 6 began on Tues. at 11:50 in the music room with a turnout of 70 children and more to come. We are planning to do school concerts (with a community theme) and revisit Herbie Day at Sick Kids Hospital again this year and may have another outing or two as the year progresses. I am grateful to have Mrs. Kopulos (retired music teacher of Williamson Rd.) assisting me with this large group. We look forward to another year of "Orffing". i.e. singing, dancing, acting and playing the Orff instruments. New members still welcome. We are looking for some more Gd. 6 members to play the larger instruments. - Sheila Brand



Daily Bread Food Bank

This year the staff and students at Williamson Road Public School have really worked hard to help erase hunger for needy people in Toronto. Thanks to the hard work and fine efforts of the Daily Bread Food Bank team of students we raised \$376.94. Several boxes of dried food and canned goods will be delivered to the Daily Bread Food Bank. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this event a meaningful and worthwhile activity.

Halloween Costume Parade

1:15 p.m. Friday, October 30th

The Halloween costume parade which takes place during the afternoon of October 30th is a long-standing tradition at Williamson Road Public School. Our students are invited to participate in the parade which occurs OUTSIDE, weather permitting. The parade begins at the front doors of the school, at 1:15, turn east along Williamson Road, north on Southwood, west on Glen Ames, south on Lee Avenue. A change this year is that students will turn east again on Lee Avenue into the school yard and enter the school through the back doors. The parade lasts approximately 45 minutes. Please remember that all weapons associated with costumes, such as swords, knives, pitchforks etc. must be left at home and not brought to school. This year we are introducing a new element to the Halloween parade. The safety of our students always comes first. Parents are invited to join us for the parade. Students who decline to take part, for religious reasons or other reasons, may watch the parade or engage in activities in the library until the parade is over. Morning kindergarten classes will parade around the block at 9:00 a.m.



UNICEF Fundraising Campaign

This year, Williamson Road students will once again participate in raising funds for UNICEF. A speaker from UNICEF will be visiting with classes on Monday, October 26th to give a presentation and provide information to students about where our school's donations will go. A letter from UNICEF about how to make contributions will be sent home later this month.

Happy Halloween!

The Knitting Club

The knitting club is on its way! Mme. Demers, Mrs. Salter and Mrs. Karlov are looking forward to meeting new and experienced knitters at the club this year. We will be meeting on Thursdays at lunch recess beginning on Thursday, November 5th. Knitters are encouraged to bring some yarn and 4mm or 4.5 mm needles. This year, we will focus on knitting squares which will be sewn together to make a blanket which will be donated to a shelter for the homeless. If you have yarn (not wool because it is more difficult to wash and is more attractive to pests) that you would like to donate to this worthy cause, please drop it off at the library.

The 'purls' of knitting: Mrs. Salter, Mrs. Karlov and Mme. Demers

Eco-Schools Club News

Williamson Road P.S. had green compost and recycling bins at our Barbecue Open House on September 23rd, 2009 to help reduce waste and to help our environment.

Thank you to families who support our Boomerang lunches...everything that is sent to school goes home. Again, we are reducing waste at our school and making our world greener. Bravo!

Congratulations to students of room 26, 100% of the students walked to school during our walk- to -school -contest on September 30th, 2009. Williamson Road P.S. participated in I-Walk-to-school day on October 7th, 2009. This day was is recognized and celebrated in 40 countries on six continents.

LICE DETECTION AND PREVENTION

Volunteers Please!

Parent volunteers continue to be needed for regular checks as well as our first school-wide check. Training is available. Over the next few months, please remember to check your child's head regularly and, if you find any nits or lice, please inform your class teacher or the school office so that other parents can also check their kids. Affected children should be kept away from school until you've removed all the nits or lice. **The first school wide lice check will be on Friday, October 23rd.** Please call the office or call the coordinator, Jennifer Martin at 416-690-3426.

Safety At Willy

Lockdown Procedures

The Toronto District School Board's Safe Schools policies and procedures require all schools to have two Lockdown Drills per year. These procedures, which fall under the mandate of our Safe Schools Department, support TDSB policy and procedure PR.695 SCH: School Lockdown, which can be found on the Board's website.

In order to be prepared for potential emergencies, as we do with our fire drills, Lockdown procedures were in place on Tuesday, September 29, so that all members of our school community could practice and be familiar with these procedures. The Lockdown was preceded by age-appropriate discussions led by the classroom teacher regarding the potential need for a lockdown and the procedures to follow to ensure everyone's safety. The children were aware that this was a drill. You too can play a role in helping your child understand the need for us to practice these procedures in preparation for our Lockdown exercise. You are encouraged to dialogue with your child in order to answer questions and share information that may be a natural extension to classroom discussions.

Important Reminder

Peanut Allergies

A reminder to all that nut products should not be brought into the school or onto the school grounds to ensure that there are no allergic reactions from our students. Children with serious allergies to food this year include peanuts, tree nuts and sesame seeds. Parents and caregivers who choose to stay on school property during the lunch hour to eat with their children in common areas such as at our picnic tables, must also comply with this request as this is a life threatening concern for our anaphylactic student population. Students who handle these foods off site should ensure that hands and clothing are free of residue upon their return to school. Your cooperation and assistance is greatly needed and appreciated.

LEARNING IN ACTION

Our dedicated teachers are always working together, sharing new methods and strategies to improve student achievement. Here, our teachers are involved in moderated marking, using their lunch hour to collaboratively assess students' work at the end of a 3 week Literacy Pathway.



Ms. Siggner, Ms. Papiernik, Madame Karsh,
Madame Demers, Madame McCarrey,
Madame Dumoulin



Ms. Myrvold, Mrs. Salter, Ms. Synarski,
Mrs. Karlov, Madame Maheu

Mrs. Karlov, Madame Maheu,
Mrs. Board





Madame Cooke, Madame Thomas



Wildcats Sports

Baseball

The girls slo-pitch baseball team was winners of their tournament. They are set to play Palmerstone next week in a playoff showdown. The team is has looked good in practice. Good luck girls!

The boys' slo-pitch team has finished the regular season with an impressive 4 wins and 1 loss record. They are in need of a little help from Bowmore. Bowmore needs to defeat Brown in the final game of the season in order for Williamson Road to advance into the playoffs. Best of luck team!

Wildcat Cross-country

Cross-country is well underway at Williamson Road. There are 182 students on this year's team, which is comprised of boys and girls, in grades 1-6. They have been training very hard all month long, and on Wednesday October 7th the entire team participated in the first meet at Ashbridge's Bay. 50 Students, who finished among the top 30 runners or were part of a top 4 team, get the opportunity to compete in the South Conference Championships at Ashbridge's Bay on Thursday October 15th. Among the 50 students that are moving on Williamson Road produced two race winners; in the grade 1 girls race Maeve Strickland, and in the grade 2 boys race Malcolm Worcholak. We expect that many of our team members will qualify for the City Championships at Etobicoke's Centennial Park on Thursday Oct 22nd. If you are available, please come out to the meets and cheer on our team. The coaches would like to recognize all our amazing parent volunteers who are assisting in so many ways. These events would not be manageable without you!!! **GO WILDCATS!!!**

Marathon Kids

The Scotia bank Toronto Waterfront Marathon Kids running program was back at our school again this year for the 3rd time. The main incentive was free entry into a 5 kilometer run that took place on Sunday September 27th. Twenty Two past and present students from Williamson Road challenged themselves in the Marathon Kids program. Students in the program logged their kilometers run in September in hopes to achieve 37 kilometers. Since a Marathon is 42 kilometers; the last kilometers would be achieved at the Scotia bank Toronto Waterfront Marathon 5k. The course began at the Exhibition's Princess Gate's and it wound its way along Lakeshore Ave. and Bay St. to the finish at City Hall. The students ran remarkably well and had a great time.

Terry Fox News

Way to go, Willy! Once again, our school has shown its generosity, interest, and commitment to help members of our community. Many of our grade 5 students took on a leadership role in the Terry Fox fundraising effort. There were bake

sales, jewelry sales, hand-sewn pillow sales, Willy wear sales, and raffles. We held a successful “Twoonie for Terry Walk” on September 25th. Money raised will aid cancer research. Thank you for your generous spirit.

Lunchroom Routines

Most children are settling into general school routines quite nicely at this point in the school year. The school always appreciates parents reviewing general routines and the code of conduct on a regular basis throughout the year with their children. In particular the lunchroom guidelines should be reviewed each week, especially with our younger students. The guidelines are in the front of the students' agendas. They are also listed below for your convenience. It is all of our responsibility to keep our students safe at lunch and all throughout the school day. Lunchtime supervisors do speak with students whose behaviour is in any way impolite or unsatisfactory. The parents of students who consistently misbehave will be informed by letter and or a telephone call by a teacher or the office. The letter is to be signed and returned to the school, to indicate the problem has been discussed at home. After two lunch letters or telephone calls, the students may be denied permission to eat at school for a specified period of time. Your support is critical and is appreciated by school staff. On days when lunches are microwaved, a 2 minute maximum is given due to long line ups. Please do not send prepared frozen meals that require longer cooking times. Just a reminder that the lunch program at school is designated for students in grades 1-6 whose parents are both working during the day and are unavailable at home over the lunch hour and for children who live outside of the Williamson Rd. area. Special consideration is given during the school year to children involved in activities that occur over the lunch period. It is extremely important that the children follow the lunchroom guidelines as we have many children staying for lunch and our goal is to accommodate the students. However we do reserve the right to monitor attendance to ensure student safety. We must maintain a safe environment for the students.

If any parents are interested in volunteering in the lunchrooms to help supervise the students please contact Craig Budgell in the office. We are asking however that individual parents who have been assisting their own child for the month of September allow them now in October to manage the routine independently with the help of staff. This will help them consolidate their learning and build self-confidence. If there is a special circumstance please call Craig Budgell in the office.

Here are the lunchroom guidelines:

1. Sit at own seat for lunch.
2. Students are not to share lunches/snacks.
3. Remain seated until lining up to leave.
4. Deposit all garbage into the plastic bags provided.
5. Speak quietly to neighbour without shouting or calling across the room.
6. Respect and follow the directions given by the supervisors and peer leaders.
7. Refrain from disturbing other children.
8. Remain in supervised area during the full lunchtime period.

You must have written permission to leave school property.

A note must be sent to school under the following circumstances: If your child is registered in the program and will be absent. and if your child is not registered but is attending on a specific day.

Williamson Road School Council News

MAGAZINE FUNDRAISER

This year we're trying a few new things at Willy - one of which is our magazine fundraiser.

Many of us already buy magazines. But now, if you, your friends and/or family SUBSCRIBE or RENEW through our Williamson program, then we get \$ for field trip busing, Scientists in School, classroom reading centers, recess sport bins, Gr 6 Grad and more. A QSP magazine catalog came home to you this past week: in it there are mags for all interests and ages - about sports, fashion, gardening, cooking, horses, music, and our planet, all there!

And Magazines make great GIFTS! Christmas, Birthdays, all occasions. Giving a subscription encourages reading, is green, and is also a great way to remind someone you were thinking of them every time a magazine shows at their door.

Orders can be placed ONLINE at www.qsp.ca (Click on 'Shop Now' in the green 'Parents' block, remember to use our GROUP CODE 9222, and please enter your student/participant's info later in the order) OR fill in the ORDER FORMS enclosed with the catalog. NOTE: If you have a coupon for a better subscription price, please enclose that with the hardcopy order form and pay that price; it will be honored by QSP!

Pizza Lunch Update

Thank you to our pizza lunch coordinators – Julia Wilkinson and Carla Buelow. We could really use some new (and those returning) parent volunteers: please call Julia at 416 691 6114. Pizza Lunch begins Thu Nov 5 and will follow the first Thu of the month except January where it will be on the 2nd Thu. Once again Diamond Pizza will be providing the delicious pizza at a reduced cost. Forms must be handed in on time so we can order the correct amount! Forms also must be filled out correctly with type and number of slices and name with room number. PLEASE bring your money in ON THE DAY OF THE LUNCH. This is a fun fundraising event for the kids and all proceeds go directly to the Williamson Road School Council.

Mark Pizza Lunch dates in your calendar: Nov 5 09, Dec 3 09, Jan 14 10, Feb 4 10, Mar 4 10, April 1 10, May 6 10 and June 3 10.

School Council Nominations

The nominations for parent representative on school council proceeded as previously announced. In the end, there were enough nominations to fill all of the parent positions on council in compliance with the council's constitution. The following parents were nominated and acclaimed to the School Council Executive, with added positions or portfolios indicated in brackets:

Dan Desmarais
Fawn Fairfoul
Kathleen Henschel
Andrea Hesse (Secretary)
Walter Hucker
Chair)
Claire Leo (Treasurer)
Robertson
Site/Email)
Laura Stoddard

Cindy Kelly (Co-
Paul Kelly (Event Planning)
Sharon Norton-
Tim Pinos (Co-Chair, Web
Krista Sieroka (Volunteer Coordinator)

Contact info for each is posted on www.24willy.com. The first Council meeting was held on Tuesday September 29. The next Council meeting is Wednesday, October 21, at 6:30 PM in the School Library. All are welcome to attend.

Teachers Heather Brown, Bronwyn Davidson, Heather Myrvold, Denis Richer

Principal: Marlene Wolinsky (416) 393-1740

Vice-Principal: Craig Budgell

School Council Funding Requests Due October 16th

Every year, WRSC raises funds to support a variety of school-related activities. Last year, we allocated over \$30,000 to a wide range of activities. Applications for funding are open to all member of the school community, but we ask that all applications from parents that relate in any way to classroom activities be coordinated with and co-sponsored by a member of the teaching staff. Funding application forms are available on www.24willy.com. Applications are due by Friday, October 16. They will be considered at the council meeting on October 21.

Willy Welcome Back BBQ

Council wishes to thank everyone who came out for Lick's burgers and hot dogs on the 23rd of September. Special thanks to team of volunteers who helped make the event possible. Many parents pitched in and were joined by some members of the school's EcoClub. This was the first time we had compost bins at an event and we plan to have them out again. A big thank you to the custodial staff that helped make the event possible.

The event is sponsored by your School Council and we believe it is a great event to get everyone acquainted with the entire school staff, as well as a great time to socialize with friends we haven't seen all summer. The Council spends a small bit of money over and above what you pay for the food, and we believe it is a good use of the money we raise through other events during the school year. Thanks again and see you next year!

CANADIAN TIRE MONEY

We need your CANADIAN TIRE MONEY! Last year, School Council putting together sports bins for each class: basketballs, frisbees, skipping ropes, chalk and other fun things to be used at the recess breaks outside. We will use the CanTire \$ to keep these bins in shape. If you have any amount of Canadian Tire money, big or small, sitting in a drawer or envelope somewhere, help us keep those bins alive! Send your Canadian Tire money either in with your child or drop it to the school office. THANK YOU!

Dates to Remember

October 12	Happy Thanksgiving
October 14	Photo Day
October 15	Divisional Cross-Country Meet
October 21	School Council meeting
October 22	Finals Cross-Country Meet
October 30	Halloween Parade