



Williamson Road Public School Newsletter



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December 2009

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PARENTS AS PARTNERS



At Williamson Road, we believe that all of our students can be successful reader and writers. To that end, our school's current focus is aimed at helping our students become effective writers. Here is how you can help:

1. **Read from a variety of sources.** Reading and writing are linked – success in one supports success in the other. Read stories, articles, ads, instructions, etc. to your child and then talk about what you have read.
2. **Be a writing role model.** Let your child see you writing when possible – letters, work assignments, letters to the editor, email. Help your child to understand about writing for different purposes like short stories, poems, letters, etc. Make sure they see all different types of materials such as books, magazines, newspapers, comic books and illustrated novels.
3. **Get children to write on their own.** Capturing the day's events on paper or creating a story or poem is a great way for children to develop their own writing style. Let them write about their interests – it doesn't matter what the subject is.
4. **Encourage your child to write down ideas.** A journal or diary is a simple way for kids to keep track of their thoughts or feelings. They can write about things that happened at school, on TV, news stories, pictures, sports, and activities. Journals can be purchased at the dollar store in a variety of sizes with different covers. Or for a special occasion, get one with a lock for private thoughts.

5. **Keep writing sessions short.** When your child has a writing assignment, help to schedule brief periods of writing rather than trying to write it in one go. Help create an outline before putting pen to paper.
6. **Cyberspace writing.** Encourage your children to write emails to or instant-message with family and friends. If they have their own email address, write emails to each other.
7. **Computers can be a writer's best friend.** Though we all feel that kids may spend too much time on the computer, there are some great games that help kids develop their writing skills by allowing them to create their own stories and books. Look for "parent approved" on the packaging in stores and in the library.
8. **Encourage your child to talk it out.** Writing mistakes can often be easily caught by reading stories out loud.
9. **Listen and talk to your children.** Help your child talk about what, where, when, how and why as they are preparing to write about something. If your child seems stuck, ask what the problem is and talk about it.
10. **Play games and do puzzles with your child.** Games such as *Junior Scrabble*®, word finders or crossword puzzles that involve creating and using words are a great way to develop word vocabulary. Keep a dictionary handy.

MOET, 2009

Make a Difference at Williamson Road



On Monday November 16, Williamson Road Junior Public School continued its quest to 'make a difference.' The school hosted youth motivational speaker Bilaal Rajan. He spoke to students about the ideas from his book, [Making Change: Tips from an Underage Overachiever.](#)

He was the perfect speaker for a school that has been dedicated to this ideal for more than a year. Last year, one grade 5 class transformed the idea of change into action. They started by taking old things that they didn't use anymore, baking delicious foods and sold them at a garage/bake sale. They donated all the money they raised to The Bilaal Rajan Foundation. The students then realized that to make a greater impact, they need to make connections. One student, Maggie McDonald, spoke about her class' efforts at a Parent Council meeting and received a percentage of the school's dance-a-thon money to count towards the donation.

The message 'Make a Difference - Be the Change,' a constant theme in the school, can be found daily in classroom discussions, playground banter, and extra-curricular activities. For example, the Life in Action team consists of a group of students committed to achieving social justice. Students aren't the only ones who have embodied "Be the Change." Last December many staff members from Williamson Road volunteered at the Habitat for Humanity Build on Kingston Road.

Having Bilaal visit our school was truly inspiring and gave the staff and students more tools to continue to connect and make a difference in the world.

For more information about Bilaal, visit: <http://www.bilaalrajan.com/>.

- Heather Myrvold





HOLIDAY CONCERT

DECEMBER 14th

Primary, 6:30 p.m.

Junior, 7:30 p.m.

“Simple Gifts”

PRIMARY CONCERT- will include all Gds. 1 to 3 and the 1/2 choir.
(parents to bring children for 6:00 to the **Glen Ames cafeteria**)

JUNIOR CONCERT- brief interval after the Primary Concert (approx. 7:30)
will include, **Band** and **Strings** and the **Orff Choir** doing a holiday musical
"Five Golden Rings".

(Orff Choir comes to Rm. 23 for 6:30) unless they are Gd.3's involved in the first half of the concert in which case they will be in the cafeteria by 6:00 for the 1st concert and Rm. 23 for the Junior part of the concert.

Come and join us as we celebrate the school and world community
and consider how we can
"Be the Change"
we want to see in the world.



Holiday Williamson Road Post Office

Dear families,

In the past few months students at Willy have been learning about letter writing. We are going to give them a real opportunity to practice their skills with the Holiday Williamson Road Post Office. Our Post Office will be in operation from Monday December 14th to Thursday Dec. 17th. Our mail box will be on the 2nd floor beside the library. Let's encourage our children to write!

Have a safe and happy Holiday!
- Catherine Cossette

Literacy Evening

January 19, 2010 6:30 – 8:15 p.m.

Williamson Road is happy to invite our families to a Literacy Evening, an opportunity to join us as we enjoy and engage in activities and presentations that promote our school-wide focus on student success in literacy. Please mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details in the new year!

Junior Kindergarten Registration February 9th & 10th



Junior Kindergarten registration will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 10th and Wednesday, Feb. 11th, 2009 all day by appointment only. If you have a child who will turn 4 years old before December 31st 2006, please contact the school office at 416-393-1740 to set up an appointment.

French Information Evening – Tuesday, January 26, 7:00 p.m.

The French Immersion program information session will take place at 7:00 pm in the Library on the second floor. Application forms (pink forms) will be sent home in January with all Junior Kindergarten students. All Junior Kindergarten Students at Williamson Road must complete and return this form even if you do not wish French Immersion for Senior Kindergarten in September. The deadline for applications is February 5, 2010. Parents will be informed of a placement by February 12, 2010. Parents must accept placement by February 19, 2010.



Life in Action

Vow of Silence

On November 20th our Life in Action team participated in Free the Children's Vow of Silence. Members of the Life in Action team were silent for 24 hours in order to raise awareness of the rights of children. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Convention of the Rights of the Child, yet many children still go without those basic rights. Many children do not have healthy food to eat, a school to attend, and some are even forced to work. Youth around the world pledged to stay silent for 24 hours to support children who are silenced by the denial of their basic rights. Participants collected donations for each hour, minute or second they stayed silent, or for the day as a whole. In total we raised \$291.20! All participants should be congratulated for standing up for the voiceless children of the world.

Food Drive

From December 1-16th the Life in Action team is organizing a food drive for the Daily Bread Food Bank. Use of the food bank has increased this year by 30%, with many affected by hunger being children. Please join us in the fight against hunger in Toronto by sending in canned goods or non-perishable food items.

Holiday Concert Collection

On the evening of the holiday concert, our Life in Action team representatives will be collecting donations for Free the Children. We will be located outside the gym doors. Please consider coming prepared to donate to this worthy cause to help children in impoverished countries. Even a small amount can make a big difference in the life of a child.

Ms. Davidson, Mme. Thomas, Mme. Cooke

Recognition Assembly

Our term 1 recognition assembly will take place on Wednesday, December 9th at 9AM in the Glen Ames gym. We will recognize students who participated in extra-curricular activities in term 1, and we will share our class mottos. In addition, two students from each class will receive a character education award for displaying exemplary respect for others. The assembly will finish with a photo slideshow of our proud Willy students, set to music. All students are asked to wear their Williamson Road t-shirts and sweatshirts on December 9th, or to dress in maroon and yellow, in order to show our amazing school spirit and pride. Go Willy!

Ms. Davidson

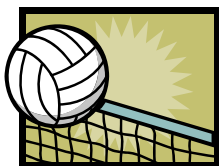
The Girls Club

A new initiative at Williamson Road, the Girls Club is a place for grade 6 girls to connect, build confidence and skills that will carry them into their adolescent years. This term we have discussed issues including appropriate role models for girls, photography, self-esteem, body image and nutrition. Here are some photos from the Nutrition workshop we had with Holistic Nutritionist, Sarah Dobeck.



The Girls Club has also adopted a family through Community Centre 55. This project encouraged the Girls Club members to show leadership as they were responsible for raising the money to donate to one local family in need. The girls came up with creative ways to raise money, and held a bake/jewelry sale, and sold raffle tickets to raise \$450 in just 3 days! The Girls Club is a year long commitment so watch for new and exciting projects for 2010.

- Ms. Myrvold and Ms. Dietz



Girls' Volleyball

The girls' volleyball season is upon us. Try-outs will take place over the next couple of weeks, with games beginning in January. Good luck to all who try out. We look forward to another great season!

Ms. Davidson



Valuables Lost and Found

This is a reminder to all students that Williamson Road P.S. will not be responsible for replacing any valuables that go missing at school. Please ensure that valuables are left at home.

Also, a reminder that lunch bags are being removed EVERY FRIDAY. Please make sure your child's correct room number for this year is on the lunch bag as we try to return them.

If you have lost something at school please check our lost and found area in the stairwell between Williamson Road P.S. and Glen Ames Senior School. Please note the lost and found will be cleaned out at the end of the month and articles will be given to charity. There will be a P.A. announcement to remind students and classes to do a "walk by" before the deadline.

Library Club

The library club which is open to boys and girls grades 1 – 6, began on Monday November 30th at lunch recess. It was wonderful to see so many avid readers selecting books, sharing stories and reading. I look forward to seeing all of the members again every Monday.

Happy reading,
Mme Demers



Knitting Club

The Knitting Club members have all cast on and are busy knitting various projects. It seems that Santa's elves might just have some helpers in the club. Mrs. Salter, Mrs. Karlov and Mme Demers warmly welcome new and experienced knitters to the club. This year, we will be working together to knit squares which will be sewn together to create a blanket for the homeless.

Mrs. Salter, Mrs. Karlov and Mme Demers

AQUATIC UPDATE

Aquatic Update



Family Swim

Family Swim will be held during the week of Dec 14-18, 2009. Family swim is usually held at the end of each term. During this week parents/ grandparents/ caregivers are invited to watch or participate in their child's swim class for a free swim. Younger siblings are also welcome but must be under the direct supervision of the parent/guardian who accompanies them in the water. This is a fun way to see your child's progress and enjoy our wonderful pool!

Swim Team

Students will be timed in the coming weeks to see if they qualify for the swim team. We choose the top ten boys and girls from grades 4, 5 & 6 to join our swim team. We will announce the team and begin practices in the New Year. Practices are held on Thursday mornings at 7:45 am. There are two swim meets which are generally held at the end of March and early April.

Super Swim Meet

Our Super Swim Meets will be held sometime in mid-February. The Super Swim Meet is a fun event in which the students race against each other at their skill level and win ribbons. There are also diving demonstrations and the grand finale is a race with the fastest students racing against the teachers. As usual we need parents to help this event run smoothly and we are always pleased by your overwhelming support. If you are interested in helping out please leave us a message at the school.

Congratulations to the following students who have moved up a safety level in pool:

New Sharks

Chessie S, Lily D, Fionn L

New Dolphins

Noelle L, Nicole B, Gabriel B, Erem O, Morgan H, Brook M, Maeve S, Sarah P, Cameron A, Sydney B, Emma B, Danielle T, Mateusz G.

Deep Enders

Matthew M, Cameron L, Tomas H, Tyler C, Luca F, Grace W, Will D, Lucas S, Allen B, Brittany B, Brett G, Olivia S, Maaiké D

Deep End Level 2 (New level)

Nick J, Ingrid J, Cathleen L

Peter Grimbly, Sarah Hender, hott
Ingrid J, Cathleen L



School Council News

Read-A-Thon 2009

Read-A-Thon 2009 kicked off on Friday November 27th, with an assembly before the entire school. Anne-Marie Bourgeois, a Masters Student in international development at the University of Toronto, read the story: "Where the Wild Things Are". Anne-Marie spent to two years working for the "Right to Play" foundation in Tanzania, East Africa. "Right to Play" is this year's designated charity for the Read-a-Thon. She talked about her time in Africa and presented a power point presentation about the program. The students had lots of excellent questions about her experiences with "Right to Play" and in relation to Africa generally.

The reading and recording component of the Read-a-thon commenced on Saturday, November 28th and was completed Friday December 4th. Pledges and reading logs are to be handed in to the student's homeroom teachers. There are individual prizes such as an iPod and Maple Leaf tickets for those that get their forms in on time. There are also class prizes, including Ice Cream Parties and books.

Thanks to all those students who participated as well as the parents/guardians and teachers who assisted in making Read-A-Thon 2009 a great success.

COMMUNITY NEWS



Carolling in the Park

Come sing with the Choirs and Band

Tuesday December 15th, 2009

Glen Stewart Park – Glen Manor Drive

South of Wooden Bridge

North of Queen

Information – Call Nancy & Jim Palmer (416) 694-0617

Dates To Remember

Holiday Concert	December 14
Last Day of Classes	December 18
School Restarts	January 4
French Information Night	January 26 7:00 p.m.



*Wishing all of our families a wonderful, fun-filled holiday
and a Happy New Year!*



*From all the staff at
Williamson Road Public School*

