



# Williamson Road Public School / Newsletter

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## PUTTING READING FIRST!

### Make reading a part of every day

- **Share conversations with your child over meal times and other times you are together.** Children learn words more easily when they hear them spoken often. Introduce new and interesting words at every opportunity.
- **Read together every day.** Spend time talking about stories, pictures, and words.
- **Be your child's best advocate.** Keep informed about your child's progress in reading and ask the teacher about ways you can help.
- **Be a reader and a writer.** Children learn habits from the people around them.
- **Visit the library often.** Story times, computers, homework help, and other exciting activities await the entire family.

Excerpt from Put Reading First, nifl.

## H1N1 Update

With the presence of the H1N1 virus in our communities, the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) continues to work closely with Toronto Public Health in an effort to keep our students, parents and staff informed. This includes the monitoring of student absence.

Information on the TDSB's H1N1 preparedness is available on the Board's website which also includes an updated Pandemic Response Plan. This plan outlines measures the TDSB will take to ensure ongoing communication and reassure parents and community members of our ability to respond to this issue.

In June 2009, a new cleaning protocol was added to the daily cleaning duties of TDSB caretakers which ensures they wipe down and disinfect major points of hand contact such as door knobs, handrails, taps and drinking fountains. This proactive measure was adopted to try and slow down the spread of the virus and will continue to be done in all schools.

Parents and/or guardians are encouraged to follow the directions of Toronto Public Health and to remind their children to be vigilant in their personal hygiene practices. If anyone (child or parent) shows any signs of flu-like symptoms, they should stay home and follow up with your medical practitioner as you normally would for professional advice. If a parent decides to keep their child/children home, they should inform their child's school of the reason for their absence.

TDSB is committed to protecting the health and well being of all our students and staff and will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates on new developments to students and parents when necessary.

If parents have any questions or concerns they should contact their school principal directly or visit the Board website at [www.tdsb.on.ca/h1n1](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/h1n1) for additional information.



### The Weather is Changing

The weather is beginning to get colder. Please remind your child(ren) to dress appropriately. Recess is a part of your child's regular school day therefore; he/she should dress to be outside during these times as well as the lunch break.

### ANAPHYLAXIS ALLERGIES REMINDER

#### \*\*\*PEANUT ALLERGY ALERT\*\*\*

We continue to have several students attending our school with severe allergies to peanuts and peanut products. These allergies are potentially life threatening: even the smell of peanuts or peanut butter can trigger a severe, life threatening reaction. As a result, it is necessary for us to request that parents and children refrain from sending any foods to school that might contain peanut butter or peanuts. We all need to be vigilant in order to ensure that no child is put at risk due to a food allergy. Students are not to share their snacks.



### Lest We Forget

Remembrance Day is Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>. Letters were sent home to families last week, asking for you to participate in, The Williamson Road Field of Peace, which will be displayed in our first floor hallway. Families are encouraged to send in their stylized poppy with a message of peace. Readings will be selected daily during our morning announcements. **Please join us at our Remembrance Day ceremony which will take place in the Glen Ames gymnasium on Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 a.m.**

We will be collecting donations for the Royal Canadian Legion next week. If you would like to send a donation, your child can contribute on Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>.



### Our Orff Choir

The Orff Choir has begun with a Big Bang and 70+ students. We meet on Tues. at 11:50 in the music room. Please encourage regular attendance as we are singing at the Remembrance Ceremony on Nov. 11th and preparing a piece for the Holiday Concert, Five Golden Rings which includes all the characters from the carol "The Twelve Days of Christmas" and Daisy the Dancing Cow!!!! Jan Forsythe has agreed to help with costuming but another volunteer would be welcome. We hope to audition for the Massey Hall combined choirs concert organized by the TDSB in the spring. We are grateful for the help of Mrs. Kopulos with the Orff choir who are busily working on their recorder pieces for our Five Golden Rings. Our concert date is Monday, Dec. 14th.

- Sheila Brand



## REPORTING ABSENTEEISM

If a child must miss school due to illness or appointments, parents should telephone the school **every day** and inform the office staff of the absence before 9:00 a.m. **The school safe arrival number is 416-393-1739.** Please leave a message. The TDSB has in place a “Safe Arrival Policy”. If parents do not inform the school of their child’s absence by telephone, note or through a friend, we will call them at home or work. It is important to have current telephone numbers on file.

### Student Lates

Punctuality is a skill we value and teach our students. It is important for all of our students to arrive on time for school ready to learn. Please ensure that your child or children are in the schoolyard 5 to 10 minutes before the entry bells at 8:35a.m. and 12:35p.m. so that they are ready to enter the school building on time for the start of classes. Students who arrive late may miss the start of a lesson and be in “catch up” situation for the rest of the day which is stressful for them. It also disrupts the learning of other students in the class who arrived on time.

Our safe arrival procedures are also affected. Students who arrive late are marked absent by the teacher and then the student must sign in at the office to confirm their presence at school. The administrative assistant must then cross-reference the sign-in sheet with the attendance. This is time consuming. If fewer students were late, we would be able to identify a missing student more quickly and efficiently. Please help us reinforce this important message. **If your child will be arriving after 9:00 a.m. call the school office to inform them, and all children must still sign in at the office.**

### Halloween Fun

Oh what fun. In spite of the wet weather, 550 students participated in our Halloween costume parade here in the school building. This year, class was observed by another class in the school and presented with a prize package for their innovative costume themes. The costumes were creative and fun and children had a wonderful time.

For Health and Safety reasons please remember that candy containing peanuts or nuts should not be brought to school and that children should eat their own treats and refrain from exchanging with others. A reminder that all candy wrappers must go into the garbage cans on the site in order to keep our school yard free of litter.



### Tick-or-Treat for UNICEF

Thank you to all families for supporting this year’s Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF Campaign. Please return UNICEF forms to school by **Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>**.

Find out more information, play games and check out cool activities at **[trickortreatforunicef.ca](http://trickortreatforunicef.ca)**!



## Life in Action: Free the Children

This year's Life in Action Ambassadors are off to a great start! This year's group includes both grade 5's and 6's who wrote letters, drew pictures and wrote poems to express why they wanted to be part of the team. Their reasons for wanting to join varied, from being inspired by the founder of Free the Children, Craig Keilburger, to wanting to make a difference in our city and our world.

All members of Life in Action will participate in a half day workshop on Monday, Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>. They will learn about why it is important to reach out and help others, and will plan how to make an impact in the lives of others this year.

Our first project will be to participate in the Daily Bread Food Bank's holiday drive, which will run from November 27<sup>th</sup> to December 15<sup>th</sup>. The Daily Bread Food Bank has experienced a 17% increase in client visits since January 2009. Many of the food bank's clients are fully employed, but simply cannot make ends meet for themselves or their families. Please consider donating non-perishable food items during our drive in order to reach out to fellow Torontonians in need.

We look forward to another fantastic year of being the change and getting our lives in action!

The Life in Action team: Erin Cooke, Amy Thomas, Bronwyn Davidson

### Making Change

**A visit with Bilaal Rajan on Monday November 16<sup>th</sup>, at 10:20 a.m. in the Glen Ames Gym**  
Mark your calendar and please come join us for what will be an inspiring presentation by Bilaal Rajan, a young student activist who began making a difference for others at the age of four, when he sold clementines to raise money for victims of an earthquake in India. Since then he has raised funds for children in Southeast Asia, Haiti and Africa. In March 2005 Bilaal became UNICEF Canada Child representative. Bilaal has published a book "Making Change Tips from an Underage Overachiever" and will be speaking to our students about the amazing things we can do to make a difference. We thank our School Council for providing funds for this event, resulting in 50 signed copies of his book for the school.

### LICE DETECTION AND PREVENTION

We are still looking for volunteers to support this important team. Parent volunteers continue to be needed for regular checks. We would like to have two volunteers for each classroom. Training is available. If you are able to help please send a note to Mr. Budgell. Thank you for supporting the team with your thorough weekly checks.

Thanks to Jennifer Martin for co-ordinating our check in October and to Wally Hucker for volunteering.

## **WILLY WILDCAT NEWS**



### Wildcat Hockey

It is the season that will have students lugging bags of equipment through the halls till March. That's right, ice hockey is back! The Wildcats are in the preliminary stages of creating the 2009/2010 team. Tryouts are held at the end of November. Coaches Quance and Wright have volunteered to stand behind the bench with me this season to guide our young athletes to success. The team is practicing at the Scarborough Gardens (Kingston Rd. and Birchmount Rd.) every Wednesday at 11:30. The first regular season games are scheduled in early January. All results will be posted outside room 4, and updates will be included in this newsletter, so stay tuned! And until next time keep your stick on the ice!

Mr. Semes



### **Wildcat Baseball**

Congratulations to the girls' baseball team. The Wildcats were crowned champions of the South Conference when they defeated Brown in the final at Christie Pits. They were one of three teams present at the City Finals and lost in the semi-final, making them the 3<sup>rd</sup> best team in the city this year. What a great accomplishment! Congrats to the team for playing fantastic baseball.



### **Cross-Country Update**

Cross-country running is now over and once again we had a very successful season! We had over 180 runners come out to practices before and after school and we took these runners to our first meet at Ashbridges Bay on Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>. All of our runners ran hard and did their best and we had 50 runners qualify to advance to the South Conference Finals. At the South Conference Finals on Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>, 20 of our runners qualified to run in the City Finals on Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> at Centennial Stadium including 3 teams; the grade 1 girls, grade 2 boys, and grade 3 boys. At that meet, where the best runners from across the TDSB compete, all of our runners did very well and we had many top finishes. Maeve S. finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the city in the grade 1 girls race, and Grace W. placed third in the grade 2 girls race, both received medals. As well, every member of the Grade 2 boys' team received a silver medal, and earned Williamson Rd. a banner, because they finished 2<sup>nd</sup> overall! Lastly, the coaches would like to thank all of the parents of all of the runners for your support and encouragement at every meet. We couldn't do it without you!

-The Cross-Country Coaches



### **NEWS FROM THE POOL**

Congratulations to the following students who have achieved their safety levels in Pool.

#### **Tadpoles**

Josie H, Nathan M, Ella C, Hillary M, Sierra B, Konrad G, Adam A, Maryam A, Wesley M, Kerri O, Alexander T, Peri G, Chris M, Katie G, Hope T, Abbey M, William McM, Charlotte M, Erica M

#### **New Sharks**

Gabriel N, Andrew C, Sean B, Trinity C, Roma D, Jack D, Jade R, Macy H, Marc B, Luke D, Cate D, Connor H, Daniel L, Bella M, Mackenzie M, Saffron R, Sadie S, Ava B, Isabella M, Aidan R, Stefan SS, Lucas VL, Evan B, Zachary BK, Jackson C, Megan C, Oscar G, Hudson H, Finlay M, Owen P, Charlie S, Maeve S, Finn S, Ella C, Melody BB, Eric B, Stephanie C, Lily D, Claire H, Ciaran I, Julia K, William B, Nicole B, Cindy H, Paige H, Kyler K, William M, Rachel M, Simon M, Fiona P, Jamil V, Jack W, Madelaine K, Noah L, Rhys M, Jacob R, Lucas S, Thomas S, Justin W, Erem O

## Dolphins

Cameron B, Vida M, Brett S, Maddie M, Neil B, Alec B, Zack M, Lily N Matthew S, Maaike D, Ninah H, Sasha M, Luke L, Jack D, Adam K, Jasmine B, Lindsey N, Clair W, Evan S, Jade R, Joseph S, Maggie R, Diana B

## Deep Enders

Palmer L, Jackson S, Loic R, Claire H, Jaquelin K, Lake ML, Cheyenne G. Devin C, Hannah D, Annie R, Maija E, Fiona W, Rebecca S, Emils B, Zachary B, Tristan K, Katherine C, Elise W, Angelique L.

## ~New Level~

We've added a new safety level this year. The students have expressed a desire for more of a challenge once they have achieved their deep end level. As a result we're proud to introduce the new Deep End Level 2. The skills required for this level are: Treading water for 5 minutes with shoulders out of the water, swim underwater for half a length, a surface dive and retrieve an object from the bottom of the deep end and swimming continuously for 4 lengths. The students are excited start practicing for this challenging level.

## **Family Swim**

Family Swim will be held during the week of Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup>. 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 brings them. 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 pick the team and begin practices after the Holidays. There are two swim meets which are usually held after the March Break.

- Peter Grimby, Sarah Hendershott, Aquatic Instructors

## ***LEARNING IN ACTION***

### **Wild Things**

A Venn diagram with three overlapping circles labeled 'Text', 'Self', and 'World'. In the center of the circles is a cartoon illustration of a boy with a wolf-like face, wearing a wolf suit. Surrounding the diagram are several questions:

- Has your behaviour ever resulted in consequences? How was this experience similar or different from Max's experience?
- Describe a time your behaviour was affected by your "costume".
- Think of a time you have judged a person because of their appearance. Describe that event.
- How was Max's behaviour affected by his wolf suit?
- How might dress codes in other cultures affect how we think about other people?
- What kind of mischief could max have been creating before he got sent to his room?

At the bottom right of the diagram is a small blue icon with the text '2 of 2'.

This year in Rm. 21, we have read the story Where the Wild Things Are as a class and we have watched the movie. We have done a lot of work on the subject. We have done question circles where we ask ourselves questions about the text such as self to text, world to text and text to text questions on the Smart Board. We have written post cards from Max, and we have also created are own wild thing. We are now writing a story about our characters in our own story.

Written by: Tucker Schuller.



## Eco-Committee Up-date

This year Williamson Road continues to be an Eco-school. Thank you to all families who helped us at our B.B.Q Night by using our green compost bins. We also continue to encourage students to bring a boomerang lunch to school. The student members of Eco-schools are now meeting every two weeks to learn about environmental education and to help Williamson Road earn our next status of Eco-schools with the T.D.S.B. We have some dedicated teachers leading the club, but if you are interested in helping out, please contact the school.

- Eco-schools committee

## **Williamson Road School Council News**



### WILLY's ANNUAL HOLIDAY CRAFT & GIFT SALE

**Thursday, December 3rd, 2009 in the Library**

Now that it's November, it's time to start thinking ahead to this year's Holiday Craft & Gift Sale. This popular school fundraiser will be held on **Thursday, December 3rd**, in the school library. Each family is asked to donate 12 small items, bought or made. Classes will come through the sale on the 3rd so children can do their own gift shopping for the holidays. Additional details on the sale, plus suggestions for gift donations were provided in the notice sent home with your child on Oct 23rd.

If you do NOT wish your child to participate in the sale, please let his/her teacher know beforehand.

#### WHAT CAN YOU DO IN NOVEMBER?

**DONATE GIFTS - 12 small items per family:**

**From Nov 25th to Dec 1st** - items can be taken directly to the school library, where Ms. Demers will have a designated donations section. A donations box will also be located outside of the gym office.

**VOLUNTEER - lots of helping hands are needed:**

**By Nov 13th** - please sign up to volunteer at this great Willy tradition. We need as many people as possible, either full or half days. On **Dec 2nd** for set up, sorting and pricing. On **Dec 3rd** for selling, wrapping and clean up.

**To sign up or if you have questions, please contact:**

Judy Irwin at 416-699-9277 or by email at [judy.irwin@sympatico.ca](mailto:judy.irwin@sympatico.ca),



## READING ROCKS!

### Williamson Road Read-A-Thon -- Nov 30 - Dec. 4

November's here and it's time for our annual Read-A-Thon - a chance to bury yourself in terrific books and stories, build some good habits, and help your school at the same time. Lots of prizes - remember last year? Gift certificates, books, an ice cream party and more! Our Read-a-Thon Assembly is Nov 27<sup>th</sup> and Reading Week is Nov 30 - Dec 4. Details to follow the week of Nov 9<sup>th</sup>.

## Dates to Remember

November 11	Remembrance Day Ceremony 10:15 a.m.
November 19	Photo Retake Day
November 26	School Council meeting 6:30 pm
November 27	Read-a-Thon Kickoff Assembly
November 30	Read-A-Thon Week Begins
December 3	Holiday Craft Sale
December 3	Parent/Teacher Interviews 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.
December 4	Parent/Teacher Interviews 8:45 - 11:45a.m.
December 4	P.A. Day
December 11	Next Newsletter
December 14	Holiday Concert
December 15	Food Drive Ends
December 21	Christmas Break begins
January 4	Back to School

