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Principal: Shelley Amos
Vice Principal: Karen Fraser

Woodlawn Early Years School November 2015 Newsletter



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

This month I'd like to address reporting on student progress and student safety which are two items that are both of utmost importance to our work in schools everyday.

Report cards are scheduled to be distributed on Nov. 20th and we look forward to hosting our fall conferences with you on November 24 and 26th. This year our fall conferences will once again be a student led format. A detailed letter of explanation will come home separately during the first week of November. This formal opportunity to have meaningful conversations with you and your child regarding successes and progress is an integral part of our system. It is however, only one of the many ways we communicate with you. Please take the time to read our school newsletters, website, twitter account and other information that comes home. Feel free to contact your child's teacher at any time if you have questions or concerns. Our partnerships with you influence the success your children experience at school and we place high value on our relationships with you.

*** Student safety during pickup and drop off ***

This fall we are experiencing higher volumes of pedestrian, car and school bus traffic along Barkman Ave. To ensure the safety of our students, if you are dropping off or picking up your child, please park on Henry Street or on the church parking lot across from the school. For the safety of your child, we request that you escort your child across Henry Street. For students' safety, please avoid parking and/or dropping off/picking up along Barkman Street across from the school during 8:30 - 9:00 am and 3:30 - 4:00 pm.

Thank you for choosing safety over convenience for the sake of all our children.

"Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all." Aristotle

SINCERELY,

SHELLEY AMOS

Vice Principal's Message

At Woodlawn we have been working on something called Universal Design for Learning (UDL) for the past few years. We have been implementing parts of The Three Block Model of UDL by Dr. Jennifer Katz into our teaching practices. The three blocks are: Social and Emotional Learning, Inclusive Instructional Practices, and Systems and Structures. At Woodlawn much of our focus has been on Social and Emotional Learning.

Social and Emotional Learning is extremely important and there is lots of evidence of this teaching throughout Woodlawn School. Many classes are using such strategies as class meetings, morning chat buddies, the multiple intelligences (smarts), and The Respecting Diversity Program. All of these strategies are designed to help students learn about themselves and others, learn how to solve problems, respect others, and to feel a sense of belonging. When students feel valued and connected to their peers and their teachers, they are much more ready to learn.

Student-led conferences are right around the corner. When you are visiting your child's class and looking at their work you will likely see lots of evidence of Social and Emotional Learning taking place. Talk to your child about this work as well as the academic work. Both are equally important as we strive to meet our mission statement, "Woodlawn School is an environment where education and culture empowers our students to grow into caring, connected, and contributing global citizens".

COUNSELLOR'S CORNER

Hello Parents! **I WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO JOIN ME** for an 8 week Restitution parenting course called **PARENTING CAN BE A PLEASURE**. Restitution parenting teaches us how to control our responses to our children's behaviour and be the parent we want to be. While Restitution helps us to understand how to teach our children to be responsible and empathetic to others, I also appreciate that it reminds us that it's ok to make mistakes - as children and as parents! What matters most is that we take the opportunity to fix our mistake, which in turn helps us to learn and grown into the person we want to be.

The course will be held here **at Woodlawn School** from **6-7pm** on the following dates:

**COMING SOON**

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9

MONDAY, MARCH 7

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

MONDAY, APRIL 18

MONDAY, JANUARY 11

MONDAY, MAY 16

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8

MONDAY, JUNE 13

If you are interested in attending, please email me at skehler@hisd.ca or call and leave a message at the office at 204-326-6110. Child care for school age children may be provided if needed.

Student Led Conferences

November 24th and 26th from 4:30 - 7:00 pm for Kindergarten to Grade 4 Students
and November 26th from 1:00 - 3:30 for Kindergarten Students

Student led conferences are an opportunity to meet your child's teacher and to see the wonderful work that has been happening in the classroom during this past term. The teacher will conference with you and your child for a ten minute period. Your child and teacher will share his/her learning with you. Children and parents are invited to be in the room for an additional 10 minutes before or after your conference time to allow sufficient time for browsing and discussing the learning. Please be aware that there may be more than one family in the classroom at the same time. If you or the teacher feel an additional private conversation is warranted without your child or another family present, this can be scheduled at a separate time, before or after the student led evening and can take place face to face or by telephone. This can be requested from either yourself or your child's teacher. Please feel free to request this from your child's teacher if required.

BOOK YOUR INTERVIEW APPOINTMENT ONLINE AT:

www.woodlawn.schoolappointments.com

All parents are asked to register for a student led conference appointment for each of their children at www.woodlawn.schoolappointments.com . Please follow the instructions in the handout that your child will bring home this week. All instructions will also be posted on our website: woodlawn.hsd.ca

The website will be available from November 4th - 20th for booking appointments. We ask all parents to register online for an appointment by the end of the day on November 20th. If you are having difficulties, you may call the school for assistance. If you do not have internet access please call the school to arrange an appointment for your child's conference.

Please call the school between 8:00 and 9:00 am or write in your child's agenda before hand if you know they will be absent or will be late because of an appointment. You can also e-mail us at woodlawn@hsd.ca or leave a voicemail outside of school hours at 204-326-6110. As a security measure our policy is to phone home if we have not heard from the parent/guardian of an absent student. If necessary we will also phone workplaces and emergency contacts to make sure the student is safe. Any student that is arriving late is to check in at the office before proceeding to class.



Picture Retake Day

Picture retakes will be done the morning of Tuesday, November 10th.

DRUG AWARENESS

The growing number of drug related incidents in our local media has a lot of parents wondering how to approach the topic of alcohol and other drug use with their kids. We all know the importance of talking to our kids before they are faced with the choice to use, but how do we start the conversation?

The reality is that talking to your kids about alcohol and other drugs needs to be an ongoing conversation, not a one-time lecture, which occurs long before they are ever faced with the pressure or curiosity to use. As parents, you can arm your kids with skills that can enhance their critical thinking and ability to make good decisions when you are not around to guide them.

The Hanover School Division, along with the Steinbach Drug Awareness Committee, will be holding a parent information night for all parents of children in Kindergarten to Grade 8 who are interested in learning more about how to talk to their kids about alcohol and other drug use before it ever becomes a problem. This one hour presentation will address youth related local drug trends, the do's and don'ts of talking to your kids about drugs, and how to encourage the development of assertiveness and refusal skills. The workshop will occur on November 18th from 7:00-8:00 p.m. at the Clearspring Middle Years School library. Refreshments will be served and a number of community organizations will be on hand to answer questions after the presentation.

Music News

Thursday, Dec. 10th - Grade 3 and 4 Christmas Concert

- Emmanuel Free Church (360 Mackenzie Ave)
- 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm

Tuesday, Dec. 15th - Grade 2 Students Sing on the Radio!

- Mix 96/AM1250 will do a live broadcast from the SCU
- 10:15-10:30

Playground Safety

This week a young girl attending a school in Calgary was seriously injured when her scarf got caught on the play structure at her school.

As winter approaches and students will be dressing with more layers and items this unfortunate incident is a good reminder for us that scarves and drawstrings on jackets/sweatshirts/mittens can be dangerous.

Please check your child's outerwear and avoid scarves and items with drawstrings or other embellishments that can possibly get caught.

November 2015

		November 2015					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1	2 Admin/PD Day No Classes	3 Day 1	4 Day 2 Ham Pizza \$2.00 per slice	5 Day 3	6 Day 4 Hot Lunch - Chicken Noodle Soup & a Bun or ½ Turkey Sandwich or ½ Turkey Wrap \$3.00 each	7	
8	9 Day 5	10 Day 6 Remembrance Day Assembly Picture Retakes	11 Remembrance Day No Classes	12 Day 1	13 Admin/PD Day No Classes	14	
15	16 Day 2	17 Day 3	18 Day 4 Pepperoni Pizza \$2.00 per slice	19 Day 5	20 Day 6 Hot Lunch - Chicken Noodle Soup & a Bun or ½ Ham Sandwich or ½ Ham Wrap \$3.00 each Report Cards Issued	21	
22	23 Day 1	24 Day 2 Evening - Student Led Conferences	25 Day 3 Ham Pizza \$2.00 per slice	26 Day 4 Evening - Student Led Conferences	27 Day 5 Hot Lunch - Chicken Noodle Soup & a Bun or ½ Turkey Sandwich or ½ Turkey Wrap \$3.00 each	28	
29	30 Day 6				Please send exact change with your child for milk and hot lunches.		