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Principal: Shelley Amos
Vice Principal: Karen Fraser

Woodlawn Early Years School

December 2015 Newsletter



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

On behalf of Woodlawn staff I would like to thank all students for their engagement and hard work during this first term. Communication and partnerships between the teacher and the home are of utmost importance to ensure success for your children. We had a tremendous turnout for our student led conferences. 94%! Thank you to all families for attending. Please continue to contact your child's teacher to share information and concerns and expect that they will contact you to share the same.

Families are invited to join us on Dec. 10 at the Emmanuel Free Church on Mackenzie Street for our grade 3/4 Christmas Concert titled "*Here We Come A Caroling*".

May you be blessed with a safe, peaceful holiday season filled with love from family and friends.

*Sincerely,
Shelley Amos*

VICE PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

This year at Woodlawn we are working on creating a Makerspace in our old computer lab. Last summer all of the computers from the lab were redistributed and most classrooms were given a pod of four computers. As much of the teaching in an early years school is done in small groups this is a much better fit for teaching and learning.

So, what is a Makerspace? A Makerspace is a space in which students are provided with time and materials to tinker, explore, and create. The possibilities for a Makerspace are endless. Some of the ideas that we are looking at including in our Woodlawn Makerspace are a Lego wall, a construction area with lots of cardboard and styrofoam, some technology including a pod of iPads and a green screen, and a space for arts and crafts. For more information about Makerspaces in schools check out the following YouTube clips: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NLEJLOB6fDw> and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4D6WtQYoJ_s

We have already started cleaning out the room where the new Makerspace will be housed. A sink will be added soon. In the new year we will be asking parents to send in some materials that they would otherwise recycle. In the meantime we would love to take those large Christmas wrapping paper rolls off of your hands. We are hoping that our Makerspace will be ready for students to work in by sometime in January. Stay tuned for more information about our Makerspace as we get closer to the grand opening!

Karen Fraser

COUNSELLOR'S CORNER

Woodlawn students, staff and parents continue to examine beliefs about our behaviour. Do we believe in the illusion that we can control others and make them conform? Do we believe it is our responsibility to coerce? Can other people MAKE us happy, angry or sad? Is our behaviour an uncontrollable response to their actions? Or do we accept that we are responsible for our actions no matter what the actions are of others? Do we believe that each individual has the right to free choice providing it is safe and he/she doesn't interfere with others meeting their needs? What kind of person do we want to be when we make a mistake and hurt others?

And what do we believe as teachers and parents about how to teach children to behave?



These are BIG questions because our beliefs drive our thoughts, actions and feelings. Many students at Woodlawn have been thinking about what they believe about how they should treat each other, and thinking about the person they want to be. And, they are also continuing to learn that IT IS OK TO MAKE MISTAKES - it is how we learn! However, when an adult uses guilt and criticism it contributes to defensive behaviours such as excuses, yelling, running away, denying, lying and blaming. Controlling behaviours such as guilt and criticism often PREVENTS a child from examining their own behaviours.

When a child feels emotionally safe, and when given the opportunity to examine their own behaviour, they will be more willing to:

- ★ Think about what it was they wanted/needed
- ★ Think if their behaviour helped or hurt them get what they needed/wanted
- ★ Figure out a plan to make it right with the person they wronged
- ★ Figure out a better way to get what they need

If you are interested in hearing more about becoming a parent who empowers your child(ren) to meet their needs in a cooperative, successful way, **please join us Monday, Dec. 7 from 6-7pm in the Woodlawn library for the 2nd of 8 parenting sessions called Parenting Can Be a Pleasure.**

Wishing you a holiday season filled with joy and love with your very special children.

Sandy Kehler
Guidance Counsellor

Woodlawn Christmas Concert— Thursday, December 10th

2:00 and 7:00

"Here We Come A Caroling"



Woodlawn's Grade 3 and 4 students will be presenting a Christmas Concert titled "Here We Come A Caroling". It's a celebration of Christmas carols both old and new; some with a twist, and some done traditionally. Each class will be featured instrumentally for one of the carols! The concert will be held at the **Emmanuel Free Church (360 Mackenzie Ave)**, and parents are welcome to attend either concert **(2 or 7pm)!**

Please note that the evening concert is usually very full! Please consider attending the afternoon concert if at all possible! Woodlawn's Afternoon Kindergartens, Grade 1, and Grade 2 students will also attend this concert.

A goodwill offering supporting *Steinbach Community Outreach* will be taken halfway through the concert. The grade 1 classes will also be selling their homemade gingerbread cookies in the lobby for \$0.50 with proceeds also going to Steinbach Community Outreach, a program that supports people in our own community who struggle with the basic necessities in life such as food, clothing and shelter. Thanks for your support!

For those parents attending our annual Christmas Concert, I would like to thank you in advance for having your younger or older children stay under your direct supervision at all times during the concert performances. We must be respectful of the Church and its property. Younger and older siblings are not allowed to wander in the vestibule, rooms or upstairs while we are using the facility. Thank you for cooperating with this request.



By HelpingArtist



By HelpingArtist



By HelpingArtist



By HelpingArtist



By HelpingArtist

Community Christmas

Woodlawn School is doing a toy drive this year in order to support families in our community through Southeast Helping Hands.

We will be collecting new unwrapped toys for ages newborn to 17 (no weapons or violent toys please). The toy drive will run from Monday, November 23 – Friday, December 4, 2015. For every toy that a child contributes, their class will receive one ballot to enter for a chance to win a pizza party for their class.

This holiday season help to make sure that everyone has a wonderful Christmas!

Thank you for your support.



Christmas Goodies!!

If you send Christmas treats to school with your child please do not send anything containing peanuts/nuts or peanut/nut products.

We have students with severe allergies to peanuts and appreciate your help in keeping all our students safe.

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



Let's Keep Warm!!!

As we all know the weather in Manitoba can change from one moment to the next. Please send your children dressed to deal with the elements. Good boots, mittens, and a hat added to ski pants and a parka makes all the difference between a child enjoying the outdoors or tolerating it. Students are encouraged to go out for recess because it is important to get some fresh air during the day. Remember germs, not cold air, cause illness.

Weather and grounds permitting, all students play outdoors until 8:53 in the morning. Our cold weather policy is to keep students inside at recess when the wind chill factor is -30 or greater. Outside recess times will be shortened if the wind chill is between -25 and -29 Celsius.

School Closure Notifications

When extreme weather or road conditions call for a school closure you will receive a recorded phone call from Superintendent Randy Dueck beginning at 6:45 am. This additional communication effort is to help ensure that all students will be aware of school closures and no students will find themselves in an unsafe situation where they may be facing extreme weather unnecessarily. **When school is cancelled due to weather and road conditions there are no staff members at the school. If your phone number has changed since the beginning of the school year please call the office at 204-326-6110 to update your information.**



Schools will be closed due to extreme cold when the temperatures in most locations in the division are -35 degree Celsius or colder with -45 degree Celsius or colder wind-chill.



**May you be surrounded by the love,
joy and peace that is Christmas.**

The HSD Board of Trustees and Administration would like to take this opportunity to wish all students, parents, teachers, and staff a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Bus Delays

The Hanover School Division website, www.hsd.ca, has a "Bus Delay Bulletins" icon on the right hand side of the web page. All busses that are late for whatever reason will be posted on this site. Individual homes will not be contacted when there is a bus delay. Parents will be expected to obtain information, if needed, on the status of their bus using the website. Busses that are running more than 10 minutes late on a given day will have the bus number and estimated lateness posted on the page. Homes that do not have computer access to the web should make arrangements with another family on the route whom they can contact.

Low Cost Bike Helmet Initiative




The Manitoba Department of Healthy Living and Seniors is offering the Low Cost Bike Helmet Initiative. Information was sent home with the youngest child in each Woodlawn family. Orders are due before December 9, 2015. If you did not receive an order form and would like one sent home with your child please contact the school office at 204-326-6110.

FCC Drive Away Hunger

The FCC Drive Away Hunger campaign was a huge success! Thanks to your generosity we collected 642 pounds of food for our local food bank, South East Helping Hands. This organization serves over 100 people in Steinbach and area each month with almost half of those being children. Thank you!

Clothing Request

The Resource department is in need of a variety of sizes of clean, used clothing such as pants, socks and sweatshirts for girls and boys. Sometimes parents are unable to bring a change of clothes for a child that has had an accident or fallen in a puddle and these items come in very handy. If you are able to donate clothing items please drop them off at the school office.

		December 2015				
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Community Christmas Toy Drive Nov. 23 - Dec. 4	1 Day 1 Gr. 4 Immunizations (PM)	2 Day 2 Pepperoni Pizza \$2.00 per slice	3 Day 3	4 Day 4 Hot Lunch - Chicken Noodle Soup & a Bun or ½ Ham Sandwich or ½ Ham Wrap \$3.00 each	5
6	7 Day 5 6:00 - 7:00 pm Parenting Can be a Pleasure	8 Day 6	9 Day 1 Ham Pizza \$2.00 per slice	10 Day 2 Grade 3 & 4 Christmas Concert 2:00 & 7:00 Emmanuel Free Church	11 Day 3 Hot Lunch - Chicken Noodle Soup & a Bun or ½ Turkey Sandwich or ½ Turkey Wrap \$3.00 each	12
13	14 Day 4	15 Day 5 Grade 2 Students Sing at SCU - 10:15 - 10:30	16 Day 6 Pepperoni Pizza \$2.00 per slice	17 Day 1	18 Day 2 Hot Lunch - Chicken Noodle Soup & a Bun or ½ Ham Sandwich or ½ Ham Wrap \$3.00 each	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 	26
27	28	29	30	31	Please send exact change with your child for milk and hot lunches.	