

WOODLAWN EARLY YEARS SCHOOL



Karen Fraser—Principal
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Woodlawn School is an environment where education and culture empowers our students to grow into caring, connected and contributing global citizens.

Strong Connections at Woodlawn - September 13 & 16

Strong Connections will take place once again at Woodlawn School. The program is being used in Hanover School Division and several other school divisions across the province. Strong Connections is a program designed to enhance the beginning of the year assessment of each child and the relationship building process between teachers and their students. Strong Connections activities are not tests, but rather they are tasks designed to help us get to know our students and how they learn in order to know where to begin instruction.

Rationale for Strong Connections

Hanover School Division priorities state the need for meaningful assessment. Strong Connections is a form of authentic assessment in a practical and useful way. The purpose of Strong Connections is to enhance beginning of the year classroom assessment and relationship building with all children. This provides an opportunity for teachers to extend and consolidate their understanding of each child through one to one interview/assessment times. This will facilitate teachers in planning for instruction that will effectively address unique learning needs early in the year.

What will teachers learn through Strong Connections?

Teachers working individually with their students in an atmosphere of support and encouragement have an opportunity to collect first hand information about such things as:

- How they learn
- Their confidence as learners
- The learning strategies they possess
- Their reading, writing, and mathematical skills
- Their approach to problem solving
- Their attitudes towards school and learning
- Their ability to reflect upon and set goals for their learning

How will it work?

On either September 13 or 16, students will attend school one day out of two. With half of the students present, homeroom teachers will have the opportunity to meet one on one with each student to participate in assessment and relationship building activities. This is an opportunity for teachers to gather information about each child's learning that may not be evident during whole class instruction. It is also an opportunity to further develop the teacher-student relationship. While some students are with the teacher, others will be participating in a variety of stations which include music, physical education, literacy, and character building.

During these days students will arrive at school in their usual manner (bus or other) for their scheduled day. We look forward to using these days in September to provide us with a deeper understanding of each student. Please note that Kindergarten students who attend school on Days 2,4,6 will attend as usual on September 13 and those who attend on Days 1,3,5 will attend as usual on September 16.

**** Parents can log into their Parent Portal account to see which day their child will attend for Strong Connections. Parents who do not have a Parent Portal account can set one up through the HSD website - <https://hsd.ca/schools/parent-portal/>**