



December 2019 Newsletter

Westney Wanderings



1 - In this Issue:



2 - Land Acknowledgement

Key Stories:

- **Winter Concert**
- **FlipGive Fundraiser**
- **We School Rafiki Bracelet Sales**
- **Character Education**
- **SCC News**

- **Kiss and Ride**

Message from the Office



THANK YOU to families who have been so supportive this fall in so many ways. Many families ordered from our Fresh From The Farm Fundraiser, and/or have supported our school through special lunches, pizza lunches and cookie sales. All the monies raised go back to support our students! We have also just started our FlipGive fundraiser where families can buy gift cards for retailers as gifts or for their use. A portion of the purchase is then given to support Westney Heights. We thank all of our families who have already signed up and made purchases to support our students.

THANK YOU also to the very generous donations to WE Scare Hunger campaign. We raised over 1400 items to assist youth and families in Durham Region! We also won the challenge against Lester B. Pearson – Go Wildcats! This month our WE Team will be selling Rafiki Bracelets to support communities in Kenya. Please check out the information in the newsletter about this important initiative.

To continue our commitment to supporting those in need, our Hat, Sock and Mitten Tree is up in our front foyer. Donations of new items for all ages are welcome and can be hung right on the tree.

We are looking forward to seeing our community out at our Winter Concert Wednesday, December 11th. This year's theme is "Musicals" and all our students have been rehearsing daily to get ready! It's going to be a great show. The start time is 6:30 p.m. A reminder as well that you can purchase draw tickets for front row seating and/or a reserved parking space for the night of the concert.

During the week of December 16th-20th, Intermediate musical ensembles will be playing Christmas Carols in the front foyer at entry. Parents are welcome to come and listen to some sounds of the season. There will also be opportunities for students, if they choose, to come to the gym in the last week of school for caroling too.

On behalf of all the staff at Westney Heights, we would like to wish a Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanzaa and Happy Hanukkah to all who are celebrating this month.

Happy Holidays,

Mrs. Robertson & Mr. Harney

Principal

Vice-Principal

Junior Girls Volleyball

A huge congratulations to the members of our junior girls volleyball team for capturing our area volleyball championship pennant on Wednesday, November 27th. The girls persevered to overcome a last minute change in location to Lincoln Alexander P.S. due to the flooding that occurred in our gym that morning. The girls did not let that deter them as they came out strong beating the host team from Lincoln Alexander in two straight games. The girls then took on a strong team from Vimy Ridge in their second game winning in three hard fought sets leading them to the area title.

As Mr. Houston noted, the new pennant is waterproof so we know that it will be preserved for years to come.

We wish the girls the best of luck next week as they represent Westney Heights in the Regional Sweet 16 next Thursday, December 5th.





Safe Schools



Safe Arrival

If your child is going to be late or absent please call the school messenger safe arrival line at **1-844-350-2646** anytime before 8:55 am.

Parent Portal

It is extremely important that all Westney families have updated their information on the DDSB Parent Portal. This includes up to date phone numbers and email addresses. It can be a challenge to contact parents or guardians in the event of a student illness if the contact information is not up to date. We also send out a number of information items including our school newsletter via email which makes it important to have current email addresses as well. This can be done throughout the school year as contact information changes. We truly appreciate your efforts to stay connected with the school.

Volunteers in School

Thank you to all of our volunteers who have received a criminal background check in order to volunteer at Westney Heights. If you are volunteering in classrooms, driving for teams or clubs, or support field trips with our students we require that you have a criminal background check that is current within three years. We have a letter in the office that you can bring to a Durham Regional Police Service location for a discounted fee. We truly appreciate our volunteers and continue to put the safety of our students first. Because of the involvement of our volunteers we continue to be able to provide additional experiences that would otherwise not be available. Thank you to all of our amazing volunteers!

Winter Concert

It's concert Time again!!!

Your children have been working very hard to prepare for our Winter Concert this year. Please set aside the date and time...

When: Wednesday, December 11, 2019

Where: Westney Height Public School

Time: 6:30pm - 7:30pm

A letter went home last week, and an email was sent home for School Cash Online, for the opportunity to win front row seats and a preferred parking spot.



FlipGive

This year the Westney Heights office and the SCC have teamed up for a fundraiser with all funds going to support students at Westney Heights. Flip Give allows you to purchase gift cards for stores that you normally shop at or as gifts that you can purchase and a portion of the purchase is donated to Westney Heights. This varies depending on the retailer but there is never a cost to you.

Currently Ms. Hargreaves and Mrs. Shearer and Ms. Patel's classes are well on their way to a pizza lunch thanks to the purchases made by their families. There is no limit to the number of classes who will be rewarded. If \$100 is raised for the school, your class will be awarded a pizza party.

FlipGive

Start Raising With FlipGive




There's a new way to raise money for Westney Heights! Now the school earns between 1%-25%* when you shop online or buy gift cards. Visit FlipGive.com or download the FlipGive app. Every time you shop, you will be helping the school raise funds.

Classes that raise \$100 by December 31st get a **FlipGive pizza party**

Teacher	Join Code
Ms. Bain	MKFT7L
Ms. Parker	ZTXDPD
Mrs. Poynter	RQZLZY
Mr. Williams	PR6RZN
Ms. Mulligan	ZCFK7M
Ms. Samaha	B3L59M
Mrs. Sawyer	RQPXD5
Ms. Nurmohamed	3TSWZ2
Mr. Liamakeros	79Y22G

Mrs. Garey	96QDJK
Ms. Fallaize	RBX9WJ
Ms. Hargreaves	2646DR
Mr. Houston	X4ZD23
Ms. Gimotea	WGTPKZ
Mrs. Sultana	L393P9
Ms. Patterson and Mrs. Ross	BWF5XG
Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Khalid	BCRT6Z
Mrs. Shearer and Ms. Patel	7H92MP



For Example:

You Spend	Ms. Fallaize	W.H. Earns
\$800 Groceries <small>Walmart, Whole Foods, Well.ca</small>		\$40.00
\$350 Gas <small>Esso Gas Card, Esso Discount Card</small>		\$7.00
\$300 Hotels <small>Expedia, Hotels.com, Booking.com</small>		\$15.00
\$400 At Restaurants <small>Jack Astor's, Ultimate Dining Card</small>		\$40.00
\$250 Gifts & Household <small>Indigo, Amazon, Cineplex, Walmart</small>		\$25.00

You can earn up to **\$1,285** for the school shopping for things you already buy!

Visit FlipGive.com/join and use code:

X4ZD23
 Mr. Houston

November Bonus!
Your first purchase will earn an extra \$10 for the school.

Need Help?
If you have any questions or need help getting started, call our School Liaison:

Adam Faber
1-844-438-3547 ext 3800
9am - 5pm, Monday through Friday

*cashback varies by store / retailer offer

**a \$75 Pizza Pizza gift card will be supplied to each class that raises \$100 through FlipGive's cash back. Direct donations do not count towards a class fundraising total.

Library News

Our Library has undergone some changes this year! All students from grades 1 to 8 are now doing independent book exchange when they need a new book. This allows students to read at their own pace and not feel that they must change a book before they are ready or wait to change a book until a scheduled time. Each class has a set of passes that students use when they come to the library. Our

library goes beyond book exchange, however! Students can come to work collaboratively and quietly with peers, and do research too. The library is also open every morning at recess time for student use.

Our Kindergarten classes come to the library once a week for read aloud, book exchange and inquiry time. This has become a time when children benefit from a smaller teacher to student ratio. Our early learners are asking great questions about the stories and showing wonderful curiosity about the world during inquiry activities!

The shift in library structure supports our goal for the library commons to be a dynamic place for learning and collaborating for students.

A huge thank you to our library volunteers Ria Joshi and Kathleen Brent for all their time volunteering in our library and assisting with book exchange and circulation.



Lunch Drop-Off Request



If you are dropping off late lunches, school work, extra clothes, etc., please have these items clearly labelled before you arrive so as not to disturb the office more than necessary. You may leave these items on the counter in the office. Also please be sure your child knows ahead of time that these items are being dropped off, and that they know they should come to the office to pick them up. This way the office staff does not have to interrupt your child's class during the school day.

All students should arrive at school on time. As well, please send all lunches, snacks, and necessary school work/clothes for the day with your child when they arrive first thing in the morning. This will prevent unnecessary "buzzing in" of visitors to the school.

Kiss and Ride



Once again, we need your help to ensure the safety of all of our students. We ask that if you are dropping off or picking up your child in person to please use our Kiss and Ride program.

Please keep the following in mind when using the kiss and ride:

1. The kiss and ride is for picking up and dropping off only. Please do not park your vehicle to enter the school or supervise your child on the playground. This creates a traffic jam for other people who are using it.
2. Between 8:45 - 9:00 and 3:30 - 3:45, please do not drive through parking lot area unless you are using the kiss and ride.
3. Please enter at the west entrance and exit at the east entrance on Brennan.
4. Please do not park on the student crosswalk. This area is marked with yellow lines and is used for students to walk along.
6. Please do not park in the parking lot or driveway. Please use side streets if possible to reduce the number of vehicles on Brennan at or near bell times, and please do not park on Nicholls Crt.
7. Marked accessibility parking spaces are only to be used with a permit. We have a number of students who require loading and unloading in these areas.
8. Please remember that Smoking and Vaping is prohibited on school property or within 20m of school property. Please do not smoke or vape in your vehicle or outside of your vehicle while on school property.

Your assistance in this area is greatly appreciated and necessary to ensure the safety of all of our students!

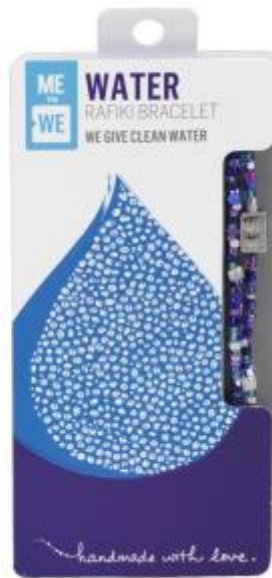
We Rafiki Bracelet Sales

As part of our ongoing effort to be active global citizens, the WE CLUB is selling Rafiki Bracelets.

Rafiki Bracelets are inspired by Maasai beading traditions in Kenya, handmade with love by women we know as mamas—extraordinary, talented women who are beading their way to a brighter future for themselves and their families.

The bracelets are \$10 each; 5.00 from each bracelet goes directly to the community in Kenya. Purchases can be made on Cash Online.

Families will be able to pre-order bracelets starting Monday December 2nd and up until the night of the Holiday concert December 11th. They will have them in time for the holidays. They make great gifts! Thank you in advance for your support, Westney!

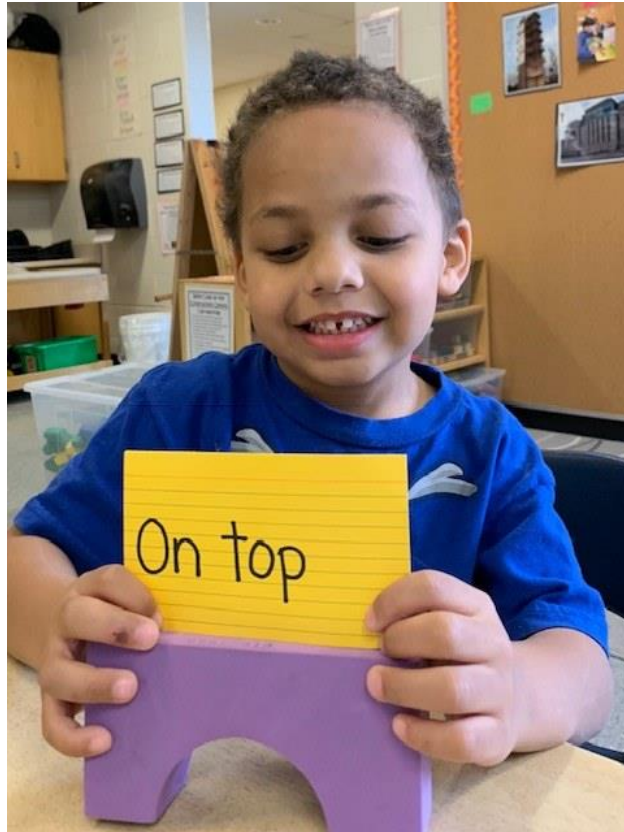


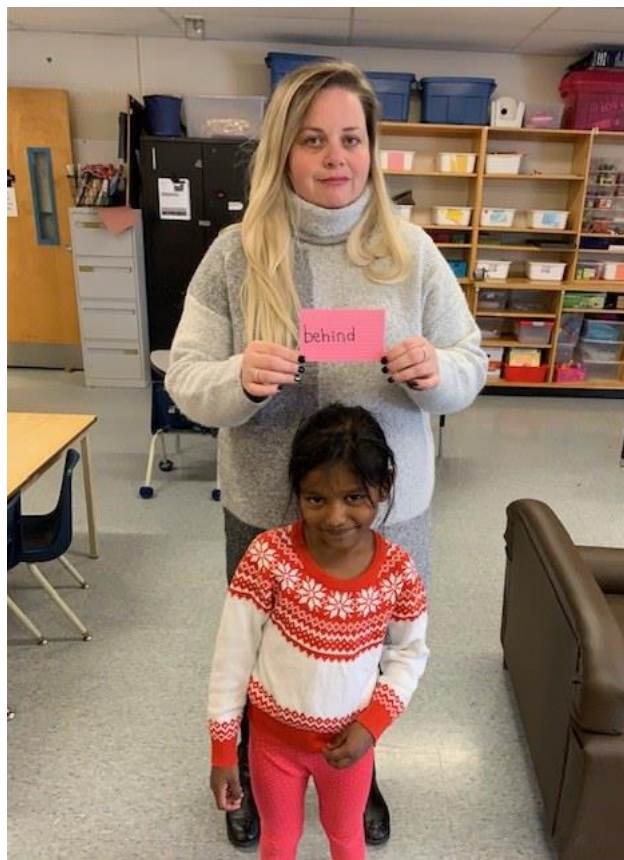
Learning in Kindergarten

Our kindergarten students in room 109, 106 and 105 are learning to use positional language. Our educator teams (Ms. Patterson/Mrs. Ross, Mrs. Wright/Mrs. Khalid and Mrs. Shearer/Ms. Patel) have been working alongside our literacy and numeracy coach to embed learning throughout all parts of the day including transition times.

"We are using words during the day (lining up, centers, playing, in the gym)."









Schoolyard Behaviour



Over the course of the first two months of school we as a staff have had to remind numerous students about respecting the trees and other natural aspects of our schoolyard. As noted in the code of conduct in front of the agenda of our grade 1-6 students and shared with the grade 7 and 8 families, hanging on limbs of trees and breaking branches is identified as a behaviour to avoid. We want to protect the trees that we have on our property as they provide valuable shade during the warmer months. Please re view this expectation with your child or children.

With the colder weather and snow approaching, we would also like to review the no throwing of snow policy with your child or children. With well over 300 students on the yard during recess times there is no opportunity to control the movements of all students which is why there is a no snow throwing or kicking policy in place. We want to ensure the yard is a safe place for students to be active and to play with friends. We encourage students to work collaboratively to build snow structures and snowmen while respecting the rights of others to play in the snow as well. We often remind the students that the

snow does not belong to any one person or groups of people and to be respectful to others while building.

Lunchroom Supervisors

Lunchroom supervisors play a vital role in our school. Our wonderful team of lunchroom supervisors support students from our kindergarten classes and developmental classes to our grade 8 students. They ensure our students are safe in both the classroom and on our yard and assist students with problem-solving and with bumps and bruises that happen while playing. We are always looking to add to our team with community members willing to help our students in both a full and part time basis. If you are interested in joining our team please contact Mr. Harney or Mrs. Nugent in the office for an application package.



Westney Heights Vendor Fair

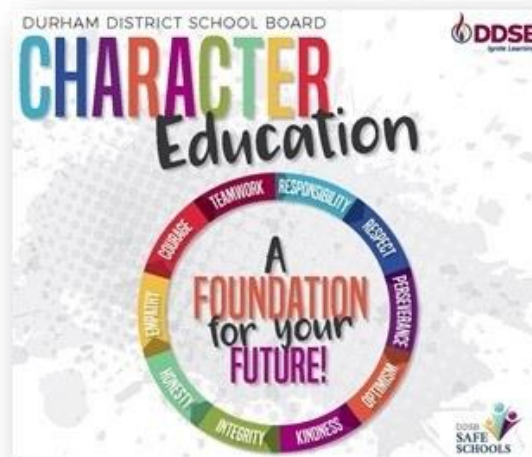
This April Westney Heights will be hosting a vendor fair during an interactive family evening at the school. We would like to know if any of our families would like to participate. If you are interested in being a vendor for our event on April 2nd, 2020, please take the time to fill out the following survey:

Thank you,

The Westney Heights SCC



Character Education at Westney



As part of the Durham District School Boards on going and updated focus on Character Education, Westney Heights staff will be highlighting the importance of strong character traits. As well, the Safe Schools Department and the DDSB social media platforms will be highlighting that trait during that month. Here are the character traits that we will focus on during the months of the school year:

September- **Optimism-**

October– **Teamwork-**

November- **Empathy-**

December- **Integrity-**

January- **Responsibility-**

February- **Kindness-**

March- **Respect-**

April- **Honesty-**

May – **Perseverance-**

June- **Courage-**



<https://sway.office.com/0SG6UpLSJJah8fMy#content=m4MGxV2haKk8qV>

School Community Council

SCC Meeting - Everyone is welcome.

Our next meeting is January 30th, 2020 at 5:30pm

The role of the School Community Council Members is to act as a link between the council and the community, and to reflect the views of parents during the decision-making process.

The council typically meets on the last Thursday of most school months.

The remaining proposed dates for the 2019-2020 school year:

Jan. 30, 5:30pm

Feb. 27, 5:30pm

Mar. 26, 5:30pm

May 28, 5:30pm

Dates of Significance



Special International Days in December:

December 1 - World Aids Day – United Nations

The commemoration of World AIDS Day, which will take place on 1 December 2019, is an important opportunity to recognize the essential role that communities have played and continue to play in the AIDS response at the international, national and local levels.

[World AIDS Day](#) offers an important platform to highlight the role of communities at a time when reduced funding and a shrinking space for civil society are putting the sustainability of services and advocacy efforts in jeopardy. Greater mobilization of communities is urgently required to address the barriers that stop communities delivering services, including restrictions on registration and an absence of social contracting modalities. The strong advocacy role played by communities is needed more than ever to ensure that AIDS remains on the political agenda, that human rights are respected and that decision-makers and implementers are held accountable.

Source: www.un.org

Click for posters and resources: https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/campaigns/WAD_2019

December 2 - International Day for the Abolition of Slavery – United Nations

According to the International Labour Organization, more than 40 million people worldwide are victims of modern day slavery. Modern Day Slavery is an umbrella term used to cover practices such as forced labour, debt bondage, forced marriage, and human trafficking. In addition, more than 150 million children are subject to child labour, accounting for almost one in ten children around the world.

The focus of this day is on the eradication of these contemporary forms of slavery.

Source: www.un.org

For more information and resources: <https://www.un.org/en/events/slaveryabolitionday/>

December 3 – International Day of Persons with Disabilities–United Nations

The annual observance of this day was proclaimed in 1992. It aims to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development, and to increase awareness of the situation of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life.

International Day of People with Disabilities (IDPWD) stands by its conviction that a person is not inherently 'disabled' ...disability is NOT a feature of a person. We say that people have health impairments: some of us need wheelchairs to mobilise; some of us need seeing-eye dogs; some of us need assistive technology – just like some of us need glasses to read; or medication to manage pain; or an inhaler to manage asthma.

All people have different health impairments at some time in their lives. The difference is that most of the time your health impairment doesn't stop you from functioning, being included or participating in your community.

IDPWD exists to make sure that environmental and social BARRIERS are identified, and to help everyone to work together to overcome them. We will never eradicate health impairments...but by overcoming barriers, then we eradicate disablement.

Source: www.un.org; www.idpwd.org

For resources: <https://www.un.org/en/events/disabilitiesday/resources.shtml>

December 10 – Human Rights Day – United Nations

Human Rights Day is observed every year on the 10th of December. The Declaration of Human Rights establishes the equal worth of every person. Though its promise has yet to be realized all over the world, it has stood the test of time. The principles set out in the Declaration of Human Rights are as relevant today as they were in 1948. We can take action in our own daily lives and help to improve the lives of others around the world.

For more information: <http://www.un.org/en/events/humanrightsday/>

www.ohrc.ca

December Upcoming Dates and Events



December

2 - Pizza Day

5 - Police Liaison officer presents cyber safety to grades 6-8

6 - Immunization Clinic Gr. 7 and 8

6 - Sub Lunch - Mr. Sub

11 - Winter Concert 6:30-7:30pm

12 - Winter Concert for the students 9:00 am - 10:00am

12 - Intermediate Self-Esteem workshop

13 - Christmas Tea in DEV Rm 110

16 - Pizza Day

18 - TAMI presentation to intermediate students

19 - Gr 5 Trip to Queen's Park

20 - Booster Juice Day

20 - LAST DAY BEFORE BREAK

January

6 - Classes resume

School festive Holiday 2019



Available Dec. 18th - 20th on your school's delivery day!

All the best made fresh!	
Traditional Holiday Lunch Holiday Lunch's roasted sliced turkey breast with mashed potatoes, corn, stuffing, and gravy.	\$6.50
Festive Chicken Meal Lightly breaded chicken breast strips with mashed potatoes, corn & gravy. <i>allergens:</i> No Cravy. Gluten Free available. ☺	\$6.25
Fa La La French Toast French Toast with turkey sausage, side syrup & fresh orange. <i>allergens:</i> Veggie sausage. ☺	\$5.75
Jolly Pasta Holiday Lunch Festive tri-coloured butternut pasta served with green peas & crunchy apple slices. ☺	\$6.00
 Round up your lunch! - Assorted Drinks - Cookies & Smoothies - Garden/Cheer Side Salads - and more online!	
Ordering is easy at theLunchLady.ca	

Contact Us



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Visit us on the web: [Westney Heights Homepage](#)

Follow us on Twitter

@Westney_Heights

Did you know that Westney Heights has it's own Twitter account?

[@Westney_Heights](#)

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