



January 2020 Newsletter

Westney Wanderings



1 - In this Issue:



The Durham District School Board acknowledges that many Indigenous Nations have longstanding relationships, both historic and modern, with the territories upon which our school board and schools are located. Today, this area is home to many Indigenous peoples from across Turtle Island. We acknowledge that the Durham Region forms a part of the traditional and treaty territory of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation, the Mississauga Peoples and the treaty territory of the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation. It is on these ancestral and treaty lands that we teach, learn and live.

2 - Land Acknowledgement

Key Stories:

- Kindergarten Registration
- FlipGive Fundraiser
- Forest of Reading
- First Westney Heights Vendor Fair

Message from the Office



Happy New Year!

We are excited to welcome all our students back after our holiday break. Our staff are continuing to strengthen our learning community through activities which give students opportunities to share their voices, celebrate identities and build teamwork.

Do you have a child born in 2016? Junior Kindergarten Registration for the 2020-2021 school year will be open at 4pm on January 17th. Registration is completed online only, at www.ddsb.ca. On the other end of our elementary spectrum, our Grade Eight students are beginning transition planning for secondary school this month. There will be an open house of parents and families at Pickering High School on January 22nd at 7pm, all are welcome.

Thank you to families who support our Healthy Hunger lunches! Every Friday a special lunch is offered. Orders are due by the Sunday before. Check out our options at www.healthyhunger.ca. Cookies are sold daily too at lunchtime at the office. Each cookie is \$1.00 and meet the standards of the School Food and Beverage Policy. Funds raised by both cookies and special lunches help to support incidental expenses outside of the classroom, such as buses for Cross Country, fees for tournaments and special programs. Thank you for your support!

Our board outside the gym celebrates math and has a new problem every month. We encourage students and their families to solve the problem together and hand it in to the office for a prize!

Yours in Education,

Mrs. Robertson & Mr. Harney

Principal

Vice-Principal

Kindergarten Registration

A promotional poster for Kindergarten Registration. The top half features a smiling young boy with red hair, resting his chin on his hands. The text 'Great Beginnings' is written in a large, red, cursive font over the image. Above the boy is the DDSB logo, which includes a stylized flame icon and the text 'DDSB Ignite Learning'. Below the main title, it says 'START AT THE DDSB' in blue capital letters. A dark green banner at the bottom contains the text 'KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION' in white capital letters. Below that, 'JANUARY 13, 2020' is written in large red letters, with 'Registration starts online at 4:00 p.m.' in smaller black text underneath. The website 'www.ddsbs.ca' is displayed in white on a dark green background. At the very bottom, a small note in white text on a dark background states: 'Available JK spots at single track French Immersion schools will be filled on a first come, first served basis only.'

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!

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.

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	WGTKPZ
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.

Forest of Reading

Parents, Forest of Reading starts next week!!

Kindergarten to grade 2 will have picture books from the Blue Spruce program read to them when they come for library visits Students in grades 3-8 can borrow books from the library or on Sora (Overdrive).

Red Maple is a fiction program for students in grade 7 and 8,

Silver Birch is a fiction program for students in grades 4, 5 and 6,

Silver Birch Express is a fiction and nonfiction program for grades 3 - 4

Yellow Cedar is a nonfiction program for students in grades 4-8.

Students may choose one program to read from. Our library only has one copy of each book so students may have each book for a maximum of two weeks. I recommend using Sora online and/or the public libraries as they will also have the books. Public Libraries also have Sora (Overdrive).

There are 10 titles in each category and students that have read at least five books by April 16th will have an opportunity to vote for their favourite book along with students from all over Ontario the week of April 20th. All books are pictured on the board outside the library with the name of the expert for that book. When a student finishes a book they will go to that expert for a signature in their passport. When they have five signatures they are ready to vote. Reading all ten books is best, but five is enough!!

Happy Reading to everyone!!

From Mrs. Smith



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:

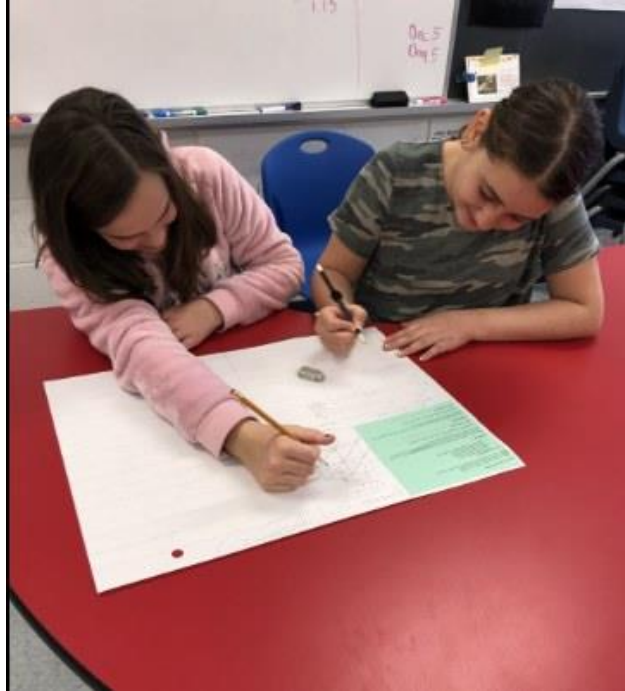
1. The kiss and ride is for picking up and dropping off only. Please do not park your vehicle to enter the school or supervise your child on the playground. This creates a traffic jam for other people who are using it.
2. Between 8:45 - 9:00 and 3:30 - 3:45, please do not drive through parking lot area 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!

Multiplication Strategies in grades 5 and 6



Dara: In drama, we are trying to work together as a team, sharing ideas, and creating a script all together for our drama play.



Hailey: My partner and I were working on the lattice strategy in mathematics. I liked doing it on chart paper because we could show our work properly.

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:

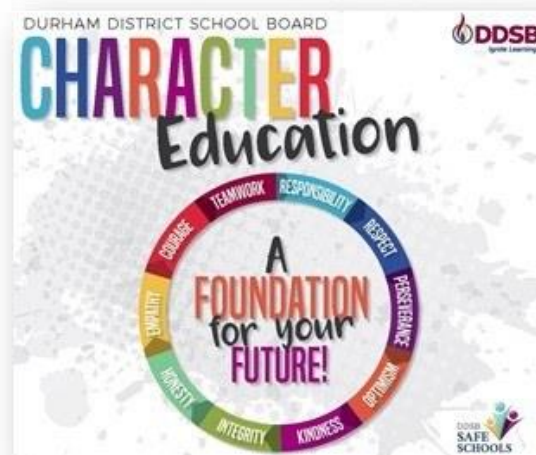
<https://forms.gle/uSobdWuARo8DFMid8>

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/lh6HbH4cdTnXwttt#content=BFdqsD5zaDOiFV>

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 January:

January is Tamil Heritage Month

On June 12, 2012, the Legislative Assembly of Ontario had its first reading of Bill 111, an Act to proclaim the month of January Tamil Heritage Month. People of Tamil heritage have migrated to Ontario since the 1940s. Tamil Canadians have overcome obstacles while making significant contributions to Ontario's social, economic, political and cultural tapestry. Tamil Heritage Month presents an opportunity to reinforce the important history and contributions of Canadians of Tamil heritage. The month of January was chosen because the first month of the Tamil calendar – Thai begins in January. This month is also significant as Tamil Canadians recognize many cultural and artistic observances including the Tamil Harvest Festival – Thai Pongal.

December 26 - January 1 - Kwanzaa (African/American Canadian)

Professor Maulana Karenga started Kwanzaa in 1966 to encourage African Americans to celebrate the beauty of their African heritage. The time is celebrated by decorating with African art and fabrics, and wearing African clothing. Each of the 7 principles of Kwanzaa, called the Nguzo Saba (Swahili for “seven principles”) is thought about and celebrated on each of the 7 days of the festival. The Nguzo Saba are: Umoja (unity), Kujichagulia (self-determination), Ujima (collective responsibility), Ujamaa (cooperative economics), Nia (purpose in building the community), Kuumba (creativity), and Imani (faith). A special seven-pronged candle holder, the Kinara, is used for Kwanzaa. One candle is lit the first day, two the second day and so on.

January 1 – New Year's Day

New Year's Eve and New Year's Day are special days for many people around the world. On the morning of New Year's Day, children on the Six Nations Reserve in Ontario go from house to house collecting gifts of edible treats. People of Japanese heritage welcome the New Year (Gantan Sai) with prayers and visits to holy sites often timed to coincide with the stroke of midnight. For French Canadians, New Year's Eve is sometimes more important than Christmas Eve. Their house-visiting custom is called "guignoloée." Bell-ringers announce that visitors have arrived. After the singing, the visitors collect money, food, and clothes for the needy. People of Scottish heritage call New Year's Eve "Hogmanay". Many European Canadians observe several Scottish customs today—the most popular among which are the use of noise-makers and the singing of “Auld Lang Syne” at midnight. Often there is also a round of kissing.

On New Year's Eve, many people of Chilean heritage sing their national anthem. People of Austrian heritage may eat marzipan candy pigs, which stand for good fortune. People of Portuguese heritage eat

12 raisins for good luck—one for each stroke of the clock. Koreans may stay up all night, and have "forgetting-the-year" parties, during which there is a ceremony to forget any past disappointments.

January 15 – Birthday of Martin Luther King Jr.

The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a Baptist minister and political activist who is arguably the most famous leader of the American Civil Rights Movement. King was named Man of the Year by Time Magazine in 1963, and won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964—then the youngest man ever to have received the award. He turned over the Nobel Prize money to further the Civil Rights Movement. King was assassinated in 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee, where he had planned to lead a march in sympathy with striking garbage workers. It was only 9 years later, in 1977, when he was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Jimmy Carter. In the United States, Martin Luther King Jr. Day is observed on the third Monday of January each year. The struggle to have this day recognized as a federal holiday involved Stevie Wonder's song "Happy Birthday," and a petition with 6 million signatures—the largest petition in US history. The day was observed first in 1986, and was finally observed in all states in 2000. For his promotion of non-violence and racial equality, King is considered a peacemaker and martyr by many people around the world.

January 15 - Martin Luther King Day

The idea of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as a holiday was promoted by labor unions in contract negotiations. After King's death, U.S. Representative John Conyers and U.S. Senator Edward Brooke introduced a bill in Congress to make King's birthday a national holiday. The bill first came to a vote in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1979. However, it fell five votes short of the number needed for passage. Two of the main arguments mentioned by opponents were that a paid holiday for federal employees would be too expensive, and that a holiday to honor a private citizen would be contrary to longstanding tradition (King had never held public office). Only two other figures have national holidays in the U.S. honoring them: George Washington and Christopher Columbus.

January 15-18 Thai Pongal

In India, the holiday stretches across four full days, but in Sri Lanka, most only celebrate it for one or two days. Thai Pongal falls on the first day of the month of Thai on the Tamil traditional calendar, which normally lands in somewhere between January 13th and 16th on the Western calendar. The festival, which involves feasting, visiting relatives, and giving out gifts, is one of the most cherished of all Tamil holidays and has been celebrated for at least 1,000 years. Source: <https://publicholidays.lk/tamil-thai-pongal-day/>

January 21 – Lincoln Alexander Day (Canada)

Lincoln MacCauley Alexander was born on Jan. 21, 1922. He practised law for more than 10 years and in 1968 was elected MP of Hamilton West, becoming Canada's first black MP. He held his seat for four terms, but left in 1980 to become chair of Ontario's Worker's Compensation Board. In 1985, he was named Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, the first black man to hold that title. He was also the University of Guelph's longest-serving chancellor from 1991 to 2007. He died in October 2012 at the age of 90. As of December 3, 2014, Lincoln Alexander Day January 21, Lincoln's birthday, is now recognized officially as Lincoln Alexander Day across Canada, with Royal Assent by the Governor General December 9, 2014.

January 27 – International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust (UN)

On November 1, 2005, the United Nations General Assembly voted unanimously to designate January 27 the "International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust." This day coincides with the day in 1945 when the Nazi concentration and extermination camp Auschwitz-Birkenau was liberated. The UN resolution also rejected any denial of the Holocaust as a historical event, either in full or in part, and member states are urged to teach the lessons of the Holocaust to help prevent future genocide. This day has been observed since 2001 as Holocaust Memorial Day in many European countries. Observed within the State of Israel, and Jews world-wide; Yom HaShoah vea hagvora, the "Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust and the courage of the Jewish people," on the 27th day of the month Nisan on the Hebrew calendar, which usually falls in April.

January Upcoming Dates and Events



January

6 - Classes resume

6 - Pizza Day

9 - Curling for Intermediate Team @ Annandale 4-5pm

10 - PHS Guidance department to visit grade 8 students regarding course selection

10 - Subway Lunch

14 - Intermediate Dodgeball Tournament

15 and 16 - Afiwi Groove Dance and Cultural presentations for Kindergarten to grade 8

16 - Curling for Intermediate Team @ Annandale 4-5pm

17 - PA Day

20 - Pizza Day

22 - Parent information Night at Pickering High School 7pm for grade 8 parents

22 - Cyberbullying presentation for intermediates

24 - Genesys Caribbean Fusion Lunch

29 - Curling Bonspiel for Intermediate Curling Team

30 - SCC Meeting 5:30pm

31 - Frantastic Lunch

January

6 - Classes resume

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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