



March 2020 Newsletter

Westney Wanderings



1 - In this Issue:

- *Pink Shirt Day 2020*
- *YMCA Before and After School Care*
- *FlipGive Fundraising*



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.

The graphic on the left is a circular emblem divided into four quadrants. The top-left quadrant is blue and contains a black bear silhouette. The top-right quadrant is yellow and contains a black bird silhouette. The bottom-left quadrant is red and contains a black moose silhouette. The bottom-right quadrant is green and contains a black deer silhouette. In the center of the circle is a smaller circle with a red and white design. The words "Turtle Island" are written around the top edge of the circle.

2 - Land Acknowledgement

Message from the Office



Dear Families,

Thank you to all our families who have supported our school through fundraisers such as special lunches and Cookie Grams, and for those who volunteer their time at Westney Heights. Your support is greatly appreciated and helps to run programs and special events for our students.

Throughout the month our students have been working on communicating their thinking in math in many ways. We've seen kindergarten students share how they measure objects using lots of different items, grade 2 students showing their understanding using FlipGrid on the computer and Grade 8s beginning "Math Life," where they learn all the ways math skills are needed in life as you become an adult. The grade 8s receive a job and salary and learn to budget, pay rent, buy a house, pay interest and support a family. Amazing learning is happening all around Westney!

Every Wednesday and Friday afternoon Mrs. Robertson or Mr. Harney read a story in the library for all who would like to attend. These read alouds are very well attended across the grades, usually with more than 50 students coming to listen to a variety of stories. We're thrilled to continue this through the rest of the school year.

We are looking forward to a Family Night at Westney on April 2nd. We will have a Graphic Novel Workshop led by Kelvin Nyeusi Mawazo, Author of the Black Sun Comics series, open gym activities and a Vendor Fair organized by our SCC. We look forward to seeing many families at the event!

March Break will begin Friday, March 13th and run until Friday, March 20th. We wish all our students and their families a safe and restful break.

Yours in Education,

Mrs. Robertson & Mr. Harney

Principal Vice-Principal

Pink Shirt Day 2020

Pink Shirt Day 2020 was celebrated throughout the school on Wednesday, February 26th this year. Classes chose age-appropriate activities to discuss key issues like bullying, bystanders, upstanders, and allyship. You can see evidence of this as you walk the halls and see the work on display such as our pink shirts that are now under the photos of our students outside of their classes.







Healthy Hunger Friday Lunches

Westney Heights now has a variety of lunches every Friday. Simply set up an account on www.healthyhunger.ca and order any or all of the lunch options available. All orders are due the Sunday before the lunch.

Here are a list of our upcoming lunches:

Friday, March 6th Genesys Caribbean Fusion

Thursday, March 12th Booster Juice

Friday, March 27th Quesada

Please stay tuned for dates for April, May and June!



SCC Vendor Fair and Family Engagement Night 2020

This year the SCC is bringing the first vendor fair to Westney Heights. On Thursday, April 2nd many local vendors will be at the school to share their wonderful products and services with our community. A portion of sales will be donated to our school.

Additionally, Kelvin Nyeusi Mawazo, the creator of Black Sun Comics will be presenting two workshops where families can work together to create their own comic hero. This will be a great way to see the benefit of graphic novels and how they can impact literacy engagement.

Our gym will be open with many centres and activities for our families to take part in as well. Come out and get active with your family. More details will follow in a poster invitation and email communication in the coming weeks.

YMCA Before and After School Care for 2020-2021

If you are interested in the YMCA before and after school care program feel free to pick up a program interest form which you can obtain from Mrs. Nugent or from the YMCA.

YMCA contact info:

Email: WestneyHeights@ymcgta.org

Phone: 289-927-3543

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!

Dogs at Westney Heights

We would like to thank all of our families who continue to take the opportunity to walk to and from Westney on a regular basis. We know that this is a great way to promote physical activity which often involves bring the family dog along for the walk. This was clearly communicated to us with the survey that went home last spring that the majority of families do want to continue with the practice of allowing dogs on school property.

Once at school we continue to ask that if you bring your dog to school that you remain at a safe distance from the doorways to allow those who are fearful or not comfortable around dogs to remain at a distance that they feel comfortable. Additionally, we ask that you are aware in walkways and sidewalks to keep your dog at close proximity. During the winter months with snowbanks often reducing the width of these routes, be aware that those that are not comfortable around dogs have less room to keep at a distance to feel comfortable.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns feel free to speak with Mrs. Robertson or Mr. Harney,

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.

The logo for FlipGive features the word "Flip" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, followed by "Give" in a teal, sans-serif font. The letter "i" in "Give" has a circular arrow around it, suggesting a cycle or donation.

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.

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.

Kiss and Ride



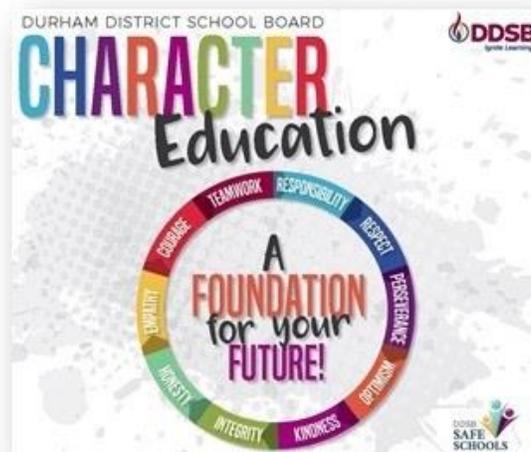
Once again, we need your help to ensure the safety of all of our students. We ask that if you are dropping off or picking up your child in person to please use our Kiss and Ride program.

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!

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/7Q9UJJ3a1RAj7tat#content=oxHpD7xLs08so/>

School Community Council

SCC Meeting - Everyone is welcome.

Our next meeting is March 26th at 5:30pm in the library.

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:

Mar. 26, 5:30pm

May 28, 5:30pm

Dates of Significance



Special International Days in March:

Lent (Orthodox) March 2

Holi March 9th

March is Bangladeshi Heritage Month

Ontario is home to a large and vibrant Bangladeshi community. Across our province, Bangladeshi Canadians people have made significant contributions to science, athletics, and cultural and political development.

March 8th - International Women's Day

International Women's Day is celebrated around the world. Established in 1977 by the United Nations, this special day is an excellent opportunity to recognize the contributions to social justice and international peace and security that have been made by women. March 8th also provides an opportunity to reflect on the progress made to advance women's equality, to assess the challenges facing women in contemporary society, to plan steps to enhance the status of women, and to celebrate the gains made in these areas. The theme for this year is *Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights*. The theme is aligned with UN Women's new multigenerational campaign. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2019/12/announcer-international-womens-day-2020-theme>

March 17th - St. Patrick's Day (Irish)/Irish Heritage Day

Irish immigrants were among the earliest settlers in Canada. In 1845, Irish immigrants, fleeing the potato famine in Ireland, began settling in Ontario in large numbers. They brought to Ontario and Canada their values of hard work, devotion to family, service to the community and the perpetual hope for a better future for themselves and their fellow citizens. Ontario citizens of Irish descent made significant contributions to the founding of Canada. They have made and continue to make significant contributions to the development of Canada, especially over the more than 150 years since the first large waves of Irish immigration. It is important to recognize and celebrate those contributions. Today the rich cultural heritage of Canada's Irish community is an integral part of Canadian national culture and identity and belongs, by right, to all Canadians of all backgrounds. As evidence of that fact, the coat of arms of Canada bears several symbols of Irish heritage: the Royal Harp of Tara representing the historic coronation place of the High King or Ard Righ of Ireland and the Shamrock and Cross of Saint Patrick. It is

appropriate to recognize March 17, the day of Saint Patrick, the patron saint of the Irish, as Irish Heritage Day in Ontario. Taken from: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/s04010>

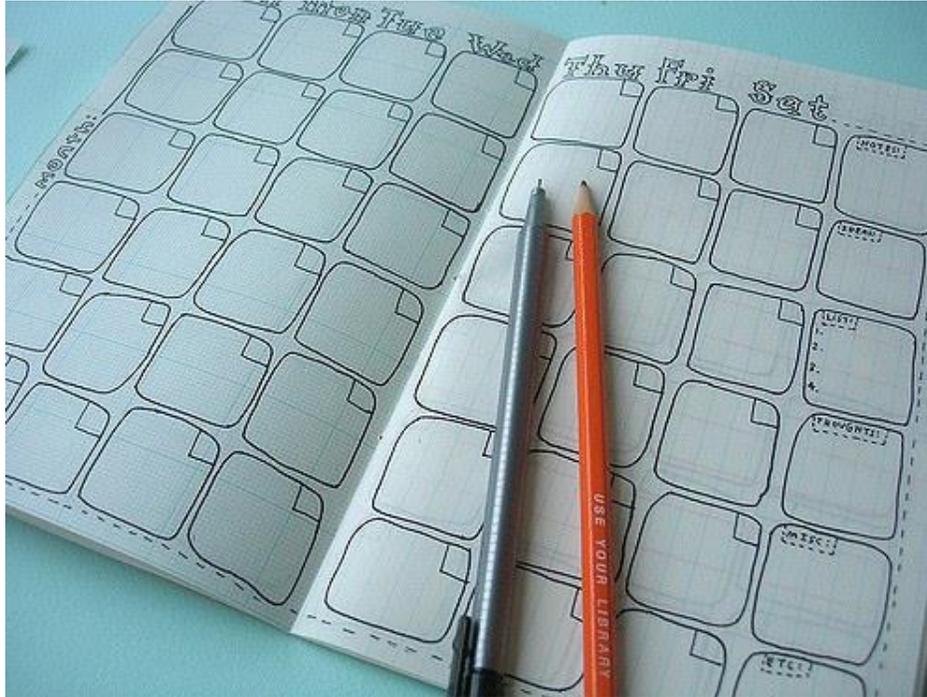
March 21st - United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racism Beginning in 1966, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination has been observed annually on March 21st around the world. On this day in 1960, police opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration against apartheid "pass laws" in Sharpeville, South Africa. This incident provoked outrage and an increased desire to see racial discrimination of all sorts eliminated. This year's theme is: "Mitigating and countering rising nationalist populism and extreme supremacist ideologies." Resources: <http://www.un.org/en/events/racialdiscriminationday/resources.shtml>

March 19 - Naw Ruz (New Year) This is the first day of the year in the Baha'i calendar according to the Vernal or Spring Equinox. This day represents the new life of Spring and marks the end of the 19-day period of fasting.

March 25th - International Day of Remembrance - Victims of Slavery and Transatlantic Slave Trade

For over 400 years, more than 15 million men, women and children were the victims of the tragic transatlantic slave trade, one of the darkest chapters in human history. Every year on 25 March, the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade offers the opportunity to honour and remember those who suffered and died at the hands of the brutal slavery system. The International Day also aims to raise awareness about the dangers of racism and prejudice today. In order to more permanently honour the victims, a memorial has been erected at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The unveiling took place on 25 March 2015. The winning design for the memorial, The Ark of Return by Rodney Leon, an American architect of Haitian descent, was selected through an international competition and announced in September 2013. Resources: <http://www.un.org/en/events/slaveryremembranceday/resources.shtml>

March Upcoming Dates and Events



March

6 - Genesys Caribbean Fusion school lunch (on www.healthyhunger.ca)

9 - Pizza Day

12 - Booster Juice day (on www.healthyhunger.ca)

12 - Last day of classes before March Break

13 - School closed

23 - Return from March Break

23 - Pizza Day

25 - Grade 8 grad photos

26 - SCC Meeting 5:30pm in the library

27 - Quesada school lunch (on www.healthyhunger.ca)

April

2 - School Open house with Vendor Fair, Graphic Novel workshop

3 - P.A. Day

6 - SK Grad photos and spring photos (details to follow)

10 - Good Friday (School Closed)

13 - Easter Monday (School Closed)

20 - Pizza Day

Creative Kids

Get ready for an art adventure! Young artists will create masterpieces through paint, paper maché, clay, and various art projects. Games and theme days will add to the experience. Swimming will take place on Tuesday and Thursday. Ages: 5-12yrs

Ajax Community Centre

Mon-Fri 9:00am-4:00pm Wks: 1 \$189 25660

Dance Camp*

Ballet, Hip Hop, Jazz, Lyrical, and Theatre dance. Campers will feel the beat, explore creative movement, create props, and learn choreography while being introduced to the fundamentals of dance. Each style will be highlighted in a showcase on the final day of camp. No dance experience required. Before and After Hours program not available. Ages: 7-12yrs

St. Francis Centre

Mon-Fri 9:00am-4:00pm Wks: 1 \$199 25596

Day Breaks

Take part in sports, cooperative activities, games, crafts, and daily swims. Register for as many days as you like. Before and After Hours programs are available. Ages: 6-12yrs

McLean Community Centre

Mar 16	9:00am-4:00pm	\$42	25597
Mar 17	9:00am-4:00pm	\$42	25598
Mar 18	9:00am-4:00pm	\$42	25599
Mar 19	9:00am-4:00pm	\$42	25600
Mar 20	9:00am-4:00pm	\$42	25601

Day Trippers

A different trip each day to an exciting attraction within Durham Region and the GTA. Examples of past trips include: bowling, President's Choice Cooking School, and Skyzone. Trips are subject to change. Admission fees are included. Ages: 7-12yrs

Ajax Community Centre

Mon-Fri 9:00am-4:00pm Wks: 1 \$273 25661

Drop-In Centres*

Drop in for sports, cooperative activities and games! Spend the day with your friends in a safe, supervised environment. Before and After Hours program not available; no lunch hour supervision. Ages: 6-12yrs

Lakeside Public School

Mon-Fri 10:00am-12:00pm \$3.50/visit Drop-In Mon-Thu 1:00pm-3:00pm \$3.50/visit Drop-In

Lincoln Alexander Public School

Mon-Fri 10:00am-12:00pm \$3.50/visit Drop-In

Mon-Thu 1:00pm-3:00pm \$3.50/visit Drop-In

Kids Great Minds - Cartoon Computer Animation

Dive into STEAM with Computer Animation Technology! This camp will enhance children's knowledge and creativity by bringing their inspiring stories to life. Campers work collaboratively in a guided, learning, computerized environment and explore self-expression while drafting their own stories to animate. They will learn about story boarding, create short computer animated cartoons, TV shows or movies, and develop logical thinking skills. Ages: 6-11yrs

Kindercamp

Calling all Junior Campers! Experience the fun of camp with games, theme days, songs, story time, and arts & crafts. Participants must be fully toilet trained. Before and After Hours not available at Lakeside location. As per Ontario legislation, no age exceptions can be made for this camp. Ages: 2.5-6yrs

Lakeside Public School

Mon-Fri (4-6yrs) 9:00am-4:00pm Wks: 1 \$189 25503

Tue-Thu (2.5-5yrs) 9:00am-11:00am Cls: 3 \$38 25504

Leadership Camp

Youth will discover the importance of leading through influence in our interactive workshops. Take part in team building exercises, problem solving, recreational activities, and skill development. Gain practical skills that can be applied in any environment. Ages: 11-15yrs

Mad Science - Brixology with LEGO®*

Using LEGO® bricks, campers will become junior engineers as they explore mechanical engineering with daily indoor and outdoor projects. Projects will range from carnival rides to drawing machines, mechanical animals to bridges. Before and After Hours program not available. Ages: 6-12yrs **Lincoln**

Alexander Public School

Mon-Fri 9:00am-4:00pm Wks: 1 \$267 25706

Teen Fitness Camp*

This exciting camp incorporates the Teen Weight Training Course with a variety of fitness activities to set youth on a path of health, fitness and wellness. Students will experience sport conditioning, weight

training, a nutrition session and more. Upon successful completion, participants will receive an \$80 credit toward a membership in our Fitness & Health Centres. Before and After Hours program not available. Ages: 13-17yrs

Art Beyond Borders

Calling all passionate artists! Get ready to discover art from around the world! Discover traditional folk art techniques from Africa, South America, North America, Australia (and more). Youth will draw using a mix of dry media, experiment with different painting techniques, and explore pattern, texture and detail, while creating their own masterpiece. Ages: 11-15yrs

Youth On The Move

Enjoy daily destinations to new places!

Trips may include: laser tag, Playdium, Skyzone, and more. Trips are subject to change. Participants 12 years of age will be grouped with a counsellor while on trips. Ages: 12-16yrs **Audley Recreation Centre**
Mon-Fri 9:00am-4:00pm Wks: 1 \$273 25688

For more details and Before & After Hours locations, see pages 35-36 of the 2020 Spring/Summer activeAjax Community Recreation Guide.

* Before & After Hours not available for all camps.

Friday, March 13, 2020 –

Contact Us



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Ajax, On

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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](https://twitter.com/Westney_Heights)

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