

Waterloo Elementary School

October Newsletter 2023

Upcoming Dates to Remember

October 5 - Cross Country Tournament @ Knowlton Academy

October 6 - Terry Fox Run @ Waterloo Beach/Park

October 6 - October House Assembly

October 9 - Thanksgiving (NO CLASSES)

October 13 - QPAT Convention - Teacher Planning Day (NO CLASSES)

October 12 - First Communications posted online

October 11 - Soccer Tournament (Cycle 1) @ Knowlton Academy

October 18 - Soccer Tournament (Cycle 2/3) @ Knowlton Academy

October 17 - Governing Board Meeting @ 18h in the WES Literacy Bistro

October 31 - Halloween - Haunted House, Activities & Costume Parade



Dear Waterloo Elementary School Families,

We have now entered the spooktacular month of October. We were and are so fortunate to have been blessed with incredible weather and sunshine since our student's return.

Our goal this year at WES is to revitalize our partnerships with the community. Our families already had the opportunity to meet some of our wonderful partners during our AGM/Meet the teacher night on September 14th, 2023. We look forward to the positive impact they will have on our students and families.

The after school sports program has begun and students from grades 3-6 are highly enthusiastic. We currently have over 40 students taking part in this wonderful program. Thank you to Mr. Gabriel Savard-Bergeron and the supports of our partners at Pédiatrie Social for providing an opportunity for our students to learn and improve their physical and mental wellbeing.

Last month our students commemorated Orange Shirt day, which is a day of recognition of the residential school history in Canada and learned about indigenous cultures. We came together to speak about reconciliation and how we can take part in the healing process. This month we will be take part in the Terry Fox run to raise awareness and funding for cancer research. We will also be celebrating Thanksgiving, Nation book month, ADHD awareness, and Halloween.

Our incredibly motivated Waterloo Elementary School team is looking forward to a month filled with engaging learning activities and celebrations. We wish you all cozy fall vibes as we give thanks to your continued support for our staff and students.

All my best,

Adriana Lyons

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What's New & Happening

Piece by Piece is WES' guiding philosophy again this year. Our school, much like a puzzle, is made up of many different and unique pieces. We know they can all fit together to make a beautiful picture, and we hope to help each student and staff member find where they belong.

The Compass Centre is all about regulating emotions. Need a safe space to blow off some steam? Need a quiet one to work through your feelings? Why not both! Inspired by movements researched by the Centre of Excellence for Behaviour Management (CEBM), the Compass Centre is a two-pronged approach to helping our students refocus their energy at school. On one side of the hall you'll find a nurturing and support centre aimed at preventive approaches, and on the other "The Spot" for working through our emotions in a secure and confidential environment. Students taking advantage of these rooms will learn to better manage their emotions and to self-advocate for what they feel they need. We're already seeing huge improvements! The center is led by our Social Work Technician, Adrienne Francoeur and a team of fabulous HSA's and SETs ready to accompany our students.

The Literacy Centre is open for business! Students from grades 1-6 can take advantage of the various clubs and activities offered at all recesses and lunch hour (Macrame, Spanish, Ukelele, etc.). The Joyful literacy center is up and running and our K-grade 2 teams are working hard while learning through play in a beautiful space designed specifically for their learning needs. The library, thank you to the generous Ms. Lee, is welcoming all students on Tuesdays for story time with our lovely librarian, and to find their next literary adventure. Please stay tuned for upcoming parent workshops/activities.

The House System has started with a bang. On Fridays, students will wear their House Shirt/colours representing the house they belong to. During the 3rd period of the day, a series of multi-age lessons/activities take place, points can be accumulated by all students and staff any day of the week, and are then add up to school-wide rewards for everyone, and a monthly Lead team and Head of House. We wish to prompte healthy/friendly competition and camaraderie.

The Terry Fox Run will take place Friday, October 6th at the Waterloo beach/Park. We anticipate an incredible day as always. Thank you Mr. J of your hard work putting the run together. We encourage everyone to continue to donate (Information was sent by Mr. J on Classroom Dojo).

Our General Assembly and Governing Board Elections were held on September 14th, and I am pleased to see some new faces and also welcome back returning members. I want to thank everyone who attended the General Assembly, and our Governing Board members for their precious time and support for our school.

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WES 2023-2024 Governing Board

Parent Representatives: Luke Trybula, Megan Hulsko, Maude Berniquez, Mélanie Cleary
Parent Alternates: Mélanie Boucher, Amélie Royer

Teacher Representatives: Natalie Barr, Lysa Fournier
Teacher Alternates: Kim Graveline, Emily Massé

Support Staff Representative: Cindy Elston
Support Staff Alternate: Barb Talbot

Daycare Representative: Tania Giroux



Reminders

Toys and Games from Home should be left at home and not brought to school. We realize that it is only natural for students to want to bring their favourite toys or games to school so that they can play with their friends. Unfortunately, it is difficult for our staff to keep track of everything without risking something getting broken or lost. For that reason, we ask that you do not send your child(ren) with these sorts of things – keep them for after school! In particular, students were asked to keep Pokémon™ cards at home as conflicts can arise when they are gifted, traded, or go missing.

Water Bottles are strongly recommended for each student. Our new water fountains are equipped with bottle fillers so that students have easy access to refills during the day.

Cooler Weather is on the way so we ask that you please send your child to school dressed for the Fall, which can be chilly in the mornings and warmer by noon. If possible, layers are best and let's not forget rain boots and coats to stay dry when enjoying the outdoors!

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The School Day runs from 7:45am to 2:25pm daily. Students need to be in class and ready to learn by 7:55am with dismissal at 2:25pm. A free breakfast is available for all students at 7:45am, thanks to the Breakfast Club of Canada, Andy Wheeler, and our generous group of volunteers who donate their time to this important part of school life. Please note that parents are responsible for supervision outside school day hours (before 7:45am and after 2:25pm).

- If your child will be **PICKED UP**, he or she will wait in the cafeteria. Parents are required to come to the cafeteria door to pick up their child, but please wait outside. For safety reasons, your child will not be allowed to leave the school if you are waiting in the parking lot or in a vehicle.
- If your child **RIDES THE BUS**, he or she will be greeted by supervisors at their bus prior to departure to ensure every child is accounted for.

****If an emergency arises and you must inform us of a change to your child's travel plans after 2:00pm, please call the secretary immediately, and we will try our best to accommodate your request.****

Medication for Students must be delivered by the parent, as children are not allowed to bring drugs or medicines onto school grounds. A medication authorization form **MUST** be completed, signed by a parent or guardian, and brought to the school office.

A Change of Clothing is important to have as a back-up in the event of an accident or to replace inappropriate garb. Students are able to get a change of clothing when needed from the office, however, we have a limited supply; if you know your child has accidents, please pack an extra set of clothes in their backpack and let your child know how to access them. These accidents are not uncommon during the first weeks of school. One thing parents can do to help is make sure that their child can easily and independently get in and out of clothing. We are always happy to accept donations of pants or new underclothes for our students.

