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Principal

Dianne Lefler

Vice-Principal

Lynda Kilpatrick

Office Coordinator

Chris Matthys-Weber

West Lynn Website:

www.granderie.ca/westlynn

Message from the Principal

September, 2015

Dear West Lynn Families,

Welcome back! It is my pleasure to welcome everyone back to school for the 2015 – 2016 school year! We hope that you all enjoyed a great, happy summer vacation, and that our students are back feeling ready to learn, grow, and have fun together.

The staff is looking forward to the new school year, filled with a wide variety of learning and leading opportunities. I encourage all of our families to become as actively involved with school as possible. Your support is welcome and needed to promote your child's learning and school experiences, and to help us provide a wide range of experiences for our students.

We have a few staff changes since last June. We said goodbye and all the best to Mrs. Crouch, and Mr. Van Laecke. Mrs. Atkinson and Ms. Otterman will be back at West Lynn at a later date after spending family time at home this year.

New to our school, we extend a warm West Lynn welcome to Mrs. James and Ms. Clarke, Educational Assistants; to Ms. Kitchen and Mr. Comeau, teachers in for Ms. Otterman and Mrs. Atkinson, and to Ms. Kilpatrick, Vice Principal (shared with Elgin and Lynndale Public Schools). We know that you are going to enjoy your new school "home." West Lynn is a great place to be!

This year our focuses are to develop skills and confidence with numeracy and problem solving, to continue to develop literacy skills, and on character education. Look in upcoming newsletters for more information devoted to these areas, and information on how you can help your child further develop in these critical areas.

I know that we are going to have an excellent year at West Lynn Public School in 2015-2016. We will continue to provide an outstanding education for your children and also lots of opportunities to grow socially and emotionally. I look forward to working with you over the 2015-2016 school year. Please call the school if you have any questions or concerns.

~ D. Lefler

Classes

On Friday, Sept. 18 we sent out information about the necessary re-organization of many of our classes. Everyone is settling in beautifully into their classes now. Students are off to a great start with learning!

The updated list of classes and staff is as follows:

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| JKA: | Mrs. Malo (teacher), Mrs. Luker (DECE) |
| JKB: | Mrs. LaPorte (teacher), Miss Brotherton (DECE) |
| Grade 1: | Mrs. Lesage |
| Grade 1 / 2: | Mrs. Pell |
| Grade 2 / 3: | Mrs. Ongena |
| Grade 3 / 4: | Mr. Rustan |
| Grade 4 / 5: | Mrs. Bradacs |
| Grade 5: | Mrs. Rooney |
| Grade 6: | Mr. Comeau |
| Grade 6 / 7: | Ms. Kitchen |
| Grade 7 / 8: | Miss Hrycun |
| Grade 8: | Ms. Huffman |
| LRTs: | Mr. Preston; Mrs. Slaman |
| French/Prep: | Mlle Kellner |
| Prep: | Mrs. Pond, Mrs. Pereira, Miss Hutcheon |
| EAs: | Ms. McKay, Ms. McKinley, Mrs. Young, Mrs. James, Ms. Clarke |
| Custodians: | Mr. Goold, Mrs. Cunliffe |
| Secretary: | Mrs. Weber |
| Vice Principal: | Ms. Kilpatrick |
| Principal: | Mrs. Lefler |

We are fortunate to have such an excellent, caring staff and all of us look forward to an excellent school year!

School Hours

| | |
|--|--|
| 8:40 - 9:00 a.m. | Supervision on yard; and Breakfast Club |
| 9:00 a.m. | Classes Begin |
| 9:00 – 10:40: | Instructional Block #1 |
| 1st Nutrition Break: | |
| 10:40 – 11:00 | Recess |
| 11:00 - 11:20 | Lunch / Snack Time |
| 11:20 – 1:20: | Instructional Block #2 |
| 2nd Nutrition Break: | |
| 1:20 – 1:40 | Recess |
| 1:40 - 2:00 | Lunch / Snack Time |
| 2:00 – 3:20: | Instructional Block #3 |
| 3:20 p.m. | Dismissal |
| <u>Please note that supervision does not begin on the yard until 8:40 a.m.</u> | |

Safe Arrival and Departure

Student safety is top priority at arrival and departure times. Parents, please do not use the bus area or the staff parking lot to drop off and pick up students. Please find a safe parking spot on the street. We need to avoid unsafe situations and traffic congestion. Your cooperation in ensuring the safety of all of our students is greatly appreciated!
~ D. Lefler

Lunch Hour Procedure

It is our policy that all elementary students must be supervised at lunch nutrition break. There are three options for students at lunch nutrition break from **10:40-11:20 p.m.**

- 1) students may walk home and eat lunch at their home with notification to the teacher by the parent
- 2) students may eat lunch at school while being supervised by a staff member
- 3) a student may sign out and leave for lunch **provided that a parent comes and signs them out to go for lunch together.**

Students who choose to go home for lunch should not return to the classroom until after 11:00. We appreciate your support in helping us keep our children safe.

Lates and Absences

If your child is ill, please call the school and leave a message so that we can safely track your child's attendance. The secretary will contact the family if a student is absent without notice from the parent. Regular attendance at school is essential for success in school. The attendance counsellor will be contacted for students who are repeatedly either late or absent.

Bus Safety

Students are expected to abide by the bus rules and follow instructions given by the bus driver. See the Student and Parent Responsibilities pages on the Transportation Services website: Go to the Grand Erie website at www.granderie.ca, then click on Transportation Services – Policies and Procedures; scroll down to Roles and Responsibilities: 004 is Responsibilities of Students; 005 is Responsibilities of Parents / Guardians. Following bus rules is essential for bus safety, as appropriate behaviour allows the bus driver to attend to the responsibility of getting everyone safely to school and back home. All students are reminded that riding the bus is a privilege which can be removed if the student is causing safety problems on the bus. Also, students must ride only on the bus they have been assigned by the Transportation Department. Switching buses is not permitted.
~ D. Lefler

Crossing Guards

We are very grateful to Norfolk County for providing us with Crossing Guard support at the corner of Parker and Charlton, not far from the bus loading area. And we continue to have our other two Crossing Guards at the corner of Parker and Norfolk Street South; and Norfolk Street South and Decou Road. Students need to follow the road safety rules of crossing these streets with the Crossing Guard at the cross walks and listening to the directions given by the Crossing Guard. We are counting on parents to reinforce and model these safety rules with their children as well.

Labour Updates

For current information about job action with the labour groups in our schools, visit www.granderie.ca and click on Labour Updates.

Hot Lunch Program

Hot Lunch orders will begin once we are able to fundraise again.

Agendas for Students

Agendas are provided for students, grades 1 to 8. Agendas or planners are important tools for developing organization skills and for communication between school and home. Please go over the Student and Parent Handbook section at the front of the agenda with your child, and sign the front page to indicate that you have reviewed it. The planners cost \$5.00 each. Although we do not charge for the planners, we greatly appreciate the donations for them. The Parent Council subsidizes the total cost to the school.

Student Code of Conduct

Each teacher has been reviewing the code of conduct with his / her class. A complete copy of our code can be found in the front of the student agenda or on the website. Please take the time to review these expectations with your child.

Volunteers

We very much appreciate all of our volunteers, who help and support in so many ways at West Lynn School. The Grand Erie District School Board policy requires that we have a current police check on file for school volunteers who will be working with the students in any capacity. This includes classroom assistance, volunteer driving, school organizations such as the West Lynn Parent Group / School Council and school trips. We are required to have on file, a current police check compete with a vulnerable sector search for all of our volunteers. Please visit the office to receive a letter from West Lynn School requesting a police check. You are required to present this letter at the police department. NOTE: POLICE CHECKS ARE NOW VALID FOR 2 YEARS.

Fire and Lock Down Drills

Over the next weeks we will be conducting fire (3 this fall) and lock down drills as is required by GEDSB safety policies and procedures.

Parent Group / School Council

Our first School Council / Parent Group meeting for this school year is on Wed. Sept. 30 at 6:30. Please consider joining the group and coming to our meetings. This is an excellent way to stay informed, involved and connected to the school.

Re-cycling – Terracycle

We continue to collect Lunchmate packaging in classrooms. We also collect Nabob coffee bags! These items can be dropped off by students in the bin behind the library door. When we submit these items to Terracycle we help the environment and get cash in return!

Breakfast and Snack Programs

We have begun our Breakfast and Snack Programs again this year. Breakfast Club is every morning from 8:40 – 9:00. The snack bins go to the classrooms on Mondays and Wednesdays.

New Piano

Thank you the Bradacs Family for the donation of their piano to the school. And thank you to Mrs. Donnell, owner of Wayne's Moving, who donated the cost of moving the piano to West Lynn P.S.

Photo Days at West Lynn

A note went home last Friday about photo day. We are using the Proof Program this year. Here is an outline of dates and classes:

Wednesday, September 30: Grades: 2 / 3 Mrs. Ongena, 3 / 4 Mr. Rustan, 4 / 5 Mrs. Bradacs, 5 Mrs. Rooney, 6 Mr. Comeau, 6 / 7 Ms. Kitchen
Thursday, October 1: Classes: JKA Mrs. Malo/Mrs. Luker, JKB Mrs. LaPorte/Ms. Brotherton, Grades: 1 Mrs. Lesage, 1 / 2 Mrs. Pell, 7 / 8 Ms. Hrycun, 8 Ms. Huffman
Visit www.edgeimaging.com for answers to frequently asked questions and photo day tips.

Junior Soccer

The junior soccer team has been selected and the team has been practising during recesses. The tournament is on Thursday, October 1 in Delhi. Rain date is Oct. 5. Thank you to Mrs. Bradacs & Mrs. Ongena for coaching this team!

Intermediate Co-ed Soccer

This year the intermediate soccer teams across the board are co-ed. Thank you to Mr. Comeau for coaching our intermediate soccer team! The tournament is on Friday, October 2 in Delhi. Rain dates are Oct. 5 (if this date is not needed for the junior tournament) and Oct. 8.

Cross Country

The Cross Country team has been working hard to build up their running skills and endurance. Thank you to Mrs. Rooney and Mr. Rustan for coaching the team! The intermediate road race competition is on Tuesday, October 6 at the track at the Norfolk County Fairgrounds and the Cross Country Meet is on Friday, October 16 at Memorial Park in Simcoe.

Read Your Way to the Fair

Support reading and support our school library! Go to norfolkcountyfair.ca. Click on the Read Your Way to the Fair icon. Scroll to West Lynn and enter every bit of reading. Your child's reading log is a handy tool to help your memory. Watch for your child's free entry ticket for Thursday of fair week as well as a free ride coupon and draw ticket to win a free bike from Boyko's Source for Sports.

Upcoming dates:

Sept. 30 & Oct. 1 – Photo Days
Sept. 30 – Parent Group/School Council, 6:30
Oct. 1 – Jr. Soccer Tournament; rain date is Oct. 5
Oct. 2 – Int. Co-ed Tournament; rain date is Oct. 5 or 8
Oct. 6 – Int. Road race at the Fair (10 AM)
Oct. 16 - Cross Country Meet

School Website

Please visit our school website at:
<http://www.granderie.ca/westlynn>.