

100 E. Church St.  
Waterford, Ontario  
NOE 1Y0  
519-443-8942

**Principal**  
Mrs. D. Opersko

**Office Co-ordinator**  
Mrs. K. Pitre



In order to improve safety on the school yard, our staff will be wearing bright coloured vests while on supervision duty. This will help students to locate staff on supervision duty quickly, should help be needed.

### Important Dates for the Month:

Monday, October 2nd	Good luck to our Junior Co-ed Soccer team at the tournament in Delhi!
Tuesday, October 3rd	PA Day, no school for students, Young Canada Day at the Norfolk County Fair, students are admitted free of charge
Wednesday, October 4th	The Grade 4's from Mrs. Pragnell's, Mrs. Wouter's and Mrs. Vidmontas's classes will go on a trip to the Norfolk County Fair
Thursday, October 5th	Good luck to our intermediate soccer teams at their tournament in Delhi
Friday, October 6th	Evacuation drill at 9:30 a.m.
Monday, October 9th	Happy Thanksgiving! No school for staff and students
Tuesday, October 10th	Our Nutrition Program begins
Thursday, October 12th	Cross Country Meet for our school team in Simcoe
Saturday, October 14th	Pumpkinfest Parade, 12 noon at Foodland
Tuesday, October 17th	Individual Education Plans (IEP's) sent home with some students
Wednesday, October 18th	Lockdown Drill at 9:30 a.m.
Friday, October 27th	Picture retake day

### Principal's Message:

As September draws to a close, it's hard to believe that we have been back into school routines for an entire month. Thank you to our staff, students and parents for getting us off to a great start! It was fantastic to see so many families at Meet the Teacher Night.

Our school nutrition program will begin soon, providing nutritious food at 9 a.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. We've already had two successful fire drills, practicing how to exit our classrooms safely from our usual and alternate exit. We will have an evacuation drill to Waterford United Church, as well as our first lock down drill of the year this month.

We've had lots of parents dropping off police checks at the office, as well. This month we are looking for parent volunteers to drive students to sports tournaments, assist beginning readers and to help us with head lice checks. Let us know on the attached form if you can help!

Don't forget to check out our school art at the Norfolk County Fair and to cheer on our road race team at 9:30 a.m. on October 3rd at the Grandstand.

On behalf of the staff, I wish all of our families a Happy Thanksgiving. We have so many blessings and much to be thankful for.

Mrs. Opersko

Tuesday, October 3 - Young Canada Day at the Norfolk County Fair – has been designated as a Professional Activity day by the Grand Erie District School Board. Except for scheduled events (like the Road Race), there will be no supervision of elementary students on this day. Students will be admitted free to the Fair on Young Canada Day and do not require a pass to enter the fairgrounds.

### Waterford Pumpkinfest:

We are grateful to the Waterford Lions and Lioness Clubs who make up the Waterford Pumpkinfest Committee, for involving our school in the spirit of Pumpkinfest! We are looking forward to the arrival on Tuesday, October 11th of pumpkins for each and every student! Carving will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday. It is important to remember that only "natural materials" can be used to decorate pumpkins and that no toothpicks or sharp objects can be used. On Thursday, October 13th students, staff and volunteers will deliver our pumpkins to be arranged on the pumpkin pyramids in the field beside the school. Come join us between 9am - 9:45am! Parents, please sign in at the office first, if you wish to participate.

#### Pumpkinfest Parade:

Thanks to the Graham family and the Parents' Council, the school will have a float in this year's Pumpkinfest Parade on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>! If your child would like to help represent the school in the parade please fill in the section below and return it to your child's teacher by Friday, October 6th. The theme of this year's parade is Canada 150, so we are asking WPS participants to dress in red and white for the occasion. **All parade participants MUST be accompanied and supervised by a parent/guardian to take part.** Participants will gather at 12 noon at the Foodland parking lot and will walk together to join our float on the parade route. Due to the length of the parade route, younger students will ride on the float and older students will walk behind it, depending on the number of participants.



### Terry Fox Run

Even though we needed to reschedule, the hot temperatures didn't melt our enthusiasm to support this worthy cause! Thanks to all students who collected pledges for the fight against cancer and to our parent volunteers who helped along the route. To date over \$1,000.00 has been raised by our school community. Way to go Wildcats!

### Hallowe'en Activities and Treats From Home:

Your child's teacher will send information to you about class plans for Hallowe'en. Students from K-8 are invited to bring their costumes to school on October 31<sup>st</sup>. We ask that you do not send any costumes with fake blood or with weapons of any kind.



We are happy to accept snacks and treats for special occasions (birthdays, Hallowe'en etc.). However, the Ontario Public Health Association no longer supports home baked or prepared food for students; therefore, food sent to school has to be purchased from a recognized facility that has been approved by public health inspectors. This means that we can no longer have bake sales at school, nor can we give students cupcakes, cookies etc. that have been made in private kitchens. We can only accept pre-packaged, purchased treats from grocery stores on special days. Please remember that we are a nut aware school.

Please print, fill in this section and return it to your child's teacher to indicate your interest.

I, name of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_, will accompany my child(ren) named \_\_\_\_\_ at the Pumpkinfest Parade on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. I understand that I must supervise my child for this activity.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

## **MILK BAG MATS FOR THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES**

\*\*\*\*\* Last year we collected 6950 bags! \*\*\*\*\* Help us reach 7000+ this year!! \*\*\* (6950 bags = 18 mats for kids or 11 mats for adults)

You can save milk bags from going to landfill and provide sleeping mats for children and adults in third world countries! Waterford Public School would like your help with a non-profit project; please save your milk bags and send them with your child to school. These are the large, colourful outer bags that milk comes in. \* Please make sure they are clean and completely dry. \*

The bags are flattened, counted, bundled into groups of fifty and passed along to a dedicated group of senior citizens in Brantford. The group cuts each bag into measured strips, ties the ends together and rolls them into balls. More volunteers then weave the knotted strips into mats. Finished mats are packed in boxes to be shipped to missions sending much-needed donations to impoverished countries overseas. Because the mats are lightweight, they can be used as packing material in shipments of other supplies.

Mats are handed out to children and adults alike. Not only do they provide a softer, more comfortable bed than sleeping on the hard, damp ground, they also help keep disease-causing bugs away and are easy to wash. During the aftermath of the Haiti earthquake in January 2010, over 600 mats were handed out from one shipment in just two days! Medical teams even used them as surgical beds and linens, washing and reusing them over and over. Imagine how welcome these mats will be to the thousands of people affected by the most recent hurricanes!

It takes over 350 bags to make one child-size sleeping mat and over 600 bags for an adult-sized one. Many hours are spent cutting, tying and rolling the bags into balls. Many more are used to weave the 'plarn' (plastic yarn) into mats. This is a long-term group effort, involving dozens of dedicated volunteers of all ages, like YOU!

Please join us in our mission to provide a cleaner, safer sleeping place for those in need by donating your plastic milk bags to our school! Thank you!

### **Students Taking the Lead:**

Our Student Leadership Committee for 2017/18 consists of an enthusiastic group of grade 7 and 8 students who are eager to be involved in all aspects of life at WPS. Committee members include:

Kaitlyn Anderson (8) Cordelia MacDonald (8) Wes Boatright (7) Grace Giles (7) Paige Killick (7)

KiAnna Kowalski-Goff (7) Sydney Welsh (7) Trey Smith (7) Seth Woods (7)

Some grade 7 and 8 students have also volunteered to do our morning announcements each day. They are doing a fantastic job!

### **Hot Lunch Update:**

Hot lunches are available every Friday (or Thursday if we have a holiday). Pizza, wraps and pitas are some of the lunches offered for purchase. White milk, chocolate milk and apple juice are also available. Food and drink may only be ordered on-line. Mrs. Pitre sets up the orders on-line each month. If you have any questions, please call 519-443-8942 or e-mail her at [kathleen.pitre@granderie.ca](mailto:kathleen.pitre@granderie.ca).

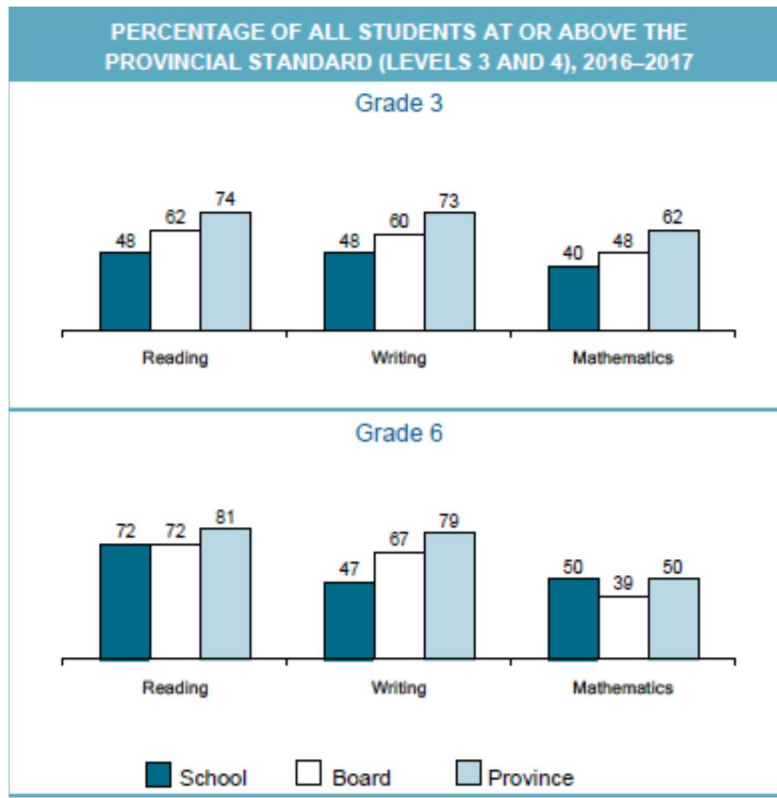
### **Free Clothes Closet:**

Where? Waterford Bible Church, 68 Main Street South

When? Wednesday morning from 10 – 11 a.m., Wednesday afternoons from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. and the third Wednesday of each month from 7 – 8:30 p.m.

Check it out! Clothes, household items and more! Something for all ages!

### **2016-2017 EQAO Results:**



To view our school's complete EQAO report please visit: [www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com). Individual Grade 3 and 6 student results will be sent home in the near future.

### **Gearing Up to Go Skating:**

We are so fortunate to have an arena within walking distance of our school, and schedules are now in the works for another fantastic skating season here at WPS! There are no fees for students to participate in our skating program, but they do require:

- A signed permission form
- Skates (no boots or shoes are allowed on the ice)
- A CSA approved helmet.

If your child does not have a pair of skates or helmet to wear, we have various sizes available at the school for them to borrow on their skating days! Please let your child's teacher know so that we can get them sized up ☺

In order to run a successful skating programme, we rely on the support of volunteers—especially in our primary grades. There are always lots of skates to tie, and new skaters to encourage on the ice, so we definitely welcome the assistance! Volunteers must have a current Vulnerable Sector Police Check in order to help at skating, as well as a pair of skates if you are joining us on the ice. We look forward to seeing you at the arena!

Our skating program will begin in November, so stay tuned for more information.

### **Volunteers for School Trips:**

We love to have parents and guardians join us for class trips. Sometimes, depending on the venue and the amount of the room on a bus, we are not able to take all the helpers who wish to go. We do our best to give parents ample opportunity to participate throughout the school year. We sometimes do a draw if there are too many helpers for a specific trip. We ask that parents and guardians do not bring younger siblings when helping, so volunteers can give their full attention to the pupils in the class.

### Head Lice:

Even though it is very common, many parents have never dealt with head lice and are not sure what to look for. You may be frustrated and confused by the myths about it and not sure how to treat it. Head lice are tiny, greyish insects that live and breed on human hair. Nits and eggs appear as tiny white specks attached to individual hair shafts. They cannot jump, fly or be spread by pets.

Please check your child regularly. Please notify our school office if you find that your child has head lice. We understand parents' and students' need for confidentiality but we are obliged to inform parents of other students in the same class of the presence of head lice. Once head lice are found, students may not return to school until they have received proper treatment and all nits have been removed from the hair. **Parents must bring their child to the office to be checked by a school staff member prior to returning to class.**

Mrs. Opersko is looking for parent volunteers to assist with lice checks. Our school health nurse will provide training. Please fill in the attachment to this newsletter and return it to the office if you can help.

### Strong Start:

We are fortunate to have support from our community to offer a unique program called Letters, Sounds and Words. Volunteers from our community help children aged five to seven learn the names of letters, the sound each letter represents and a list of commonly used words in print. It has been designed specifically for volunteers, who work with one child at a time, and enjoy watching the great gains that are made in only ten weeks. This program is offered to us by the Strong Start Charitable Foundation which is funded through donations from individuals, businesses, foundations and community groups. You can read more about Strong Start on its website: [www.strongstart.ca](http://www.strongstart.ca).

This program would not be possible without the financial support and the generous gift of time and talent from our volunteers. The Letters, Sounds and Words program is a ten week program in which trained volunteers work one on one with a child for thirty minutes each week. If a volunteer is available for more than 30 minutes each week, more students will have the opportunity to take part in the program.

Volunteer training sessions are available in two different, 2 hour sessions. Part One is available at Lynndale Heights P.S. in Simcoe on October 10th from 10am - 12pm. Part two is available at Lynndale Heights P.S. on October 17th from 10am-12pm. If you are interested in registering to become a volunteer in this program, please fill in the section below and return it to the school addressed to Mrs. Loder.

Please cut fill in, cut off this section and return it to your child's teacher to express your willingness to volunteer for the following:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, would like to help with lice checks. By volunteering, I agree to attend training provided by the school's health nurse. I have checked off the days of the week I am available to help:

Monday \_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday \_\_\_\_\_ Wednesday \_\_\_\_\_ Thursday \_\_\_\_\_ Friday \_\_\_\_\_

My phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

My e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that I will be asked to sign a confidentiality agreement and that will need to provide a valid police check in order to help.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, would like to help with the Strong Start program. I understand that I will need to attend mandatory free training in order to assist. I have checked off the days of the week I am available to help:

Monday \_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday \_\_\_\_\_ Wednesday \_\_\_\_\_ Thursday \_\_\_\_\_ Friday \_\_\_\_\_

My phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

My e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that I will be asked to sign a confidentiality agreement and that will need to provide a valid police check in order to help.