

100 E. Church St.  
Waterford, Ontario  
N0E 1Y0  
519-443-8942

**Principal**  
Mrs. D. Opersko

**Office Co-ordinator**  
Mrs. S. Hofland



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



Check our new school Facebook page at:  
<https://www.facebook.com/wildcatsintheknow/>

### Important Dates for the Month:

Monday, Oct. 1st	Good luck to our Junior Co-ed Soccer team at the tournament in Delhi!
Tuesday, Oct. 2nd	PA Day, no school for students, Young Canada Day at the Norfolk County Fair, students are admitted free of charge
Wednesday, Oct. 3rd	Our Nutrition Program starts, Grade One students from Mrs. Loder's and Ms. Schipper's classes visit the apple orchard, alternate exit fire drill at 9:45 a.m., Parent Council Fundraising information sent home
Thursday, Oct. 4th	Good luck to our intermediate soccer team at their tournament in Delhi, the Grade 4's from Mrs. Pragnell's and Ms. Sukkel's classes will go on a trip to the Norfolk County Fair
Friday, Oct. 6th	Hot Lunch starts, Mrs. Ritchat retires today
Monday, Oct. 8th	Happy Thanksgiving! No school for staff and students
Friday, Oct. 12th	Cross Country Meet for our school team
Saturday, Oct. 13th	Pumpkinfest Parade, meet at 12 noon at Foodland
Monday, Oct. 15th	Lockdown drill at 9:30 a.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 16th	Individual Education Plans (IEP's) sent home with some students
Wed., Oct. 17th	Parent Council Fundraising orders due
Thurs., Oct. 18th	The Great Big Crunch, Strong Start Volunteer Training in the library from 10 a.m. to 12 noon
Tues., Oct. 23rd	Mrs. Wouters' class to Backus Mill
Wed., October 24th	Dairy Presentations in some classes today
Thurs., Oct. 25th	Strong Start Volunteer Training in the library from 10 a.m. to 12 noon
Friday, Oct. 26th	Picture retake day
Wed., Oct. 31 <sup>st</sup>	Happy Hallowe'en!



### What is the Great Big Crunch?

This is a school-wide event to promote healthy eating and making healthy choices. On October 18<sup>th</sup>, the entire school will crunch apples together. Thanks to our school Nutrition Program and the Child Nutrition Network for their support for this event. See the last page of this newsletter for information about Ontario apples.

### 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 9th 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 11th 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:

The school will have a float in this year's Pumpkinfest Parade on Saturday, October 13th! Thanks is extended to Brian Busch for providing a truck and being our driver and to Contrans for providing our float. 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 5th. The theme of this year's parade is "Falling into Reading". **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

Thanks to all students who participated and collected pledges for the fight against cancer and to our parent volunteers who helped along the route. 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 13<sup>th</sup>. I understand that I must supervise my child(ren) for this activity.

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

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

### **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 fire drills, practicing how to exit our classrooms safely. We will have our first lockdown drill of the year on October 15th at 9:30 a.m.

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 2nd 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 2 - 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.



On Friday, October 5th, Mrs. Ritchat is retiring! Mrs. Ritchat is one of our school's amazing educational assistants. Although we are delighted that she is going to begin new adventures, we will miss her very much. We will be celebrating Mrs. Ritchat's many contributions to our school at our Oct. 5th Friday Sharing Assembly. If you would like to honour Mrs. Ritchat for the support she has given your child(ren), you are welcome to send in a note, card or gift to our school office and we will pass on your best wishes. Thank you!



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

Last year we collected 3935 bags! (3935 bags = 10 mats for kids or 6 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 with plastic tags removed. \*

Volunteers must flatten, count and bundle the bags into stacks of fifty to be 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 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 in need. 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.

It takes over 350 bags to make one child-size sleeping mat and over 600 bags for an adult-sized one. Countless 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 2018/19 consists of an enthusiastic group of students who are eager to be involved in all aspects of life at WPS. 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. Hofland sets up the orders on-line each month. If you have any questions, please call 519-443-8942.

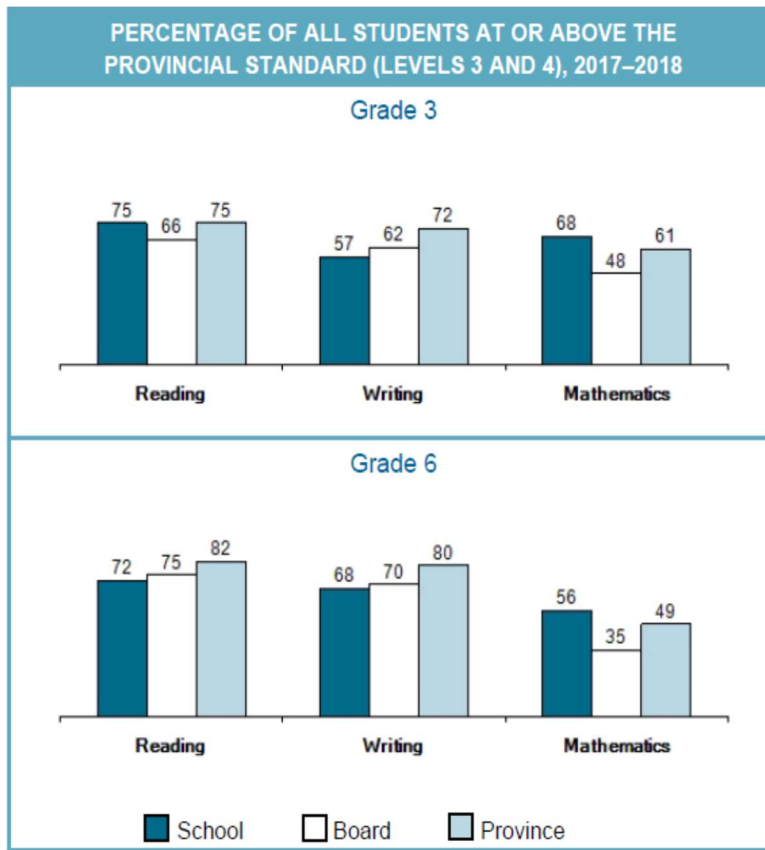
### **New This Year:**

Support the Waterford Skate Park by ordering Wednesday hot lunches! We have added Wednesday hot lunches to our school this year! All proceeds raised from Wednesday hot lunches will be directly donated back to the skate park fundraising efforts! Our first Wednesday hot lunch will be at the end of the month on October 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **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.

### **2017-2018 EQAO Results:**



We are very proud of our students for their efforts. These are the best results our school has had in five years! 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 and a helmet, 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.



### 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.

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.







## Help a Child Learn to Read!

### Become a Volunteer Coach in the *Letters, Sounds and Words* program



*"When you go once a week as a volunteer and that child's eyes light up when you appear at the door and they know it's their time, their special time to go with their Volunteer Coach....it's pretty magical."*

*- Joe Persia,  
Volunteer Coach*

The *Letters, Sounds and Words™* program is a fun and engaging way to get involved in helping young children learn to read. Volunteers work one-on-one with a child during the school day, playing carefully designed games and activities that boost literacy skills and support what is being taught in the classroom. The games are organized in 4 strands: Letters, Sounds, Words, and Building Words. Children are enrolled in 2-3 strands at a time. Our school will be hosting a volunteer coach training session for parents and other community members who would like to be involved.

### You Can Make a Difference in the Life of a Child

- Work one-on-one with a child in Senior Kindergarten, Grade 1 or 2.
- Play fun games and activities to develop a child's literacy skills.
- **Attend ANY** two, 2-hour training sessions (one Part 1 and one Part 2).
- Register online at [www.strongstart.ca](http://www.strongstart.ca) and click on "For Volunteers"

**2018 Fall Strong Start Training Dates  
at Waterford Public School**  
100 East Church St, Waterford



#### **Part One Session:**

**Thurs., Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

#### **Part Two Session:**

**Thurs., Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**IMPORTANT: New volunteers need to attend both a Part 1 and Part 2 Training Session in order to be certified.**

For more information on this volunteer opportunity, please visit [www.strongstart.ca](http://www.strongstart.ca), or contact our Strong Start Staff Site Coordinator Mrs. Loder - [barbara.loder@granderie.ca](mailto:barbara.loder@granderie.ca)  
Additional training opportunities can be found on [www.strongstart.ca](http://www.strongstart.ca) under the "For Volunteers" tab