

Woodhaven Middle School Newsletter

October 2022

Leadership Message

Woodhaven is in full swing! We know that students succeed when the proper supports, structures and boundaries are in place to help them succeed. At Woodhaven we believe all students can learn and succeed and it is our role to support them in setting the goals necessary to be successful academically, socially and emotionally.

Academically we have completed the Initial literacy and numeracy screens necessary for teachers to know where their students are at to then plan and goal set accordingly. Socially, we are continuing to work with our students to ensure there is a clear understanding of not only the School's Code of Conduct but also that students recognize and advocate for their own needs when social situations are not working for them. The emotional well being of our students continues to be a priority for us and we are so fortunate to have our school counselor, Mrs. Scheidl. She has visited all classrooms to share about all of the ways she can support students who feel they are struggling. Mrs. Schiedl takes referrals from students or staff and of course parents are always welcome to reach out if they have questions or concerns.

A significant indicator of student success and well being both now and in the future in school is attendance. If you are struggling with your child's attendance, please reach out to us so that we can work together to ensure they are attending and their needs are met.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns. We are all here with the same goal...student success and well-being.

Sincerely,
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780-962-2626 or woodhaven@psd.ca.

Key dates this month:

- Oct. 5 - Joint Chapel at Woodhaven - All PCP parents and students welcome
- Oct. 6th - Picture Day
- Oct. 7 - PD Day - No students attend

- Oct. 18 & 20- Parent Teacher Interviews - More details to follow
- Oct. 19 - School Council Meeting
- Oct. 18-20 - Bookfair
- Oct. 24th - Picture Retake Day
- Oct. 31st - Halloween

General Information

Parent Handbook

Please click [here](#) to view our Parent Handbook for the 2022/2023 School Year

Reporting Absences

To report an absence for your child, please email woodhaven@psd.ca or call and leave a message at the school office (780-962-2626). Please include the student's name, teacher (or grade), and reason for the absence in your message.

Drop-Off & Pick-UP

Our doors open to students at 8:15am when outside supervision begins. If students arrived prior to 8:15, there is no outside supervision. After school supervision is from 3:06 to 3:10pm. Please give the buses the right of way when entering and exiting the parking lot.

Also, just a quick note that one of our buses needs to use the parent pick up lane at the end of the day as the bus has to leave earlier than the rest. When the bus pulls up, please pull out of the way. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!

Visiting Woodhaven

We are happy to welcome you to our beautiful new school. When you arrive at the school, please check in at the office.

Picture Day

Lifetouch will be coming to our school on October 6th, 2022 for Pictures. After Picture Day, order pictures on mylifetouch.ca using your portrait ID and Access Code which can be found on your Picture Day order form.

School Fees

Please login to the Parent Portal to view and pay your child's school fees. If you have questions or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our school office.

Cohesive Communities: [Bursaries to Support Families/Children in Need](#)

Cohesive Communities offers two annual bursaries:

1. Family Bursary (\$1000)
 - The Family Bursary is meant to alleviate financial burden with respect to accessibility and inclusion in the home or community.

Links to bursary application forms:

Both applications open September 1 and close November 1 each year.

[Family Bursary Application](#)

[Youth Inclusion Initiative Application](#)

***Should you have any questions about the bursaries, please contact Amy Quintal at **780-906-0725**.

COVID

Woodhaven and Parkland School Division are excited that the World is Opening Back Up. 2022-2023 should finally start to feel like what a school year is supposed to feel like. While the pandemic is officially over, our new reality is that COVID-19 is here to stay.

With that being said, there are many measures that were previously implemented that just make sense to continue. Above all, we encourage anyone who is feeling ill to stay home from school. If you are exhibiting any of the key symptoms known for [COVID-19](#), we encourage you to access one of the many test kits that are also available at the school. Meanwhile, PSD will continue the following:

- Hand sanitizer will still be readily available at all schools,
- Students will continue to be reminded of the importance of thorough hand-washing hygiene,
- School staff will ensure that appropriate cleaning of high touch areas will continue,
- The frequency at which air filters are changed in PSD has also been increased and air handling/ventilation equipment in all schools has been adjusted to maximize the number of air exchanges within the schools. All schools will operate filtration systems that meet or exceed the Minimum Efficiency Reporting Values (MERV) 13 air filtration rate, and
- Where practical, entrances and exits can be used to efficiently reduce crowding during high traffic times of the day.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter. We look forward to a healthy and happy school year.

2022-2023 Bell Schedule

Our attendance calls go out automatically at 9:10am. If your child will be late or absent, please let their classroom teacher or the office know.

Bell Times	Breaks and Periods
8:20am	Warning Bell
8:23-9:11am	Block 1
9:14-10am	Block 2
10-10:15 am or 10:15-10:30 am	Recess
10:18-11:04 am	Block 3
11:07-11:54 am	Block 4
11:54 am-12:16 pm	Lunch Break First Half
12:16-12:38pm	Lunch Break Second Half
12:38-12:41 pm	Warning Bell
12:41-1:28pm	Block 5
1:31-2:17pm	Block 6
2:22-3:06pm	Block 7

Athletics

X-Country Running -Our cross country team is off to a fantastic start to the season. September has been a great month for the team. We have had many runners participate and even finish in the top 10 of their age category! On Sept. 15th we even hosted our own race in the Brookwood field that saw over 900 runners attend! Thank you to all the runners, staff, and volunteers that made our run a success!

Volleyball - Our Woodhaven volleyball teams have had an awesome start to the season. Both the Senior and Junior A teams participated in the University of Alberta tournament in Edmonton. The Seniors have also participated in the Greystone/Prescott tournament. Our Junior A teams successfully hosted the "Woodhaven Welcome Back" Junior tournament and both teams came out on top! PCAA league seeding has taken place for the Seniors and Junior A's and now all of those teams are into their regular season league games. We are happy to report all Senior and Junior A teams are competing in Division 1 this season. Our Junior B volleyball teams continue to practice and start games in October. Information for Fall Ball (our own grade 5-6 volleyball league at Woodhaven) will be coming out later in the upcoming month.

Terry Fox Run -This year's Terry Fox school run happened on September 23. It was an excellent afternoon of walking/jogging/running by both our students and staff. We were able to raise some awareness and funds for the Terry Fox Foundation. Great job Wolfpack!

Instagram - Follow us on our Athletics Instagram Account @WoodhavenAthletics
<http://www.instagram.com/woodhavenathletics/>

Fine Arts

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory rehearsals are underway! Under the direction of Mrs. Refugia, 49 students in grades 7-9 will be taking to the Woodhaven stage this December! We are so excited to see this childhood classic be brought to life in our very own school!

Choir has begun for students in grades 5 and 6! Meeting once a week with Ms. Farris, our choir is preparing for Remembrance Day and will be joining this year's production of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* in December!



Calendar

Our School Calendar has changed from last year...and boy is it more user friendly than the previous calendar. As it is no longer a google calendar, all you have to do is go to the [calendar on our website](#) and click on one of:

[Download to iCal](#) [Add to Google Calendar](#) [Subscribe to Calendar](#)

located at the top of the calendar on our website. You can then search by grade level, event or topic to find information you are looking for as needed.

School Council & Association

WE WANT YOU TO JOIN US!

"Woodhaven Middle School Parents Association AGM meeting has been delayed due to lack of quorum for the original start date on Sept 21, 2022.

The AGM will now be held on our November meeting

The positions that are available:

Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary (Currently Vacant) which are all mandatory

elected positions.

Other positions that can be filled are Hot Lunch Coordinator, Volunteer Coordinator, Casino Coordinator which are volunteer positions."

What We Do

- We run a Grab 'N' Go program in the mornings which is offered to students who may not have had time to have breakfast before school.
- We run concessions during track meets.
- We provide volunteers for fundraising and school initiatives.
- Hot lunch. For information on hot lunch, please email woodhavenhotlunchlady@gmail.com

Highlights from our First Council Meeting

- There are a few highlights from our first school council meeting in September.

An election was held for open school council positions:

- Woodhaven School Council Chair – Michelle Kincheloe
- Woodhaven School Council Vice Chair – Kathleen Gilson
- Woodhaven School Council Secretary – Vacant
- Please email woodhaven.scchair@partner.psd.ca if you are interested in joining our school council committee as our **secretary**.

Please click [here](#) to view minutes and agendas for our meetings. The minutes will be posted AFTER approval at the next month's council meeting.

When We Meet

The Parent Council meets the 3rd Wednesday of every month (with the exception of December). We meet in the school library at 6pm.

The Parent Association meets as the need for fundraisers arises. Watch this website's calendar for dates/times.

Next Fundraising Society Meeting & School Council Meeting: Wednesday, October 19th
@6:00pm in the Learning Commons

Message from our Counselor



At WMS, we have a referral policy where students can access brief counseling support on an as-needed basis. Services are also provided for individual and family concerns..



Rainbows© Support Group Information

Have you heard of RAINBOWS©? Perhaps you know someone who has benefitted from this wonderful support program when their family experienced divorce/separation/grief/loss. They may have told you their kids have been helped a great deal by participation. Although RAINBOWS© is not counseling, it is very helpful for children and youth to share their feelings in a caring, confidential environment, with others of a similar age, in similar situations. The concept is simple yet very effective; sharing grief helps children hear and cope better with the inevitable changes that accompany death, separation or divorce. Kids are resilient, but only if they get help.

RAINBOWS© is offered at Woodhaven Middle School in 45 minute, weekly sessions over 13 weeks during the lunch hour for our grade 5 & 6 students. Our sessions will run from October through January and again from February -May. The last class is a celebration. SPECTRUMS (for grades 7-9) will run similar to Rainbows except that the sessions are varied blocks during the day, once a week, for 13 weeks. Through fun games, activities and discussion, RAINBOWS can help children understand and accept the changes they are experiencing, learn communication, problem-solving and positive coping strategies to make their lives better. Parent permission is required. If you would like your son/daughter to be involved in this program, or if you would like more information or have questions, please do not hesitate to email your child's teacher or the School Counselor, Janie Scheidl at janie.scheidl@psd.ca.

Parent Learning Opportunities

Looking for some information on **Resilience, Positive Parenting Strategies or Depression?** Check out this month's [Newsletter from AHS Caregiver Education Series](#) Sessions are virtual and timely - registration is required.