

# Woodhaven Middle School Newsletter

**November, 2023**

## **Leadership Message**

As we usher in the cold days of November, it's a perfect time to reflect on our journey this school year. This season has brought us not only the breathtaking colors of falling leaves but also an opportunity to nurture the roots of gratitude and growth. We hope you have all had a chance to connect with your child's teacher as we just wrapped up our first round of Parent-Teacher Interviews.

### **Cultivating Gratitude:**

At Woodhaven, we believe in the power of gratitude. This month, we encourage our students to acknowledge the value of the people, experiences, and opportunities that surround them. Gratitude is a transformative force that can enrich lives and build strong, compassionate individuals. Together, let's express our gratitude for our dedicated educators, our supportive families, and the vibrant, inquisitive minds of our students. It is through gratitude that we find a deeper sense of connection and purpose.

### **Nurturing Growth:**

Every day at Woodhaven, we witness the growth and potential within each student. Our educators are committed to fostering an environment where young minds can thrive and learn. This November, we will continue our journey of growth, both academically and personally. Our school is a place of possibilities, and we look forward to each student's exploration and discovery.

### **Share Your Thoughts:**

We highly value your input and feedback. Our ["Share Your Thoughts"](#) survey is open. Your insights will help us enhance our school's experience for everyone. We appreciate your engagement in this important process.

Thank you for being a part of our Woodhaven community. Together, we create a warm and supportive environment where students can thrive, and where gratitude and growth are nurtured daily. Let's make November a month of thankfulness and continued progress.

Sincerely,

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780-962-2626 or [woodhaven@psd.ca](mailto:woodhaven@psd.ca).

## Key dates this month:

November 1 - Take your kids to work day (Grade 9's)

November 6 - Picture Re-Take Day

November 10 - Remembrance Day Ceremony

November 13-17 - Fall Break

November 21 and 22 - Round 1 Immunization Grade 6

## General Information

### Parent Handbook

Please click [here](#) to view our Parent Handbook for the 2023/2024 School Year

### Reporting Absences

To report an absence for your child, please email [woodhaven@psd.ca](mailto: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 3:15pm. **Please give the buses the right of way when entering and exiting the parking lot.** 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.

### 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.

## 2023-2024 Bell Schedule

Our attendance calls go out automatically at 9:35am. If your child will be late or absent, please let their classroom teacher or the office know.

Bell Times	Breaks and Periods
8:15 - 8:23	Student Arrival
8:25	Students arriving after 8:25 require a late slip
8:30-9:10 am	Block 1
9:10-9:50 am	Block 2
9:50-10:05 am	Recess
10:05-10:45 am	Block 3
10:45-11:25 am	Block 4
11:25-12:05 pm	Block 5
12:05-12:35pm	Lunch Recess
12:35-1:05 pm	Lunch
1:05-1:45 pm	Block 6
1:45-2:25 pm	Block 7
2:25-3:05 pm	Block 8
3:05 pm	Dismissal

## Athletics

**X-Country Running** - Our cross country team has now wrapped up their season and won the PCAA county championship banner! Not only did we win the banner for the 2nd straight year, we won many different individual aggregate medals for a variety of different student-athletes! A huge thanks goes out to our dedicated coaches Mr. Bock and Mr. Rink!

**Volleyball** - Volleyball season is coming to a close in the month of November. Our teams have had a very successful season in both league play and in tournaments. Our senior girl team has finished 2nd in the Woodhaven Howler and the STA Monster Mash Tournament.

Our junior girls team recently won the Prescott Pumas Tournament! Good Luck to all of our teams in their PCAA playoff games in November.

**Fall Ball** - Our Fall Ball Volleyball league will be running in the month of November for our grade 5 and 6 students. This league is an opportunity for those students to learn the game of volleyball, be a part of a Woodhaven team, and have a whole lot of fun! For our games we will be playing triple ball format. The league is run by our PE staff and supported by our grade 8 and 9 volleyball players who will be the coaches for the league!

**Basketball** - Basketball season is almost here! Basketball tryouts will take place at the end of November and into early December. Look for those dates and times to be posted on our Woodhaven Athletics Instagram account. We look forward to the start of the season!

**Intramurals** - It has been great to see Intramurals be back at Woodhaven! In the month of October students have been playing Volleyball and Fukahara during the lunch recess. In November we will be having a dodgeball tournament and playing some basketball.

**PE Reminder** - As the cold weather is getting closer we would like to remind all students they should have a clean indoor pair of shoes...especially for PE class! If we all do our part we can keep our floors clean.

**Movember** - Movember is here! It is time to grow that Mustache...if you can! In Movember, also known as No Shave November, or Movember Madness, men everywhere in the world are growing out their mustaches and facial hair in order to bring awareness and raise funds for men's health issues. Look forward to different "Movember" events throughout the coming month to help support the cause!

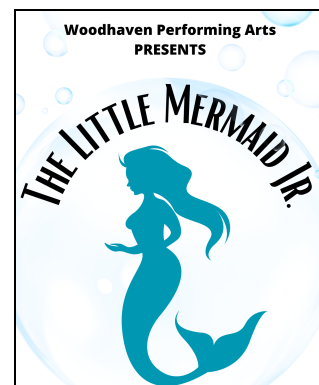
**Instagram** - Follow us on our Athletics Instagram Account @WoodhavenAthletics  
<http://www.instagram.com/woodhavenathletics/>

## Fine Arts

Woodhaven Performing Arts is hard at work rehearsing for this year's school musical, "Disney's The Little Mermaid JR."

*The Little Mermaid Jr.* is a stage musical, based on the animated 1989 Disney film and the classic story by Hans Christian Andersen about a mermaid who dreams of the world above the sea and gives up her voice to find love.

Under the direction of Mrs. Refugia and Mrs. Lyons, 45



students in grades 6-9 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!

Follow us on our Performing Arts Instagram Account @WoodhavenFine Arts  
<https://www.instagram.com/woodhavenfinearts/>

Ms. Farris has begun meeting with our grade 5/6 choir, rehearsing at lunch time, to prepare for a performance ahead of one of our Little Mermaid shows!

## 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

### 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.

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 the website calendar for dates/times.

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**Next Fundraising Society Meeting & School Council Meeting: Wednesday, December 6th,**

2023 @6:00pm in the Library

## Message from our Counselor



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

November is an exciting time of year for our grade 9's as they start thinking about work opportunities and take part in **TAKE OUR KIDS TO WORK DAY** on **November 1st**. This important job shadow experience helps our students create goals for their future.

**November 11th** - Remembrance Day

**November 13th** - World Kindness Day- It doesn't take much. A smile, a nod, an expression of appreciation or congratulations—these things matter.

**November 16th** - Children's Grief Awareness Day - [resources link](#)

**November 24th** - Celebrate Your Unique Talent Day. This is a great day to remind our students that they have great strengths and natural abilities.

## Parent Learning Opportunities

[Stronger Together Newsletter](#) - please check out this newsletter from Parkland School Division's Student Services team to access information to help you and your family navigate your child's educational journey. Highlights include:

**November 10** - All Roads Lead to Healing - 10-12 pm [Registration link](#)

**November 14** - REAL talk about Domestic Abuse - 12-1:30 pm [Registration link](#)

**November 21** - Navigating Social Media Safely - 6:30-8pm [Registration link](#)

**November 23** - Teen Drug Use: Trends, Signs and Prevention - 6-7:30 [Registration link](#)

[Caregiver Education Team Newsletter](#) - please check out this newsletter from Alberta Health Services to access free online programming to caregivers and teens. Sessions are offered online through Zoom. To register, [click HERE](#) or go to: [www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca](http://www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca)

**November 1-** Building Executive Functioning Skills Pt 1: 12-1pm Webinar

**November 8-** Building Executive Functioning Skills Pt 2: 12-1pm Webinar

**November 15-** Technology and the Teenage Brain -*Digital Wellness* - 6-7:30 pm

**November 22-**Silver Linings -Supporting Wellness in the Later Years Pt 1:- 12-1 pm Webinar

**November 29-**Silver Linings -Supporting Wellness in the Later Years Pt 2:- 12-1 pm Webinar