

WOODCREST PUBLIC SCHOOL



December 2018

Newsletter

Dream it, Believe it, Achieve it

Our school newsletter and other important information is posted on our website at: <https://woodcrest.lakeheadschoools.ca/>

Message from Mr. Keene

It is with great sadness that I write my final message as principal of Woodcrest Public School. It was certainly not the plan when I transferred over from Westmount in June – I had expected to write dozens of these messages. In my short time here, I have come to feel strongly connected to the community, staff, and especially the students. It truly is a great place to come to everyday, knowing that there will be many smiles to brighten days that do not always look so bright.

I have had the pleasure of working with Nikki Marks, the incoming principal, for a number of years, and am very excited for her as she steps into this new role. I know the staff and community will make her feel very welcome in a short time.

The greater loss to the school is that of our Vice Principal, Mrs. Rutter, who has been a fixture at Woodcrest for many years. She has been a constant advocate and support for all of our students here, but especially our neediest, in her roles as Vice Principal and facilitator. Certainly my transition to Woodcrest would not have gone so well had it not been for her guidance and support – her passion and energy will be sorely missed by all.

It is my hope that all of the good things that I've experienced here will continue, and I look forward to many visits in my new role to reconnect with my Woodcrest family. I hope that all of our families have a restful break at the end of the month, and wish you well in the years to come. Thank you for a great experience.

Winter Wonderland

What an excellent evening we had for our Winter Wonderland! The artisans were very pleased with the turnout, and there were many good deals to be had. A very big thank you to the parents who donated items for our penny auction – the money raised from the raffles benefits Woodcrest students throughout the year. A very big thank you to Kristi Feletto and the rest of parent council for organizing – the games, face painting, and refreshment sales were a huge hit and kept everyone busy.



Sports at Woodcrest

Woodcrest junior teams fared very well at the district Handball tournament in November. Coaches Charbonneau, Finlay and Gray held many practices and the effort resulted in some wins and a lot of fun!



The intermediates are currently practising for the volleyball tournament coming up at the end of December. The schedule for that event will be posted once it comes out.

Science, Engineering, and Fun!

Mr. Mayes's class was able to participate in a friendly Cardboard Boat Building competition between several schools in November. They had to plan and design their boat, then build several models to ensure success on the day of the event. The students were very inspired and responded so well to this true experiential learning opportunity. Two teams then went on to compete in the regional meet, where their designs held nearly 300 pounds of weight! Congratulations to all of our engineering Wildcats!



From the District Health Unit

Hand Made from the Heart

It's doubly heartwarming to work with your kids to create special gifts and then to share them with those we care about. Hand made gifts are less expensive and can be more meaningful than those from the store. Try making homemade bread or muffins for someone special. Create a handmade craft or card for holiday cheer. Check out these sites for some ideas:



www.howweelearn.com/gifts-kids-can-make/
www.happyhooligans.ca/40-useful-gifts-kids-can-make/
www.rhythmsofplay.com/beautiful-gifts-kids-can-make/

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Go outside and play!

Be sure to leave room in your holiday plans to simply play outside together. Once everyone is bundled up for the weather, having fun just comes naturally. Go sliding, skating, build a fort, or walk around the neighbourhood to see the lights. Everyone will enjoy the fresh air and the break from indoor chores. It's good for your body, mind and spirit!



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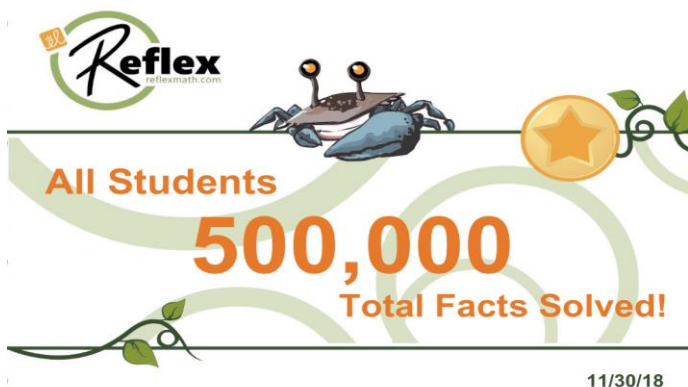
Green Team Update

Thanks to everyone who purchased one of our delicious smoothies. It was great to see so many students enjoying such a healthy snack.

Marker and Battery Round Up

The Green Team would like to promote our battery and marker recycling program this month. To do this they will be giving out one raffle tickets for every 10 dead batteries, dried out markers, pens or mechanical pencils that students bring in from home. The 10 items can be any combination of the items listed above and can be brought down to the amphitheater on Wednesday's and Fridays during first nutrition break where members of the Green Team will be collecting the items and handing out raffle tickets. The 8 raffle prizes to be won are reusable snack and sandwich bags made locally by Meag Botterill. These bags are great for litterless lunches. Tickets will be drawn on December 21st.

Reflex Update



Great participation in the Reflex Math application so far – half a million facts solved by Woodcrest students in less than a month's use. Remember, 3 times per week, 15 minutes per session – not a lot of time need to invest for a big dividend!

Grumpy Grampas

On December 20th, the Grumpy Grampas will be coming to perform for our students in grades 1-6. They are a local band of grandfathers who have entertained Thunder Bay crowds for over 40 years. This performance is focused on winter songs and choral responses. It's going to be a great event for our Wildcats!



Cooking with Kids

This month, the grade 5/6 class will be participating in the TBDHU's Cooking with Kids program. Along with learning proper safety techniques when it comes to cutting, washing, safe handling skills the students will also learn the importance of clean workspaces/ prep areas and healthy eating. The class will rotate through three stations: spice identification and cucumber cutting, pizza tortilla rolls and broccoli egg cups. The best part will be eating all the food they make!

Dress for the Weather

As we head fully into winter, we don't know day-to-day what to expect weather-wise, so please be sure to dress your children in appropriate clothing, including toques, mitts, and neck-warmers. It's easier to take something off than it is to put something on that you don't have! We stay inside when it is -25°C or colder, which means if it's -24°C, we're outside!









Experiencing Learning Outside of the School Walls!

Mrs. Pilot and Mrs Feden's kindergarten class have been learning about all the different countries they are from. They went out and learned Ukrainian dancing with Thunder Bay's Chaban Ukrainian Dance Group.



Woodcrest Public School – December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Hanukkah Begins 	3	4	5 Pizza Day  Pilot/Feden's class to Play	6 Mrs. Gray's class Cooking with Kids Grade 7s to Kingfisher	7 Community Police Officer visit	8
9	10 Hanukkah Ends 	11 Grade 8s to Kingfisher	12 Pizza Day  Grade 8s to Hammarskjold	13	14 DiMatteo/Palmer's class to Retirement Home	15
16	17	18 DiMatteo/Palmer's class Winter Concert	19 Pizza Day  Intermediate Girls Volleyball Tourney 	20 Intermediate Boys Volleyball Tourney  Grumpy Grampas Concert @2PM	21 Spirit Assembly	22
23	24	25 Christmas Day 	26	27	28	29



**Thanks to Hammarskjold
Jazz Band for visiting
Woodcrest!**