

WEST NISSOURI WILDFIRE NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2021

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From the Principal's Pen,

Welcome to the month of March here at West Nissouri. Looking ahead to next week, and what would normally be March Break, we can see that weather is improving and brighter times are on the horizon. I know we are all looking forward to the sun and warmer breezes of spring.

It's hard to believe, March 11, marks one year from the day that COVID-19 was first declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization.

We have another exciting month ahead full of learning. Our goals continue to focus on numeracy, literacy and creating positive learning environments.

As you are aware, March Break has been postponed until April 12th – 16th with classes resuming on Monday, April 18th. As well, Easter follows next month with Good Friday on April 2nd and Easter Monday on April 5th. Remember to check our school website regularly for updates, upcoming events and links to our School Council and Home and School folders.

Please continue to take care of yourselves, your friends and families; we will get through this together. Wishing you a wonderful March

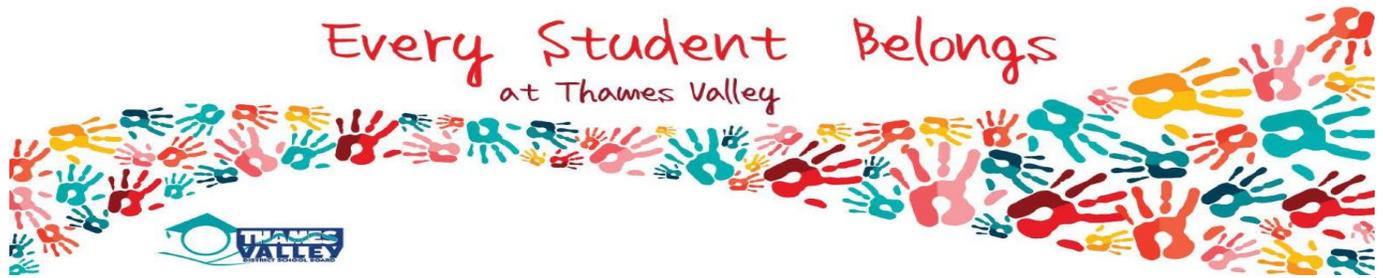
With you in education,
Darryl Mann
Principal West Nissouri Public School

In this Issue:

- Every Student Belongs
- School Advisory Council
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- Art Club

Coming Up:

- March 17th - Wear Green for St. Patrick's Day
- March 19th - Wear Crazy, Colourful and Mismatched Socks
- March 21st - World Down Syndrome Day
- March 22nd - Wear Blue & Bring Reusable Water Container
- March 26th - Wear Purple for Epilepsy Awareness
- April 2nd - Wear Blue for Autism Awareness "Light it Up Blue"



The Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB) is working to gain a better understanding of the diverse backgrounds of students and families across the district. To provide information that will help achieve this goal, TVDSB launched the **Every Student Belongs Survey** in December, 2020. The survey is guided by Ontario's Equity Action Plan, which asks school boards to collect information about students and staff related to their background (for example, their race, ethnicity, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, disabilities). Families of children in Kindergarten to Grade 6 will now be invited to complete the survey on behalf of their children beginning on March 11th.

The primary parent or guardian contact of all students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 will receive an email that contains a personalized link to the **Every Student Belongs Survey**. If you have more than one child, you will receive a separate email for each child. More information about the survey, including additional options for completing the survey, will be provided to you by email or in a letter home with your child. For more information about the survey, please visit the website: www.tvdsb.ca/everystudentbelongs.

Down Syndrome Awareness Day

The #LotsOfSocks campaign exists to raise awareness of Down syndrome. All you need to do is choose some socks that are going to get noticed - they might be mismatched socks or your craziest and most colourful socks. **WNPS will be participating Friday, March 19, 2021.** We look forward to seeing all of your crazy socks!! World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD), March 21 is a global awareness day which has been officially observed by the United Nations since 2012. The date for WDSD being the 21st day of the 3rd month, was selected to signify the uniqueness of the triplication (trisomy) of the 21st chromosome which causes Down syndrome.



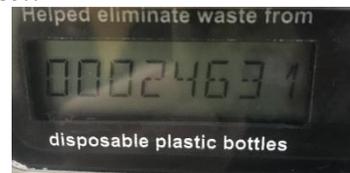
The Great Gulp: World Water Day, Monday, March 22nd

World Water Day is a global event celebrated each year on March 22nd. On this day, people around the world take action to conserve water, educate others, and celebrate this vital resource! This year, West Nissouri will be participating in a national day of action supported by EcoSchools Canada and SodaStream Canada called **The Great Gulp!**

On **MONDAY MARCH 22** at 11:40 a.m. we have organized a school-wide, synchronized drink of tap water from a reusable bottle, glass, or mug. Through this simple action we hope to raise awareness about drinking water, access to safe and healthy tap water, and the importance of reducing single-use plastic waste.

To support this initiative, we are asking students and staff to wear the colour blue and bring a reusable water bottles filled with tap water and join in on taking a Great Gulp. Simple daily actions at home, such as using a reusable water bottle, can have a big impact on the environment. We encourage you to also join in!

Take a quick look at the numbers of plastic bottle WNPS staff and students have saved from going to the landfill already!! Way to Go WNPS....over 41,000 disposable plastic bottles!!



Thank you for your support. We look forward to hearing about the unique ways your family participated in raising awareness and taking action!

Epilepsy Awareness Day

Mark your calendars for March 26. Purple Day is the nationally recognized day of **epilepsy awareness** in **Canada**. This is your chance to spread the word about the **seizure** disorder that affects one in 100 **Canadians**. WNPS lets show our support and awareness by wearing purple on the 26th of March.



World Autism Awareness Day



April 2nd is World Autism Awareness Day. WNPS will participate by asking all students and staff to wear something blue in support of understanding and acceptance for people with autism. There is no better way to celebrate this day than by becoming aware of the characteristics of people with autism and how all of us can do better to increase our own understanding and promote kindness.



Meet Mr. McNamara

GRADE 7/8 TEACHER @ WNPS

How long have you been a part of the WNPS community?

I've been teaching here full time for the past two years, but before that I supply taught here quite a lot! I have probably been active at the school in some way for the past five years.

What do you do to 'energize' and take care of yourself?

I drink a lot of Coffee and relax by playing my guitar at home.

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

I would love to go on a food tour of Vietnam! I am a huge fan of Vietnamese food!

What is something that we probably don't know about you?

I've helped run a summer camp out of Burlington which teaches kids leadership strategies! From working here I have learned how to play the guitar, how to juggle, how to do (simple) magic tricks, and how to tell an amazing story! I also have a ton of costumes for theme days at camp.

School Advisory Council

	West Nissouri Public School Advisory Council
Next Month's Meeting will be on Monday, April 19th at 6:30 p.m.	MARCH NEWS

It looks like Spring is well on the way! I want to thank the new attendees at this month's virtual meeting! Thank you for joining and we hope that you join us for the next one!

How to connect to our next meeting:

There will be an invitation sent out with school messenger with a unique password

****a reminder you will have to know your child's login information****

Log onto your child's tvdsb google account

In the top right-hand corner select "apps" and then "meet"

Type in the unique password

The meeting will open up and we will provide you with a quick overview on how to navigate the virtual meeting

If you do not have a google account or are having trouble logging in please reach out and we can add you with an email address or phone number.

Event Planning: Mr. Mann is connecting with a very special guest to host a virtual event targeted at mental health and support! Stay tuned for more details to follow.

Notice for Accommodations: Families, please feel free to contact the school for an interpreter to be arranged for future meetings or events.

Principal's Report: Shared with the committee every meeting. Mr. Mann prepares any information that pertains to our school or community. Some topics include TVDSB operational plans, Safe School updates, School Policy updates, upcoming events and more! At this time with the pandemic, we are finding that there is still limited information available at this time – but as it comes available it will be shared.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email us at sc-westnissouri@tvpic.ca

You can find us on Facebook at - **West Nissouri Public School Advisory Council** The minutes will be shared from each meeting on our school website -westnissouri.tvdsb.ca. It can be found under the "Parents" tab and by selecting "School Council" As well as on school messenger!

Home and School

Happy March Everyone!

We would like to send another extra special thank you out to all teachers and staff who have worked so hard to keep our students healthy and safe through the pandemic!

We are very pleased to have been able to donate another drop off snacks for the hungry bear snack bins! We love being able to support our students!

Another new initiative was also started this month. Each girl's bathroom will now be equipped with a basket full of any supplies they may need. The office also has additional supplies available, and the baskets will be restocked as needed.

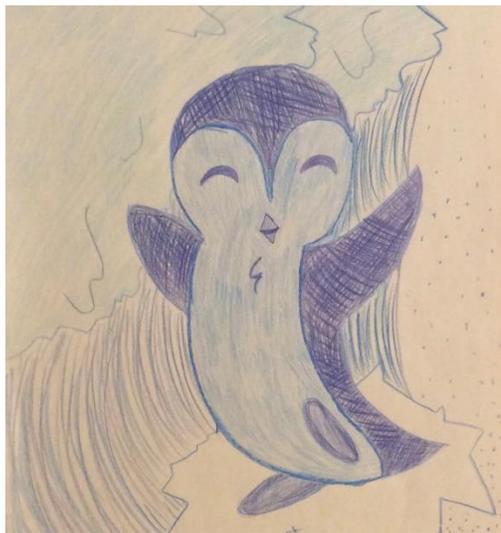
Our next meeting is Tuesday April 6, 2021 at 6pm via Google Meet. This is a different day of the week than is typical for us due to Easter Monday. Please consider joining us to see what we have coming up for the rest of this school year!

Thank you for your support!

- The West Nissouri Home and School Association

Primary Art Contest Winners

Congratulations to the primary winners! Great work to everyone who submitted for February!



1st Luna D.



2nd Molly H.

J/I Art Contest Winners

Congratulations to the J/I winners! Great work to everyone who submitted for February!

1st Andre C.



2nd Ella Haight

3rd Victoria V.

