

October, 2020

Principal's Message

Where did September go? It was an incredibly busy month with the start of another school year. We are so happy to have both staff and students back at school in-person. We know there are many new safety routines we need to follow, but it is worth it to have in-person learning happening. Parents, thank you so much for the work you have done to prepare your children to wear their masks and wash their hands. Please continue to remind your children to physically distance at all times while at school. We appreciate all of your support and patience as we adjust to our new normal! The homeschool connection is a vital part of students' safety and education.

Families are reminded to use the UPDATED Ontario screening tool daily before school. Here is the link: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>
As well, the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB) has a very informative website which you may wish to visit to find answers to many frequently asked questions about Covid-19 and Return To Learn. <https://www.tvdsb.ca/en/index.aspx>

In the classroom, our focus has been on ensuring students feel safe at school and establishing routines to keep everyone safe. Teachers are working hard to get to know your children and where their learning gaps are. Our main focus is on literacy and numeracy.

We held the first Virtual School Council and Home and School meetings on October 5th. Thank you to those able to attend. Congratulations, and thank you to our WNPS Council Member Executive:

Chair:	Tiffany Grubb
Secretary:	Alexis Juliao
Treasurer:	Tara Santagapita
Community Reps:	Jeannine Poulton Andrew Poulton
Parent Reps:	Amanda Borges Michelle Coughlin Blair Masse Kendra Bricker
Teacher Rep:	Carissa Kanters

Our School Council and Home and School Association welcome new members at any time and will meet virtually, the first Monday of every month. Our next Home and School Association & School Council Meeting is on Monday, November 2nd. Thank you for your continued support.

Our Terry Fox Run was held this past week. What an awesome event. Thank you Mrs. Peetsma for organizing the event and to all of our parents, guardians, family and friends for your donations to the Terry Fox Foundation. We reached our goal, and raised an astonishing **\$1500** in support of Cancer research.

The month of October also closes with the fun-filled day and evening - Halloween! Unfortunately, this year will run differently. Staff and students will not be permitted to wear costumes due to health and safety protocols in schools. Rather, students can dress in orange

and black to celebrate Halloween. Students and families are also asked to not send in any treats to distribute to friends. Each classroom teacher will provide additional details in their regular communication with families. Thank you for your understanding.

Finally, I would like to thank our amazing Home and School Association for supporting our students by purchasing a student planner for all Grade 1 – 8 students, a way to assist them in gaining valuable organizational skills as well as providing a way for communication to go between home and school. In addition, every classroom has been provided with a snack bin to support our Hungry Bear Snack Program! Thank you!!

One of my favourite holidays is Thanksgiving. I hope that you will be able to find time on this holiday to spend with your family.

Wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving!

Darryl Mann
Principal