

Wildfire Newsletter – October 2021

West Nissouri Wildfire Newsletter - Issue #2

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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 continues to be health and 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. 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. <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 learning recovery is necessary. Our main focus is on literacy and numeracy.

We held the first virtual School Advisory Council and Home and School Meetings on October 4th and 5th. Thank you to those able to attend. Congratulations, and thank you to our new WNPS Council Member Executive. SAC and HAS Agendas and Minutes are located on our website.

Our School Council and Home and School Association welcome new members at any time and will meet virtually, every month. Please stay tuned for future meetings. Thank you for your continued support.

Our Terry Fox Run was held recently. 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 \$2275 in support of Cancer research.

The month of October also closes with the fun-filled day and evening - Halloween! Each classroom teacher will provide additional details in their regular communication with families.

Finally, I would like to thank our amazing Home and School Association for supporting our students by continually providing each class with a snack bin to support our Hungry Bear Snack Program! Thank you!!

Darryl Mann
Principal

Home and School Association

Hello everyone!

The West Nissouri Home and School Association met for the first-time last night for the 2021-2022 school year. We are always looking for new members, so we invite you to join us. There is a small fee of \$20.00 for the entire school year that provides you with the right to a formal vote on home and school matters. If you have any questions about joining, please reach out to Sarah Doan at sarah.doan@live.ca. (Membership form is at the end newsletter)

We are also in the process of electing our Executive Members for this school year. If you are interested in being considered for a position, please e-mail your interest to Sarah Doan at sarah.doan@live.ca. We typically have a President, Vice President, Fundraising Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer, but we are able to be creative if you have a specific idea for a new position. Any questions can also be directed to the e-mail address above.

Even if you don't wish to become a member but are interested in learning more about what we do, please consider joining us at our next meeting on November 1, 2021, at 6:30 pm. All meetings are currently being done virtually and the link will be sent out closer to the meeting date.

Thank you.
Sarah Doan



Thank you so much to our Home and School Association for the generous donation of Hungry Bear Baskets for each of our classrooms. The Home and School association is also generously covering the cost of school planners for students in grades 1 – 8 and basketball nets for outside and tarmac games and outdoor learning supplies. Wildfire students and staff appreciate all you do for West Nissouri!

Take Me Outside Day

- “Learning in the outdoors not only offers a unique context for learning but also provides experiential learning outside the classroom to foster a connection to local places and to develop a greater understanding of ecosystems. Natural and human-built environments can be used as sites for discovery, problem-solving, and active learning, as well as for first-hand experiences that put students in touch with nature”.
- This year, [Take Me Outside Day](#) is on October 20th, 2021



Terry Fox Run

Terry's personal experience and research led him to a simple conclusion-more money was needed for cancer research. I would like to send out a note of sincere appreciation to the West Nissouri Community for helping raise money for cancer research. Our school goal was to raise \$2000, and we surpassed that goal by raising \$2275! Thank you so much! Because we reached our goal, several teachers participated in a bucket dump. This was a great way to celebrate our accomplishments!

Ms. Peetsma



School Photographs

We appreciate our families have been waiting for our process to support student photographs this year. Learning from the last two years, we are implementing a staggered approach to student photographs prioritizing our graduates.

As of today, **ONLY Secondary Graduate Photos** are being booked until further notice.

Once all secondary graduation photos are booked, Elementary Grade 8 Graduation photos to be booked. Once this is completed, an update for all student photos is to be completed. The Health and Safety Procedures used last year for indoor photos remain in place.

Thanks again for your understanding and patience and plans to begin to recognize our Graduates!

School Bus Safety

Our students look forward to a visit from **Buster the Bus** for the little ones and the excellent junior intermediate program for grades 4 – 8. Intertrain, the company who delivers the in-school safety program, has provided a fully on-line school bus safety program for this school year.

School Bus Safety week is October 18 – 22. This is an excellent opportunity for school to recognize the importance of safe school bus practices and to show appreciation to our drivers (October 20th is School Bus Driver Appreciation Day)!



West Nissouri Student Voice

Student Voice is well underway at West Nissouri! We have class representatives from grade's 4-8 this year. In October we will running many fun and engaging activities for all our amazing West Nissourians!

The "Scare Away Hunger" food drive starts October 18 and runs until October 29. Let's collect lots of non-perishable food items to support the local Dorchester Food Bank!

Pumpkin decorating/carving contest, Each classroom will receive a pumpkin to decorate or carve in the last week of October. We will have winners from each division (EY, Primary, Junior, and Intermediate) Winners will be announced on October 29.

Window decorating and jack-o-lantern face contest. Each classroom can create a spooky window display, and individual students can create a spooky jack-o-lantern face! Judging will take place October 29 for each division.

2021 Graduate Gift to West Nissouri

The Graduating Class of 2021 purchased a lovely bench to be placed at West Nissouri. That bench has arrived and looks great! Thank you to the Graduating Class of 2021! Look for this brightly coloured bench soon in West Nissouri's yard.



Community News:

Thorndale Youth Opportunities

BGC and I Love Thorndale are excited about all the programs and events planned for youth at the Clubhouse and other locations across Thorndale! Please take a moment to consider what your child might be keen to participate in and reach out to us at youth@ilovethorndale.ca to find out more and to get support to sign them up!

Please note that we are encouraging all families to setup a profile at the BGC website (Rec Desk) and choose the membership option that works best for your child. Why is this important? Because once you have a profile and membership setup the BGC staff in Thorndale will have all the information required in order to keep your child safe and well supervised, and once you have this setup it is easier to register for all programs being offered! Those children who are in grades 4+ can register as a BGC Thorndale Youth Member and participate in most programs and activities for free, or they can sign up as a BGC Thorndale Youth Visitor and pay each time they participate.

Mondays:

Youth Clubhouse Drop-In & Art (Cartooning, Watercolours, Abstract, etc.) 3-6pm (for youth in grades 4+)

*Must be a Thorndale BGC Youth Member or Thorndale BGC Youth Visitor [Memberships \(recdesk.com\)](https://www.recdesk.com/memberships)

Tuesdays:

Youth Sports League- 4 weeks of Dodgeball starting Nov 2nd, 4:15-5:15pm, then Volleyball from Dec 7-28

Register here: [Programs \(recdesk.com\)](https://www.recdesk.com/programs)

2nd & last Tuesday of each month at 4:30pm-Youth of Thorndale Meetings at the Clubhouse (Youth leaders who plan events and fundraisers to support the community!) *No payment required to volunteer!

[Memberships \(recdesk.com\)](https://www.recdesk.com/memberships)

Wednesdays:

Pop-Up Outdoor Games on Wednesdays 6-7pm. Youth in grades 4-8 are invited to play team games like Capture the Flag, Man Hunt, Craze Ball, for FREE. Find out more here: [Programs \(recdesk.com\)](https://www.recdesk.com/programs)

Thursdays:

Youth Clubhouse Drop-In & Homework Help 3-6pm (for youth in grades 4+) *Must be a Thorndale BGC Youth Member or Thorndale BGC Youth Visitor [Memberships \(recdesk.com\)](https://www.recdesk.com/memberships)

Fridays:

Clubhouse Group Bookings- Youth can get a group of up to 10 friends together and book the Clubhouse for 2 hours and watch a movie, play pool, foosball, air hockey, video games, or just hang out OR they can book in to do an Escape Room Challenge! *Must be a Thorndale BGC Youth Member or Thorndale BGC Youth Visitor [Memberships \(recdesk.com\)](https://www.recdesk.com/memberships) and email youth@ilovethorndale.ca to book a Private Party or Escape Room Challenge

Saturdays:

Youth Clubhouse Drop-In & Special Activities (October 16th-30th, Halloween Cupcake Decorating & Halloween Trivia with Prizes) [Memberships \(recdesk.com\)](https://www.recdesk.com/memberships)

Halloween Fundraiser for WN 2022 Grads

HEY WEST MISSOURI!
LET'S SUPPORT OUR GRADE 8
GRADUATES!

HALLOWEEN CANDY CUPS



ORDER
ONLINE

\$12 | **DELIVERY
OCT. 29TH**

Individually wrapped chocolate and candy. Peanut free

**\$5 FROM EACH CANDY CUP WILL GO BACK TO THE
GRADUATING CLASS.**

ORDER BY OCT. 25TH @
WWW.THEBALLOONERYANDGIFTSHOP.CA

Home Connections in Mathematics

October 2021: Online Math Supports

Our children live in a digital world. How do we help them use technology to enhance their math learning? Below are some fantastic online resources that will help both parents and students to be successful in math while at home. All of these websites contain content that is based on the Ontario curriculum.

[Homework Help for Students in Grades 6-11 and Parents/Guardians through Mathify](#)



Help your child build math skills with FREE 1:1 Grade 6-11 math tutoring with Ontario Certified Teachers! To support learning at home, tutors are available online Monday-Friday 9am to 9pm ET and 3:30pm to 9pm ET Sunday. Boost math understanding and confidence with a personalized math coach that works with your child's schedule.



TVO mPower focuses on some of the tougher-to-learn math concepts, helping students build confidence and master the skills they'll need to succeed. All content is aligned with the Ontario math curriculum for Kindergarten through Grade 6. <https://mpower.tv.org/#/login/>



<https://www.mathplayground.com/thinkingblocks.html> Math Playground is a free website that allows students of all ages to practice a variety of problem-solving strategies in a game-like setting.



Dreambox mirrors the work being done in your child's classroom. This site requires a membership. Ask your child or contact your child's teacher to see if they have a subscription. If they are using these in school, they are highly encouraged to also use it at home.



<https://www.knowledgehook.com/>

Knowledgehook is a Grade 1-10 Mathematical instructional guidance system which utilizes formative assessment to differentiate learning in mathematics. This year, every teacher has unlimited access to Knowledgehook which is a great way to practice math flexibility while harnessing problem solving skills. TVDSB educators and students have been provided with accounts this year. Parents can register for automated updates to monitor their child's progress.



<http://ca.mathletics.com> Mathletics is an online math learning space providing students with many of the tools they need to be successful learners, both in the classroom and beyond. Courses are aligned to provincial math curricula, from Kindergarten through High School. The program uses math similar to that your child is using in class. This program requires a subscription. Ask your child if they have one.

Home Connections in Mathematics

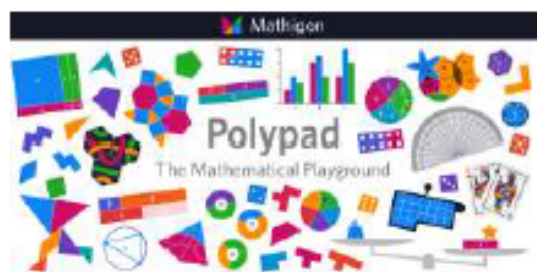


Scratch is an introductory programming language that enables young children to create their own interactive stories and games. Children snap together graphical programming blocks to make characters move, jump, dance, and sing. Students are encouraged to "start creating" when they arrive at the website and are advised not to enter their personal information. <https://scratch.mit.edu/>

Math Tools to Support Home Learning



The www.mathies.ca is a free Ministry site and supports students from Kindergarten to Grade 12. Here, you will find learning tools to help your child complete their homework and deepen their understanding of essential concepts.



<https://mathigon.org/polypad> is the best digital canvas for exploring mathematics: containing 50+ unique virtual manipulatives, dynamic geometry, graph plotting, powerful sharing features, and much more.



<https://www.desmos.com/> offers best-in-class calculators, digital math activities, and curriculum to help every student love math and love learning math.



EquatIO gives your students the opportunity to show their mastery in math, in a way that best suits them. They can speak, draw or type problems and equations directly onto their device.



[Microsoft MakeCode](https://code.visualstudio.com/learn) is a free open-source block-based coding platform which fosters engaging computer science learning experiences that support a progression path into real-world programming. There are numerous tools available which contain a variety of tutorials to help students learn to code.

Technology is an easy way to increase your child's enjoyment and understanding of mathematics and for you both to learn together.

Home and School Association Membership Form

October 1, _____ to September 30, _____

Home and School Association

Association Name

Name(s): _____

For a family membership, list 2 names – no additional cost

Address: _____

Home #: _____

Cell #: _____

E-mail Address: _____

By completing this form I/we hereby give consent for the above-named Home & School Association and OFHSA to use this e-mail address for the purpose of Home & School electronic mailings and other communications. The Association/OFHSA shall not use, retain or disclose personal information for purposes other than those for which it was collected, except with the consent of the individuals.

Membership Fee \$20 (*cheques are payable to the above-named Home & School Association*)

- **Membership fees are non-refundable**
- The OFHSA Membership Fee covers: the costs of advocacy/representation; administrative costs at OFHSA (secretary, office rental, website, printed materials, awards, Canadian Home & School Federation fee, auditor fee/maintaining charitable status with CRA)
- An OFHSA membership card will be given to you by the Association
- Membership is not required to volunteer at the school
- Association Meetings are open for anyone to attend, however, **non-members do not have voting privileges**

Membership Privileges:

- ✓ Liability insurance coverage while participating in sanctioned Home & School Association activities (each H&S Association is required to pay an annual Association Insurance Fee)
- ✓ Voting privileges at Home & School Association meetings (budget & financials, minutes, bylaws, executive elections, resolutions at the provincial level, other motions as brought forth)
- ✓ Provides the association with more votes at the OFHSA Annual Meeting
- ✓ Privilege of attending the OFHSA Conference & Annual Meeting (workshops, networking, recognition, fundraising info and free samples), meals and accommodations for voting delegates may be paid in whole or in part by the Home & School Association and should be included in the budget approved by the membership
- ✓ Privilege of attending OFHSA Leadership session
- ✓ Receive minutes of Home & School Association meetings
- ✓ A collective voice of members at the local, provincial and national levels
- ✓ Eligible for the Volunteer Skills Portfolio (VSP) to earn the *Ada Courtice Certificate of Leadership and Learning*

Questions about Membership?

Please contact: _____

(Fill in your Association Membership Chair's name and contact information)

The Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations (OFHSA)

Membership is open to all persons, age 18 years and over, who are interested in the welfare of children and youth, and who subscribe to the purposes, beliefs and objectives of OFHSA.

Individual memberships are for one person. Family memberships are for two eligible persons residing at the same address. The cost is the same.

Mission Statement

The Ontario Federation of Home & School Associations, a province-wide network of dedicated members, is committed to informed and pro-active involvement in our homes, our schools and our communities to obtain **"The Best for Each Student"**.

Aims and Objectives

1. To promote the welfare of children and youth.
2. To raise the standards of home life.
3. To promote the care and protection of children and youth.
4. To foster co-operation between parents and teachers in the training and guidance of children and youth, both during and after the school period.
5. To obtain the best for each child according to his/her physical, mental, social and spiritual needs.
6. To give parents an understanding of the school and its work, and to assist in interpreting the school in all aspects to the public.
7. To confer and co-operate with organizations other than schools which concern themselves with the care and training of children and youth in the home, the school and the community; and with the education of adults to meet these responsibilities.
8. To foster high ideals of citizenship and to promote through educational means international goodwill and peace.



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