



A GREAT PLACE TO GROW

Westwood Word

January 2018



IN THIS ISSUE

2018 January

by Donna Johnston, Principal

The importance of consistent student attendance cannot be overstated when it comes to your child's academic success. Every month in our newsletter we share the monthly attendance rates for Westwood. It is always our goal to remain over 90%, however we understand that some absences cannot be helped for reasons such as illness, medical appointments, or out of town travel. Due to living within Westwood School's catchment area, cold weather is not a reason to stay home. We advise parents that it is their responsibility to report student absences to the school by emailing your child's teacher or by calling Carla at 204-677-6190; at times, this means you will have to inform us daily of your child's absence.

We have a responsibility to keep our attendance records accurate, but this can only be achieved with the support of parents. Let's work together to achieve the minimum provincial standard of 90% attendance for the remainder of the school year.



Christmas Compassion Project

by Ms. Wilson, Grade 3 Teacher

Grade 3 Wilson chose to collect things for dogs and cats at the Thompson Humane Society for our Christmas Compassion Project. One of the students (Alexandre Parent) got the idea after reading a newspaper article. This led to a class discussion on the responsibility of pet ownership and being respectful of animals in general. Ms. Wilson also shared the Facebook page for the Thompson Humane Society with the class. A few children were familiar with the Humane Society, as a few family pets had been previously adopted from this shelter. The class voted unanimously to gift their donations to the Thompson Humane Society.



Christmas Compassion Project
Grade 3 Wilson donates to Thompson Humane Society

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Christmas Shoebox Gifts
Students cheered as our Junior High volleyball players challenged staff to a rousing game for all to enjoy.

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Month at a Glance

by Tricia Griffin, Vice Principal

November was Family Violence Prevention Month. Students were encouraged to wear purple in recognition.

December highlights:

Dec. 1 – World Aids Day Activities
 Dec. 1 - Report Writing (pm only)
 Dec. 6 – JH Cyber-Safety Presentations
 Dec. 12 – Christmas Concert
 Dec. 22 – Early dismissal (2:30pm)
Winter Break



Looking to January:

Jan. 8 – Back to school

FUNDRAISERS

Gr. 6O is collecting "Coins for Cancer", from January 8, until February 28, 2018. All monies collected will be donated to the Canadian Cancer Society. Please send in spare change with your child.

Christmas Shoebox Gifts

by Tricia Griffin, Vice Principal

In the spirit of giving, Westwood students and staff collected and wrapped gift items for children and youth, which were presented to Terilyn Reed, After-School Program Director of the Boys and Girls Club of Thompson, at a December Assembly. Gifts for babies and adults were also dropped off to the Thompson Crisis Center and the Thompson Homeless Shelter, as well as a donation to the Thompson Humane Society. Thank you to all for your support and generosity to the less-fortunate of our community.



DECEMBER ATTENDANCE

85.7%

"When students improve their attendance rates, they improve their academic prospects and chance for graduating." – Attendance Works

Staff & Students Sport Ugly Christmas Sweaters...



Grade 3 Students visit Christmas Village at the School Board Office...



Winter Blues?

by Tricia Griffin, Vice Principal

At this time of year, it is easy to avoid the snow and cold by staying indoors. When temperatures reach below -30 degrees, this becomes inevitable. Unfortunately, children sometimes pay the price for all the cold weather.

All children need to active through physical and imaginative play. On cold winter days help keep them busy by arranging play dates with their friends, have a family game night, build a fort out of blankets, take them skating or to an indoor play structure.

Furthermore, take advantage of warmer days. Bundle them accordingly and send them out to play. Both you and your child will reap the benefits of fresh air and independent play time.



Gingerbread Man Structures

By Sharon Wilson, Gr. 3 Teacher

3 Wilson & 5 Osberg teamed up to create Christmas Gingerbread Men Structures



Coins for Cancer

by Debra Oleschak, Gr. 6 Teacher

Miss Oleschak's grade six class has decided that they would like to collect money for the Canadian Cancer Society. They are calling it "Coins for Cancer". This fundraiser will last from January 8, until February 28, 2018. On February 28th the money will be counted and donated to the Canadian Cancer Society. We will be placing a jug in the main lobby so that the whole school can get involved and make donations. The grade six class would like to thank all parents and students in advance for their generous support for this worthwhile cause.



5 CLEVER CAR TRICKS FOR WINTER

Click the hyperlink below to check out how to prevent an icy windshield, quickly thaw a frozen lock, and more.

By Taylor Shea from book "Extraordinary Uses for Ordinary Things"

<https://www.rd.com/home/cleaning-organizing/car-tricks-winter/>

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