

Westview Elementary Newsletter

January 2024

Message from the Principal

Dear families,

We are excited to welcome students back for the remainder of this school year. My name is Sue Neville, and I am the permanent Principal here at Westview. I have heard great things about the staff, students and families here at Westview and look forward to meeting everyone.

Here are some important reminders as we start the second half of the school year:

Parent Portal

This tab is located on the HWDSB webpage and is accessible to all parents/caregivers who have children registered in the HWDSB. If you are having difficulty logging into the Portal, please message us [at westview@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:westview@hwdsb.on.ca) for assistance. There are a number of services and forms located on the Portal that you will require over the course of the school year. Please use **School Messenger** to report any absences or late arrivals.

Forms to be completed in the Parent Portal asap if not already completed.

Student Information Verification

Early Closure and Emergency Evacuation Information

Media and Internet Use Consent form

Oral medication, anaphylaxis, or medical plan of care (if applicable)

Contact Information – it is of upmost importance that we have relevant and correct contact information for you and all emergency contacts. Please update any changes on the student information verification form in the portal. **If you are allowing anyone other than custodial parent/guardians to pick up your child, we require notice in writing and the person (if**

unknown to the school) will be asked to show ID upon pick up.



Westview Elementary

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905-388-1502

westview@hwdsb.on.ca

www.hwdsb.on.ca/westview/

Upcoming Events

- January 16 – McNab Information Night 5:00-7:00
- January 24 – 6:30-7:30 – Parent Council Meeting
- January 30 – Ski Trip

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Visiting our School

To support a productive, safe and healthy learning environment, we do limit visitors to school during instructional time. We ask families to call or email our school to supply information or contact a staff member. It is recommended that parents not drop off items during the school day. If this is absolutely necessary, please ring the doorbell at the front entrance and we will collect the labelled item for your child. If you do attend the school, **you must** go to the office – no one is to be walking the halls or visiting classes when teachers are teaching, and school is in session.

Late Arrivals

Please **be on time** and ready to learn. It gets **very disruptive** to classes, and to the overall running of the school, when we have so many children coming in and entering school/classes at different times.

Communication

We are committed to using effective communication practices. We will continue to send updates using postings on the webpage and School Messenger as appropriate. Your child's teacher will convey the preferred methods for communication for them. We do recommend subscribing to our school webpage for regular reminders/updates.

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/westview/>.

Any questions or concerns around classroom practice should be addressed first with the classroom teacher.

Supporting a Positive School Environment

HWDSB will continue to offer a wide variety of mental health supports for students, knowing that the pandemic has impacted student well-being. This is especially important during the return to school, which can be stressful for some students after any breaks. Explore our [We Help web page](#) for more evidence-based and timely school-based mental health services and supports. The HWDSB Human Rights code explains clearly that it is **the duty of educators to prepare students for their role in society by learning to be responsible citizens**. We do this by providing equitable and inclusive environments that address discriminatory biases and barriers. We need to educate students about diversity and inclusion so they can be respectful and kind to everyone. Please see the policy section on the HWDSB website for all applicable policies.

Right to Disconnect

Healthy work-life boundaries, including the ability for all employees to disconnect from work after hours, is an important part of maintaining one's health and well-being. HWDSB has implemented a [Right to Disconnect Procedure](#) to support educators, administrators and other HWDSB staff. While all urgent communication will continue to be shared after hours, please note that families communicating with educators and administrators **may receive a delay in response to all non-emergency inquiries received after hours**.

We know the return to school can be stressful for some students. We are here to support, encourage and motivate. Please carefully review the **behaviour expectations** outlined below and review them with your child. If you think your child might struggle with school, please let us know.

Westview Public School – Behaviour Expectations 2023/2024

A large part of any school principal/VP's job is to handle student discipline. School discipline has two main goals: (1) to ensure the safety of staff and students, and (2) to create an environment conducive to learning. Disruptions interrupt lessons for all students, and disruptive students lose even more learning time. For this reason, I would like to share with you our policy on student discipline which is based upon the HWDSB's Code of Conduct Policy which can also be accessed here: <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/aboutus/policies/#ss> (Policy #7.22 and Provincial Policy Memorandum (PPM) Directive PPM128), and the HWDSB's Progressive discipline (policy # 11.02 and PPM 145).

We try our very best at Westview to ensure that all pupils have a safe, caring and accepting school environment to maximize their learning potential and to ensure a positive school climate for all members of the school community. **It is important to remember that students are responsible for their own behaviour**. Please review the following rules and expectations with your child(ren):

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Expectations of Student Behaviour: Respect, Responsibilities and Rights

We expect high standards of behaviour from all our students. We will not tolerate bullying, harassment, discrimination, physical aggression, or any other behaviour that makes students feel uncomfortable about being in school or prevents them from studying to their best level. The expectations apply to all students and not just in classrooms but in all areas of the school and outside of school – if it impacts the school environment. **However, bullying is a specific and pervasive behaviour and should not be mistaken for singular acts of agitation, upset, or aggression.** I will be highlighting more information about bullying in each month's newsletters to promote a consistent understanding of this issue among all school stakeholders.

Westview Public School Expectations for Behaviour

Arrive to class every day on time and ready to learn

Try your best in all assigned tasks

Take an active role in the class **without disrupting lessons**

Co-operate, respect and communicate with **all** school staff and other students

Follow the class rules agreed upon with your teacher

lockers are for storage, not for socializing – move quickly between classes

do not leave school property without permission

do not leave the classroom without permission and NO wandering without supervision

NO SKATEBOARDS OR SCOOTERS

Respect each other - this means that you:

Are **polite** and do not use language that can offend others

Will **never be violent, aggressive** or intimidate others. **If it looks like a fight, it will be treated like a fight - which is a suspensible offense**

Will not bully or discriminate against others – bullying, personal or cyber, can lead to suspension or expulsion

Listen to your teacher and other students and allow others to take part

Look after the school environment and equipment

Discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated – be tolerant of everyone's uniqueness

ALL OF THE ABOVE APPLIES ON THE BUS AS WELL AS IN SCHOOL

Consequences for Inappropriate Behaviour

Although we strive to be consistent in both expectations and consequences for behaviour it is important that the board policies mentioned above are followed and each incident is investigated fully. We do ensure that all incidents reported to the office will be investigated fully and all parties spoken to before any decisions on consequences are made. Many **mitigating factors** impact our decisions, and we are always happy to share our reasoning both with students and with their parents. **However, due to all individuals' right to privacy please understand that we do not share the consequences for one child with the children or parents of another. Please also be aware that there are sometimes mitigating circumstances that we are mandated to consider that may or may not impact decisions.**

Examples of Possible Consequences

Detention

Calls home/behaviour form

Meetings with parents

Behaviour plan

Loss of privileges

Inability to play on sports teams (one game/all games)

Inability to attend trips

Temporary withdrawal

Suspension and/or Expulsion

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Parking Safety — The parking here at Westview is **for staff only** and is not to be used for drop-offs and pick-ups. I have had reports of students and adults being almost hit by cars that are reversing during the very busy dismissal time and the safety of all staff and students is of paramount importance at all times. We have students walking through the lot to get to the buses and also have one special bus that picks up our special needs students in the parking lot. **Please, please have safety in the forefront of your minds** if you are dropping off/picking up your children. Please do not park OR STOP in the parking lot – please make arrangements with your child to meet you in another location and please do not block buses. **Please help us keep all of our Westview students safe! Thank you for your support and cooperation.**

Ms. Neville

