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## September 2019 - Opening Message

Welcome Winchester Families to a NEW school year!

Thank you for all your support as we begin the 2019-20 school year. In this issue you will find the calendar, lunch menu and important first month reminders.

At Winchester we are committed to home/school communication! We are also trying to keep our environmental footprint to a minimum. Therefore, the newsletter that normally goes home on Take-Home Thursday at the end of each month, will now be sent home via ClassDojo and available on our website. Please check the Newsletter tab of the school Website to access all future Newsletters. Also new this year is Agenda-less classrooms. Communication with teachers is simple with Dojo, however, if that does not work for your family, let your child's teacher know your preferred method of communication. Methods of keeping informed about school happenings is through the website <http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/winchester>, following us on twitter TDSB\_WinPS, and connecting to ClassDojo.

Part of keeping families informed is updating important contact information. In the September Package, which went home on Friday, September 6, please find important information such as: sign-up for Hot Lunch, Nutrition Program, Emergency Contact and Medical Information. Please take some time to read, complete and sign the forms, especially, updating contact information. The office must be able to contact a child's family in case of emergency. The updated information is due back on Friday, September 20, 2019

Winchester staff will continue to focus on working in team partners and developing consistency across the grades. All teachers work together on common planning, common language and consistency in assessment practices. We are working together to make a richer learning environment for Winchester students.

We look forward to a successful school year – thank you for your partnership!

### Welcome to Winchester -- New Staff:

New to Winchester this year are the following staff:

- Mme Leung -- Gr. 5/6 A Room 101
- Mme Sultana -- Lunchroom Supervisor in Rm. 4

### Dates to remember:

**Sept 10th : Cross Country practices begin 8:15am on the field**

**Sept 16th - Snack program begins**

**Sept 20th: September packages returned to homeroom teachers**

**Sept 24-26: 1st BOOKFAIR with Ellaminnow bookstore <https://ellaminnow.ca>**

**Sept 26th: Curriculum night 4pm-5:30pm**

### Sports at Winchester

Cross Country tryouts will begin on Tuesday, September 10. The coaches are Ms. Leung and Mme Carling. The age groupings are defined by grade (year of birth). Grades 1 – 2 will run approx. 1 km, grade 3 will run approx. 1.5 km, grades 4 – 6 will run approx. 2

km and grades 7 – 8 will run approx. 3 km. The Area Meet will be at Ashbridges Bay on Oct. 2nd, 3rd or 4th ( Stay Tuned). The Conference Finals will also take place at Ashbridges Bay on Oct. 13th. For those who make it to the City Finals, it will be held on Oct. 26th at Centennial Park.

Grade 6, 7 and 8 soccer will begin shortly. Please listen to announcements for try-out times and dates.

Grades 4-8 boys volleyball has just started. We will be having teams for grades 5, 6, and 8 this year.

### **Intermediate Orientation**

The intermediate students kicked off their first week of school with two afternoons of orientation to help facilitate the interaction and bonding of students across homerooms. The sessions were focused on leadership, communication and supporting one another. It was wonderful watching students getting to know their teachers and other students. Stay tuned for other break out afternoons filled with team building activities.

### **Book Club and Independent Reading Program**

This year, the Intermediate Team's goal in Language is to maintain consistency throughout our homerooms and increase student engagement and stamina in reading both fiction and non-fiction texts. Therefore, a large component of our Language program will be a Differentiated Book Club and Independent reading program. Students will have the opportunity to chose their reading material from a selection of books with a similar theme of "Overcoming Adversity." Students can track their reading progress in their homeroom's "Book Nook" and will discuss their books with other students who have chosen the same one. How many books will you read this year?!?

### **Eco Club**

Eco Club Members help our school by managing organic waste bins, monitoring school-wide energy competitions, contributing new ideas to our team and by communicating our newest initiatives to all of Winchester. Eco Club is open to all students in grades 1 to 8. Listen to the announcements to see when our first meeting will be. We look forward to seeing you there!

### **New Clubs**

The Grade 7/8 students worked hard last year to build amazing new clubs for students to enhance student life at Winchester- they are continuing this year! Grade 8 student leaders are the "club heads" and will be planning, announcing and running great experiences at lunch and after school! Check the bulletin board outside of room 206 for updates and information. Announcements will also be heard in the morning when needed!

### **Junior and Intermediate Choir**

All students from Grade 4-8 are welcome to join the Winchester Choir. We sing exciting pieces of music that are meaningful and fun to the members of the choir. Listen for an announcement about our first rehearsal!

### **Library club**

Join us Tuesday September 10th at lunch in the library for a brief meeting! We will discuss the needs of the library this year as well as the roles that need to be filled. This is a really cool opportunity for those who want a leadership role that isn't sports related, uses right and left brain thinking, allows you to be creative and best of all helps you get your hands on the latest and greatest books to be read!

### **Health and Nutrition**

#### **Lunch Program**

Winchester has a staggered lunch to accommodate the number of students.

Primary students (Grade 1 to Gr. 2/3, Rm. 6, 10, 8, 9, 7, 14) have lunch in the lunchroom between 11:40-12:00, while the Junior and Junior/Intermediate students (Grade 3/4 to 8, Rm. 11, 13, 101, 106, 102) enjoy 'lunch recess' outside.

At 12:00 Primary and Junior swap locations and activities. Primary students head outside for 'lunch recess,' while Junior and Intermediate students proceed to the lunchroom. During inclement weather, students will enjoy a movie in the gym instead of being outside.

Our lunchroom is a very busy place. If you would like to see your child at lunch, please sign-in/out in at the Main Office.

With parent permission (included in the September package), grade 6, 7 and 8 students may leave the school grounds at lunch. They must remain within the boundaries as outlined in the permission form and return to school no later at 12:20.

#### **Lunch Program Menu**

Please see the Nutrition Menu at the back of the calendar. The menu is distributed monthly.

## **Allergy Awareness**

No Nuts Please

Please remember that we are a *nut free* school due to severe allergies among some of our students. Please do not send food to school that contains nuts or peanut products.

## **Scent Aware**

The TDSB is asking for voluntary cooperation towards a scent-reduced environment. We are encouraging staff, students and visitors to avoid or reduce the use of fragranced products. Exposure to perfumes and other scented products can trigger serious health reactions in individuals with asthma, allergies, migraines or chemical sensitivities.

Fragrances are found in a wide range of products, including perfume, cologne, deodorant, soap, fabric softeners and laundry detergents. It is a personal choice to use fragrances, however, fragrance chemicals by their very nature, are shared. The chemicals vaporize into the air and are easily inhaled by those around us. Thank you for your cooperation.

## **Library Corner**

*Junior and Senior Librarians (grades 4-8):* will begin the week of September 10. Mme. Carling is looking forward to welcoming everyone into the library and having it be a space for community, families and students alike! *Book Exchange:* Your child will have the opportunity to exchange books on a regular basis beginning the week of September 16th. If you feel your child would like to exchange books more frequently, please feel free to stop by the library before school from 8:30-8:55am on day 4 and 5's! Families can access resources on our Winchester's school library site: <http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/winchester/Library.aspx> . Interested in volunteering in the library? Email Mme. Carling directly at: [annette.carling@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:annette.carling@tdsb.on.ca)

## **School Council**

The first School Council meeting will take place on Thursday, September 19 in the library at 6:30 p.m.. The Winchester School Council is composed of parents and other members of the school community who volunteer their time to enhance students' learning and social experiences at school. The School Council also organizes some events throughout the year including Family Movie Nights, the Annual Fun Fair, Teacher Appreciation Lunch, and more. Whether it be serving as a member on council or volunteering for special activities, School Council is a wonderful way to stay in touch with the school staff while getting better acquainted with your children's friends and their parents.

## **School Buses: Finding Your Transportation Information**

The new transportation portal is available at your convenience to look up student transportation information. It is located at [www.torontoschoolbus.org/transportation-portal/](http://www.torontoschoolbus.org/transportation-portal/) . The portal will provide you information on the school bus company providing the service, their phone number, the bus stop location, the bus route number, and the times at the bus stop.

If you have any questions or concerns about bussing please contact the Toronto Student Transportation Group at 416-394-4BUS (416-394-4287) or via e-mail at [transportation@torontoschoolbus.org](mailto:transportation@torontoschoolbus.org). Staff will be happy to provide you the information.

If you are making a different arrangement for picking up your child at the end of the day, please send a written note to your child's teacher.

If your child takes the bus to and from school, please send a note to the teacher if you are making alternate arrangements for end of day pick-up.

Please remind your child of our expectations regarding behaviour on the bus:

- hands and feet to ourselves;
- quiet, respectful language;
- remain seated at all times;
- no food on the bus

## **Safe Arrival Program**

One measure of keeping students safe is ensuring students have safely arrived at school. If your child is going to be late or absent, it is important that you contact the office. At the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) we now have an automated call-out system that will attempt to contact you if your child is late or absent on the day where the school was not previously informed.

The system will call parents/guardians identified in TDSB's Student Information Systems who have access to student records, and emergency contact with priority 1 or 2 will receive a call. When you receive the call, you are required to listen to the entire message and follow the prompts accordingly. We recognize that regular attendance is essential to the safety, academic success, and well-being of all students. Thank you for your continued cooperation to keep your child safe and accounted for. For more information please visit [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca) and search safe arrival program.

## **School Bus Loading Zone**

Parking Enforcement monitors our school bus loading zones and parking is strictly enforced. Please be mindful not to stop or park in loading zone. The loading zone is located on Rose Avenue beginning at the delivery dock to half-way down the block. If you are picking up your child, please leave your vehicles on Prospect, Ontario or Winchester streets.

### **Anaphylaxis**

We feel that all parents would like to be aware that there is a child (or several children) in our school with a severe life-threatening food allergy to nuts and/or latex, called anaphylaxis (ana-fill-axis). These are medical conditions that cause a severe reaction to specific foods or other materials, and can result in death within minutes. Although peanuts and peanut products are the most common foods to cause anaphylaxis, shellfish, fish, eggs, sulphites, milk, sesame seeds, soy or any other food can cause this dangerous condition. In recent years, anaphylaxis has increased dramatically among students. The most common materials to cause allergies are: balloons, Koosh balls, rubber gloves, fabric paints, rubber bands and old Barbie dolls to name just a few items that contain latex and can cause an allergic reaction. Although this may or may not affect your child's class directly, we want to inform you so that you may choose to send foods to school with your child that are free from nuts. The Board has procedures for the prevention and management of anaphylactic reactions. If you are interested, contact the school office for further information. Further information is also available through Anaphylaxis Canada, (416) 785-5666. If your child has health problems of any kind, please inform your child's teacher or office staff immediately so that the necessary health protection steps may be taken. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in ensuring the safest environment.

**Respect is the character trait for September.**  
**Respect is being thoughtful and considerate of others, including their feelings, wishes, rights, traditions and belongings.**