



West Oak Public School



October 2009

West Oak Public School

2071 Fourth Line
Oakville Ontario
L6M 3K1

905-469-6119

Absence Check Number

905-469-4509

Website

<http://wes.hdsb.ca>

Principal

Mrs. M. Cericola

Vice Principal

Ms. N Rice

Secretaries

Mrs. L Graham
Mrs. C. Hewitt
Mrs. C. Wilkinson
Mrs A. Doraty

Superintendent

Mrs. P. Dyson
905-335-3663
Ext. 3409

Trustee

Ms. K. Bateman-
Olmstead
905-465-0711



SCHOOL HOURS

8:45	Entry Bell
8:50	Morning Exercises
8:50	Period 1
9:50	Period 2
10:30	Nutrition Break
11:10	Period 3
12:00	Period 4
12:50	Lunch
1:40	Period 5
2:40	Period 6
3:20	Dismissal



Principal and Vice Principal Update

Welcome to the 2009 – 2010 School Year!

Our 2009 school year is off to a great start. Staff, students and parents have demonstrated in just 4 weeks that our commitment to learning is strong as is our commitment to the spirit of our school.

Thank-you to the West Oak School Council for organizing a terrific BBQ. It certainly was great to see so many families join us for this annual event. Thank-you also to the parents who attended the Program Night portion of the evening. This was a wonderful opportunity to bring our community together and share the focus of our upcoming year.

During the month of September, several new families have joined our great school. It was a pleasure to see the warm welcome that these students received from their peers and our West Oak staff. I would invite our new families to communicate often with their child's teacher if they have any questions regarding their child's learning and growth while they are here at West Oak. With these new additions, our final enrolment numbers for the 2009 – 2010 school year are as follows: JK/SK – 228 students, Grades 1 to 3 – 246 students, and Grades 4 to 8 – 396 students. Added up, we have a total of 870 enthusiastic and energetic learners.

In order for the Halton District School Board to be fully compliant with the primary Class Size initiative several schools including West Oak are have gone through a class re-organization. We were required to re-organize our classes by moving students from classes that were exceeding the 20:1 ratio to classes of 20. The re-organization was very successful and our wonderful teachers will continue to ensure that your child continues to learn and grow to their fullest potential.

As a school, our attention to on-time arrival is proving to have a positive impact on the total number of late arrivals over the past 3 years. We have reduced our total number of late arrivals from 290 in September 2006, to 114 in September 2007 to 157 in September 2008 to **80** in September 2009! Please remember that the entry bell is at 8:45am and all students must be on the blacktop by this time. Let's work toward continuously reducing the number of lates throughout the school year to ensure that we provide 300 minutes of uninterrupted instructional time for all West Oak learners.

As was our best practice last year, I would like to once again encourage parents to review their child's agenda on a nightly basis. This consistent practice will allow you to be aware of your child's learning, and support them as they continue to become responsible and self-directed learners. Daily completion of in-class assignments and homework are important tasks for your child because accomplishment in meeting deadlines promotes the development of self-esteem and internal motivation.

With just 8 weeks remaining in our 1st term, I would like to encourage all parents to visit our web site <http://wes.hdsb.ca> often, specifically the teacher web pages. These pages are intended to keep both you and your child informed of the learning in each subject area. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

Regards,

Margaret Cericola and Nancy Rice

Safety

Thank-you to all of the parents who are parking in designated parking spots. The number of parents leaving cars unattended in the drop off zone is decreasing. Please continue to make West Oak a safe place for all staff and students by NOT leaving your car unattended in the drop off zone which is also a FIRE ZONE. Parents are asked to communicate this information to caregivers and anyone who will be driving your child to school.

We have also been informed of incidents of parents dropping off students and parking in our neighbours' driveways. If you are not able to find a designated parking space in our parking lot we ask that you be considerate of our neighbours and park on the side streets.

Learning at West Oak

Partnering for Change Project

Our school is starting an exciting project that provides educational opportunities for our teachers! An occupational therapist (OT) named Jennifer VanderDoelen

will work in classrooms as a coach to help teachers learn more about how children develop motor skills and how teachers can use activities to encourage motor development. The project is described in the letter of information from Canchild and the schoolboard, attached to this newsletter. If you have questions about your child's coordination or motor development, please feel free to talk to Mrs. Dolby at our school.

All Star Reading Program

We are seeking volunteers to help with our All Star Reading Program! As a volunteer, you will be working as a reading coach with our Grades 2 and 3 students. If you are interested in helping a child learn to read, please call the school with your name, phone number, days/times available, and whether or not you have had your police check. Mrs. Dolby or Mrs. Donnelly will contact you to provide more details, should you need it, as well as ask you to attend a short training session that will be scheduled shortly. Thanks, we appreciate your help!

Information Items

Picture Day

Please note that the dates for Picture Day have changed. All students in grades 1,2,3,4, and all "A" Kindergarten students will have their photograph taken on Monday October 26. All students in grades 5,6,7,8 and all "B" Kindergarten students will have their photograph taken on Tuesday October 27.

Pizza Day—All Grades From Dana Peever & Ruth Ann Courage

Exciting News—Pizza day will take place **every** Thursday for the duration of the school year.

In lieu of the previously offered Sub Day, we have decided to offer Pizza day every Thursday this year. The main purpose behind offering lunch at school is the fundraising opportunity it presents for west Oak Public School.

Last Year, Pizza day was the most profitable overall fundraiser for the school and ran with the least amount of issues. Over the years at WOPS, there has been

a greater demand for pizza than other lunch offerings.

Fundraising activities/amounts from last year help us raise enough money to buy home reading books, Guided Reading tables, table top easels, Dictionaries, Thesaurus's, magazine subscriptions for the library, author visits, musical instruments and phys. ed. equipment.

Pizza will again be delivered from Domino's Pizza to the classrooms every Thursday starting October 15th,2009.

Via www.cashlesschools.com, you can place your order in three payments—October to December, January—March, and April to June. Due to the cashless school system, we can no longer offer the option to purchase pizza the day of at the school as we have in the past for grades 5-8.

You can choose the number of either cheese or pepperoni slices and add apple juice and/or a chocolate chip cookie if desired. Orders may only be placed through: cashlesschools.com and must be placed no later than Friday, October 9th for the first wave from October to December.

West Oak Public School—Pizza Night

West Oak Public School is pleased to offer another fundraising opportunity for its families in conjunction with Domino's Pizza.

Every Monday from 11am to midnight is WOPS Pizza Night at Domino's. Simply call Domino's Pizza at 905-844-0030 and indicate that you are from WOPS and place your order.

You can choose from the \$20 specials or place your custom order. You may choose to pick up your order or have it delivered for a \$3.25 charge.

West Oak Public School will receive \$5 for every \$20 order and \$7 for every order over \$30. Domino's will provide WOPS with an itemized list of all Monday orders to ensure that all fundraising orders are accounted for. This program will run throughout the summer as well. Mark **Pizza** on Mondays and Thursday lunches on your calendar. Watch for more information next week.

Field Trip Reminder

Parents, please ensure that you return the paper copy of the permission form to your child's homeroom teacher. Payment on Cashless Schools may not be considered permission to participate. The Board requires a signature on the paper copy of the permission form for all students participating in field trips.

Cashless Schools Update

What a tremendous response from our fabulous West Oak families. Like all new initiatives, you have embraced the implementation of this to the resounding rate of 94.5% participation. You are awesome!

New Morning Bell Time Success

Our new morning entry bell time has had a significant and positive impact on our learning here at West Oak. Ensuring that all students benefit from 3 blocks of 100 minute learning times is a focus for West Oak this year. Students are now in class when the 8:50 instructional bell rings and learning is beginning. Please continue to have your children 'on the blacktop' by 8:45. Supervision continues to begin at 8:35.

If your child is going to be late in the morning, please provide a written note to explain the reason and direct them to the main office to sign in. This is an important procedure in our Safe Arrival program. This ensures that both school and home are aware of attendance matters and we are to identify areas of concern promptly.

Cross-Country Meet

Cross-country meet is on October 6th at Sherwood Forest. **Volunteers needed.** We have almost 200 students running! If students qualify for the finals—the race will be on October 20th. We will find out who qualifies after the October 6th race.

Go Wolves!!!!

Eco News

It's time to start up Take It Back Tuesdays! Please remember to bring your lunch in containers that can go home to be washed and re-used. Cans, cartons and juice boxes go in the blue box.

Unfortunately drink pouches, lunchable containers, yogurt and pudding containers have to go in the garbage with straws and plastic.

Let's keep up our good eco-efforts so we can retain our silver Eco School status or even go to Gold this year! On October 15th, representatives from the Eco Wolves will be attending an afternoon session where we will be formally presented with our Silver Plaque and sticker. More news about this exciting event in November.

West Oak Water Bottles

West Oak water bottles will continue to be sold for \$10.00 each, or 2 for \$18.00. We anticipate that the use of these bottles will encourage our students to drink either more water throughout the day or use them to bring juice for their nutrition breaks. An added benefit from the use of these bottles will undoubtedly be a reduction in the amount of containers we dispose of daily here at West Oak. The water bottle payment can be done through cashless schools. Bring your receipt into the office to receive your water bottle.

Junior Choir

Junior choir will be starting the Wednesday after Thanksgiving weekend. Boys and girls in grade 3,4, and 5 are invited to join the Junior Choir. We will be meeting every Wednesday at 1:15. Mrs. Kelly and Mrs. Herrow look forward to meeting this year's Junior choir!

Band News

This year's concert band started off with a BANG on Thursday Sept. 24th. Mark your calendars NOW to hear the 2009—2010 band perform for the first time at the annual Holiday concert on December 8th!

Homework Club

The Homework Club is a mentoring program offered to selected students at our school one day each week after school from October to May. The 16 participating students and their 16 high school mentors are provided with a healthy snack and drink at each session. The Snack Volunteer is responsible for purchasing the snacks and drinks in advance at their convenience and ensuring the supplies are available each

week. Big Brothers Big Sisters will provide guidelines for what to purchase and will reimburse in a timely manner. The position can be shared among several volunteers to lighten the load. An easy way to help students in our school without an onerous time commitment—please support this Big Brothers Big Sisters program at our school by offering to help!

Please Help Out – Lunchroom Supervisors

West Oak Public School needs your help during the 2009 – 2010 school year! We are looking for supervisors to assist staff in watching over children during their nutrition break and lunch break. These are paid positions, (or volunteer if you wish). Please speak to Ms. Rice for details or call the school office at 905-469-6119.

Empty Bus Seat Applications

Requests for empty bus seats will be allocated October 5th for those who have completed the application. If you have not done so and wish your child to take the bus, please pick up an empty seat application in the office. Please fill it out and return it. You will be notified in writing confirmation of your request and the bus info you will require. In order to be fair and equitable, the remaining bus seats will be filled using the following criteria: 1) child's age (youngest first), and 2) distance from school (farthest first). Ms. Rice will be happy to answer any questions you may have about this process.

H1N1

Preparedness for upcoming flu season and H1N1

Parents are encouraged to remind their children of proper and consistent washing of hands (warm water and soap for 12 seconds: sing "Happy Birthday" to yourself. If your child feels ill, for example experiencing fever, headache, bodyache and nausea, please do not send your child to school to infect others. Organize ahead of time alternate care. Please remember to cover your mouth with your sleeve when you sneeze or cough to prevent the spread of germs.

Switch days for 2009—2010

During the 2009/2010 school year, 7 days have been designated as switch days.

These switch days will be implemented for Grades 1-8 students and teachers. Due to Professional Development Days or Statutory Holidays falling on Monday/Friday students lose significant instructional time in subjects scheduled on those days. Switch days will maintain a balance of student subject and teacher planning time.

Kindergarten classes continue on their A/B schedules and will not be affected by these switch days.

Date: Grade 1-8 students and teachers follows:

Oct. 13	Monday schedule
Nov. 11	Friday schedule
Dec. 3	Friday schedule
Feb. 5	Monday schedule
Mar. 31	Friday schedule
Apr. 6	Monday schedule
May 27	Monday schedule

Community Communications

Mark your calendar

PIC Conference: Saturday
October 24, 2009
8:00 am—3:00 pm

At White Oaks Secondary School

Planning is well under way for our 2nd annual PIC Conference for HDSB Parents

Key Note Speakers:

Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Education

Steve Nease, Creator of Pud Comics

We also have a variety of speakers lined up to address parents interests. Register on-line at <http://info.hdsb.ca/picreg/> or at your child's school

For more information contact Denise Pearson at 905-335-3663 ext. 3307 or pearsonde@hdsb.ca

West Oak's Upcoming Events

October

1st	Grade 4's at Halton Water festival	
2nd	Grade 5's at Halton Water Festival	
5th	Hep B #1 (Gr 7) and HPV #1 (Gr 8)	
5th	School Council 6:30pm—8:00pm	
7th	X-Country Senior & Junior Meet @ Sherwood Forest Park (storm date Oct 6 & 8)	
8th	TPA meeting	
8th	Int'l Walk to School Wednesday	8:20am - 8:50am
12th	Thanksgiving	No School
20th	Family math night	
20th	Finals—Jr cross country meet (storm date Oct 21st)	
21st	Bob Moulder's workshop with grade 3 students	
26th	Picture day for grades 1,2,3,4 and all "A" kindergarten	
27th	Picture day for grades 5,6,7,8, and all "B" kindergarten	

November

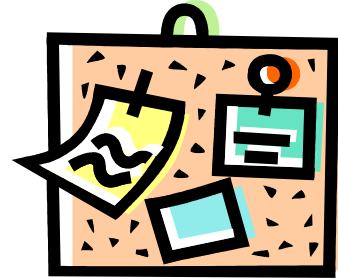
13th	PA Day	No School
16th	Crawford Lake trip Gd 3	
25th	Picture Retake Day	
30th	Men C (Gr 7) and HPV #2 (Gr 8 Girls)	

December

2nd	Report Cards Go Home	
4th	PA Day	No School
8th—10th	Holiday Concert	7:00pm - 8:00pm
21nd - January 3, 2009	Christmas Break...Happy Holidays!	No School

January

4th	Return to school from Christmas Break	
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**Please Post
This page on your home
calendar**

Student Practices, Rehearsals and Clubs

Concert Band Practice	Tuesdays and Thursdays	7:30am
Band Sectional	Mondays—Fridays	10:30 am—11:10am
Junior choir	Wednesdays	1:15pm
Intermediate Choir (soprano)	Mondays	12:50pm
Intermediate Choir (Alto)	Tuesdays	12:50pm
Intermediate Choir (Full Choir)	Wednesday	8:00am
Eco Wolves	Tuesdays	12:50pm - 1:40pm
Senior Boys Volleyball	Mondays—Fridays	12:50pm

Your School Council

Can you believe it? Once again there was no rain on the Annual Barbeque and Curriculum night. We had a contingency plan – the show must go on, but we didn't need it. It was great to see so many people out once again! Thank you for your co-operation in using the new Cashless Schools system to purchase your tickets. Having ticket purchases completed on-line saved in the neighbourhood of 20 to 25 volunteer hours. Thanks very much to the volunteers and staff that made it work!

For your information, the School Council hosts the barbeque simply as an event to bring the school community together. It is not held for fund raising purposes and does not make a profit.

Monday October 5, 2009 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. is the date of the first School Council meeting. Join us and meet Mrs. Cericola and Ms. Rice. We'll get ourselves started for the year with a new School Council executive. We'll catch up on what's going on and talk about our plans for this year. It's not too late to get involved. Every family with children at West Oak is welcome at the School Council meetings.

If at any time you have questions, comments or concerns for the School Council, you can reach us at WESCHAIR@hdsb.ca.

Can Child

Centre for Childhood Disability Research

McMaster University

INFORMATION LETTER

Partnering for Change

Dear Parents/Guardians:

This letter is to let you know that our school is taking part in a project with *CanChild*, a research centre at McMaster University. This is a project that will provide educational opportunities for our teachers. Teachers will learn about how children develop motor skills and how they can help promote this development using activities in the classroom. An occupational therapist (OT) will work as a coach in our school to help teachers learn more about motor development in children and how to help children who may be having difficulty with some fine and gross motor skills.

OTs are professionals who work with children in many different settings and who know a lot about fine and gross motor development. Fine motor skills are things like printing and writing, cutting with scissors, and doing up buttons. Gross motor skills include things like jumping, climbing stairs and running. The OT will help teachers understand how they can use activity centres and other tools in their classroom to help children develop these skills. If your child is having more problems than is typical for his/her age learning some of these skills, the classroom teacher will contact you.

An OT will be coming to the school starting in the Fall. Quite a bit of her time will be spent in kindergarten and primary classrooms because a lot of activities that children do at this age help to develop their motor skills. The OT will be a part of the school team so that all the teachers in the school will be able to ask her questions. She will work with teachers in a coaching role to share useful information and ideas that support teacher and student learning. Some educational sessions will be offered for parents as well - watch our monthly newsletter for details.

We hope that you will introduce yourself to the OT when you are in the school to attend a parent function or to visit your child's classroom. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the school or Heather Gataveckas (Coordinator of Research at the Halton District School Board) at 905-335-3663 Ext. 3378.