



# West Oak Public School

## Wolf Pause

January 2010

### Principal and Vice Principal Update

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. S. Maguire

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

*Happy New Year  
to our West Oak Families!*

Happy New Year to our West Oak families! After 2 wonderful weeks spent with family and friends, our staff is refreshed and ready to welcome our students back to the school. In addition, we have the pleasure of welcoming 2 new West Oak babies. Mrs. Kierpiec is the proud mom of Matthew Karol born on December 28 and Mrs. Arita is the proud mom of Estelle Ava, born on January 4. Congratulations to both the Kierpiec and Arita families.

January marks the beginning of a busy month for our students particularly our grade 8's as they begin the process of transitioning to high school. This is an exciting time for students as they begin this process. Grade 8 students will be preparing for high school by meeting with the administration and guidance staff from White Oaks High School and then selecting their courses for grade 9.

In the classroom, we will continue working towards our School Improvement Plan Goals in the area of Literacy, Numeracy and Safety and Well-Being. Our focus for second term will be improving student achievement in writing. We have defined our goal as: *80 % of p/j/i students will achieve level 3 or 4 in the following MOE Writing Expectations: 1.5 Organizing Ideas, 2.3 Word Choice, and 3.4 Punctuation in writing as measured through the P/J EQAO assessment and report card Writing Strand achievement by June/September 2010. Currently, 68% of primary students and 70% of junior students are achieving level 3 or 4.* All teachers have collaborated to plan a teaching/learning cycle that will address this specific goal at each grade level. We are looking forward to measuring the improvement in our students' achievement in this area.

Extracurricular programs will continue full steam ahead with great activities for our West Oak students. The band is diligently rehearsing for Musicfest whilst our senior basketball teams are honing their skills as they prepare for the 2010 season. A detailed list of all West Oak extracurricular teams, clubs and ensembles, as well as other upcoming events through to June, has been included on the last page of this newsletter. Please print this page for your reference.

Throughout the year, we continue to monitor a number of factors that impact student learning. Research indicates that good attendance is one of the most significant factors that contribute to academic success. Absences and late arrivals are both included as factors impacting success. Here at West Oak, we are working very hard at impressing upon our students the importance of on-time arrival in the morning. Each time a child arrives late, there is a disruption in the excellent morning routines that take place every day in our classrooms. In addition, most classes begin their focused literacy instruction during this time. As a result of students entering late, this learning is interrupted. The disruption affects not only the student who is entering the classroom who misses valuable learning time, but the rest of the class as well. On-time entry in the morning enables our young learners to participate fully in all learning opportunities. As parents, teachers and administrators, we can enable our learners to take advantage of these opportunities by stressing the importance of punctuality not only while they are here at school but in opportunities that await them beyond the doors of West Oak. Please continue to ensure that your child arrives in their classroom on time every day prepared to learn. Supervision begins at 8:35 on the playground and all students are to enter the building at 8:45 in order to be in class when the instructional time begins at 8:50.

### **Kindergarten Registration & September Organization**

Do you have a little one born in 2006? If you do, then they are ready to join us at West Oak in September 2010. **Registration for this eager group of young learners will be held from 10:00am to 2:00pm, January 26 – 28, 2010.** Please watch for reminders on our front notice board and the local newspaper. Please notify your neighbours of this upcoming process if their child is going to be a first time West Oak learner.

Parents registering their child for September 2010 will be given the opportunity to request either the A (Monday/Wednesday) or B (Tuesday/Thursday) tracks. However, these requests may not be honoured in the event that we exceed the class caps for each track or if we are in a position to re-organize our classes later in September. In order for our Board to be fully compliant with this Ministry expectation of 20 students in all primary classes, we may need to re-organize our classes after the start of school in September and may have a change in staffing. This re-organization is required to ensure full implementation of the Primary Class Size initiative. Principals do not have the option of **not** re-organizing in these situations. The re-organization may be as late as the last week in September and may affect more than the kindergarten/primary grades.

Due to the increasing need to re-organize classes not only at the Kindergarten level but in all primary classes across many of our schools, parents should be aware that:

- There is a possibility your child will be involved in a class re-organization and may have a change of class or teacher.
- It is possible that individual students may move classes to achieve the 20:1 ratio
- To accurately assess our enrolments and class sizes once school begins, re-organizations may take until the last week of September to finalize.

We fully recognize that one of the most significant challenges in a re-organization involves our JK /SK students. We acknowledge that parents have made decisions about day care on the alternate days. **Parents must realize that a student attending Monday/Wednesday program may be changed to a Tuesday/Thursday program and vice versa.** We will attempt to provide parents with sufficient time to make alternate daycare arrangements should this situation arise.

## December's Giving Tree

In December students usually write letters to Santa asking him for presents. In class 5-2 we discussed that it is better to give than to receive. We decided to continue the tradition of "The Giving Tree" which is when we ask the students of West Oak to bring in new or gently used hats, scarves and mittens to be donated to a local charity. Over the 3 weeks in December, we collected 121 hats, 128 pairs of mittens, 47 scarves and a variety of other winter wear. This year all donations will be given to the Halton Women's Shelter for those in need. Our class would like to give special thanks to all the families who joined with us and contributed to our "Giving Tree". Together we have succeeded in sharing the warmth.

## Intermediate Dance Donations

On December 11 our grade 6, 7 & 8 students held a Dance. Their admission to the dance was a non-perishable food donation. We would like to give a big THANK YOU to all students and families of students who donated a generous amount of food to the Kerr St. Ministries food bank. With your donations we were able to donate over 1100 non-perishable items to the food bank.



Camden Goodhew 8-3

## **Attention Grade 2's!**

Starting in February every Tuesday will be Grade 2 Games Club.

1:15 - 1:40 pm in Room 219 with Miss Menard.

See you there!

## **Homework Club**

The Big Brothers Big Sisters homework club will be resuming on Tuesday, January 12th.

## **Milk Program**

Reminder: The second half of the milk program is now open on Cashless Schools. All payments must be made by Friday Jan. 29th. The milk program will run every school day from February 2 to June 11. Please Note: No refunds will be issued as orders are prepaid.



## **Pizza**

Reminder: The second half of the pizza program will be available on Cashless Schools until Friday January 22. The pizza program will run every Thursday from February 4 to June 10.



## **Eco News**

The Eco Wolves and Eco Cubs would like to wish everyone a very happy new year! As many of us make resolutions to reduce our waists, we at West Oak are resolving to reduce our waste.

The Eco Team will be initiating a two day (Tuesday and Thursday) Take It Back Lunch Program at West Oak. Students will be educated on the necessity for waste reduction and how to pack a waste free lunch at a kick-off event to be held in early February. Everything brought to school for snack and lunch will go back home so we can start to realize the impact of what we pack and how we pack it has on our earth. In addition to the benefit of reducing the waste at school, things returned home can be more correctly recycled AND more importantly, organic waste can be put in your green bins instead of the garbage. Won't that be great?

You can also reduce waste at home by using the many Take It Back partners with which Halton Region has set up programs. A new online tool will tell you how and where to dispose of many items. Simply go to [www.halton.ca/waste](http://www.halton.ca/waste) to find out how to "Put Waste In Its Place". They have over 900 items listed in the database. Maybe you can reduce your garbage at home to only 1 bag as well. Keep being green!

# **Parents reminded to check for transportation cancellations and school closure information**

*Announcements on radio, television*, Halton District School Board website and switchboard are supplemented by new Home Notification System

With winter weather approaching, the Halton District School Board reminds parents/guardians of the numerous ways to check for school bus transportation cancellations and school closures.

In addition to the traditional notification methods of radio, television stations listed below, the Halton District School Board has added the use of the Home Notification System to inform parents/guardians of transportation cancellations and school closures. The Home Notification System is an automated system that telephones and/or emails parents to inform them of cancellations and closures.

Due to the volume of calls being made, the Home Notification System could be delayed and we therefore strongly recommend parents also check radio or television stations, the Board website or switchboard. The Home Notification System is a supplementary method of notification.

Parents may check with their child's school to ensure they receive messages through the Home Notification System. Newly registered families will automatically be included in this notification system based on information provided at registration.

**The Halton District School Board's primary method of informing parents of school closures will be the following methods of communication:**

(Note: The decision to cancel transportation and/or close schools before the start of a school day will be made prior to 6:00 a.m., and radio/television stations will be informed by 6:30 a.m.).

<b>AM Radio:</b>	CFRB(1010 AM)	CJOY (1460 AM)
	CHML (900 AM)	CKOC (1150 AM)
	CHWO (740 AM)	CHFI (680 AM)

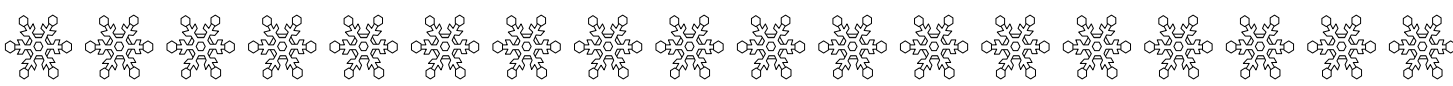
<b>FM Radio:</b>	CHFI (98.1 FM)	WAVE (94.7 FM)
	Y108 (107.9 FM)	CING (95.3 FM)
	CKFM (99.9 FM)	KLITE (102.9 FM)
	CBC (99.1 FM)	CIMJ (106.1 FM)

**Television Stations:** CHTV Morning Show  
CITY TV

**Websites:** [www.haltonbus.ca](http://www.haltonbus.ca)  
[www.hdsb.ca](http://www.hdsb.ca)

For more information about school bus transportation cancellations and school closures, refer to the Halton District School Board website (search for "inclement weather" information under "Policies").

**For additional information, contact:**  
Marnie Denton, Manager, Communication Services  
Halton District School Board  
(905) 335-3663, (905) 842-3014, (905) 878-8451



## Your School Council



It's 2010 already. Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a great break.



There are a few things going on that you should know about;



1. The annual Move-a-thon will be held on March 9, 2010. The Move-a-thon is our annual fundraiser. We don't do a lot of small events where we ask people to purchase this or that, instead every child gets to have a bit of fun and raise some money to support learning resources through one fundraiser. Mark the date, more information will come home in the weeks to come.



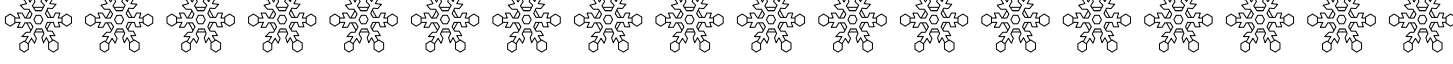
2. On March 23, 2010 Chris Vollum will be coming to our school to present Facebook and Twitter 101. School Council is sponsoring daytime presentations for our students and an evening presentation for parents. There is much to be concerned about with respect to social networking on the Internet and Chris Vollum is a popular speaker on the subject. Come and get educated! There will be more information sent home so that you can sign up.



3. Remember to sign up on to Cashless Schools before January 22 to buy pizza lunch for the rest of the year.



4. The next school council meeting will take place on February 8, 2010 at 6:30 pm in the school library. PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN DATE. Looking forward to seeing you there.



## Student Practices, Rehearsals and Clubs

Concert Band Practice	Tuesdays and Thursdays	7:30am - 8:40 am
Band Sectional	Mondays - Fridays	10:30am - 11:10am
Junior Choir	Wednesdays	1:15pm - 1:40 pm
Intermediate Choir (soprano)	Mondays	12:50pm - 1:15 pm
Intermediate Choir (Alto)	Tuesdays	12:50pm - 1:15 pm
Intermediate Choir (Full Choir)	Wednesday	8:00am - 8:45 am
Eco Cubs	Wednesdays	10:40am - 11:10am
Eco Wolves	Tuesdays	10:40am - 11:10am
Sr. Boys Basketball Practice	Mon, Wed, Fri.	7:30 am - 8:30 am
Sr. Girls Basketball Practice	Mondays and Wednesdays	3:30 pm - 4:30 pm
Grade 6 Girls Volleyball Practice	Tuesdays and Fridays	12:50 pm - 1:25 pm
Grade 6 Boys Volleyball Practice	Mon, Thurs., Fri.	12:50 pm - 1:25 pm

## West Oak's Upcoming Events

### January

7th	Pizza Day	
12th	Grade 8 Trip to White Oaks S.S.	
12th	BBBS Homework Club	3:20 - 4:30 pm
14th	Pizza Day	
14th	Grade 8 Parent Evening at White Oaks S.S.	7:00 - 8:00 pm
<b>15th</b>	<b>Live It Up Day</b>	
19th	BBBS Homework Club	3:20 - 4:30 pm
21st	Pizza Day	
21st	Grade 1 Field Trip—Bus Tour of Oakville	11:15 - 12:15 pm
21st	Grade 5 Field Trip - AGO	9:00 am - 3:00 pm
25th	Kindergarten to Safety Village (1MO, 3MO, 4MO, 5MO)	9:00 am - 12:00 pm
<b>26 - 28</b>	<b>Kindergarten Registration</b>	<b>10:00 am - 2:00 pm</b>
28th	Pizza Day	

Please Post  
this page on your  
fridge



### February

<b>1st</b>	<b>PD Day</b>	<b>No School</b>
2nd	Kindergarten to Safety Village (1TU, 3TU, 4TU, 5TU)	9:00 am - 12:00 pm
4th	Pizza Day	
4th	Grade 7 Trip - Waste Management Site	
4th	Grad Photos (Grade 8's)	
4th	Kindergarten to Safety Village (2TU, 6TU)	9:00 - 11:00 am
5th	Kindergarten to Safety Village (6MO, 2MO)	9:00 - 11:00 am
5th	Switch Day- Monday Schedule Gr 1-8 only	
11th	Pizza Day	
11th	Grade 2 Trip - Country Heritage Park	9:15 am - 12:30 pm
<b>15th</b>	<b>Family Day</b>	<b>No School</b>
18th	Pizza Day	
25th	Pizza Day	

### March

9th	Move-a-Thon	9:00 am - 2:45 pm
<b>15 - 19</b>	<b>March Break</b>	<b>No School</b>
31st	Switch Day - Friday Schedule Gr. 1-8 only	

### June

<b>7, 8, 9</b>	<b>EQAO Testing - Grade 3 and 6</b>	
----------------	-------------------------------------	--