



Northwood Public School

1100 Northwood
Windsor, Ontario N9E 1A3
(519) 969-7610



“Northwood School, Where We Light the Way With Reading”

JANUARY 2010 EDITION



Welcome Back!
It is wonderful to see all our students and staff back to school, rested, refreshed and ready to go for the remaining

six months. We would like to welcome the new families that have joined us for the remainder of the year. Please make them feel welcome at Northwood Public School.

STUDENT DROP-OFF CONCERNS KEEPING OUR STUDENTS SAFE

We are having some concerns regarding students being dropped off late in the morning. The bell rings at 8:25 and the students enter the school by 8:27. If you drop your child off after that time, the only door that is unlocked is the front door off Northwood. If they are dropped off in the back parking lot, they will need to walk around on the sidewalk up Longfellow and along Northwood to get to the front door. Please help us to keep your children safe by dropping them off between 8:15 and 8:25 at the latest. If you do drop your children off in the front parking lot after 8:25, please pull into a spot and have your children walk straight to the sidewalk. If you pull into the handicapped spot or allow your children to get out in the driveway, there is a possibility that you could back into another car entering the parking lot.

CAN DRIVE

Once again we will be holding a can drive to help the Downtown Mission. We are hoping to collect at least one can per student. At this time, we are only accepting cans or plastic jars

(peanut butter). With the high unemployment rate in Windsor, the mission served over 650 people this past September. Some of their needs include: Canned meats, stews and fish, assorted soups, canned peas and carrots, canned tomatoes, small jars of peanut butter, coffee, jams, coffee whitener. If you are able to send in any of the items listed above, please send them in with your child during the last two weeks of January. Thank you for your support in helping the Windsor Community.



APPLE SEEDS: TIMELY TIPS FOR YOUR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Track your Walk to School!

Do your children walk to school? Would you like them to start? Your children can track the number of times they walk to and from school by going to www.wewalktoschool.ca, click on “for kids” then “walking log”. Children need at least 90 minutes of physical activity per day. The good news is that walking to and from school, or walking at school, is a great way for children to build activity into their day. Also, check out the Parents’ Tool Kit, fun activity sheets for kids and more at www.wewalktoschool.ca.



KINDERGARTEN AT SCIENCE CITY

The Kindergarten children went to Science City on December 18th. The children in Mrs. Perry's class dictated their own stories about their experiences. Here are 2 of their stories.

I went to Science City. I liked digging for the fossils. We went to the water fall thing. We went to the shadow room. We could see our shadows and they were different colours. We saw the snakes. They were sticking out their tongues.

~ JB ~



We went to Science City and we went in a bubble. I thought we were going to fly into the bubble! We went in the bubble and it was so shiny. I rolled the giant black ball in the waterfall. It was

fun to play there. No one could touch the invisible pig! We could see it but we could not feel it! Our hands could go over it but not feel it. We listened in the giant pipes. I can't believe I saw the turtles, snakes and fish and spiders there. I had so much fun at Science City! I want to go there again. ~ Khalil ~

MESSAGE FROM SCHOOL COUNCIL

Happy New Year to all!

A reminder to parents that school council meetings are held the first Monday of every month at 6pm sharp in the Library. All parents are welcome, as we talk with the Principal, teachers and support staff representatives to discuss upcoming changes affecting student achievement, school improvement, new events and do future planning for the school

community. We encourage each of you to try to make at least one meeting this year, to have a voice and be part of the discussion.

We continue to receive complaints from parents who are frustrated with the parking drop off/pick up area. We are very aware of the problems. We are asked why there are not parents helping to direct traffic and escort the children to the playground like some other schools in our board. The answer is that we have asked several times in the past for parent volunteers to help run the morning program. We had only 2 parents respond...one who was willing to help 1 morning a week, and the other one morning a month. We would need at least 10-12 committed parents, as well as a coordinator to do the scheduling. Until we have enough parents to make this happen, it will continue to be challenging during these times.

Unfortunately, it seems to be only a few parents, who are not exercising caution or patience, who cause further problems. These parents continue to park and get out of their cars in the middle of the drop off area or do not wait until the car in front of them has pulled away. We are asking everyone to be respectful and cautious out of concern for the safety of all the students:

- If you want to get out of your car, park your car in the available spots in the exit section of the parking lot.
- Pull up as far as possible to the top end of the drop off area when letting your child out of the car to allow several cars to do the same behind you.

If everyone followed these routines a lot of the confusion and problems would be eliminated. Again, we would welcome volunteers to begin a Kiss N Ride program. Please call the office if you are available and willing to be part of the solution.

Sincerely,

Karen Wilson, Chair, Northwood School Council

SCENT SENSITIVE SCHOOL

We continue to strive to reduce the amount of scents in the school. Please do not wear perfume, cologne, aftershave, scented hair sprays, mousse etc. when coming into the school. We have several members of the Northwood Community that get ill with migraines, rashes, vomiting, seizures etc. that need to leave the building when strong scents are in the school. This message is for parents, guardians, students and any other visitors. Please help us to keep all our staff and students safe.

JANUARY READING TIP

Respect your child's choices.

There's nothing wrong with series fiction if that's what keeps a young reader turning the pages. Graphic Novels, Comic Books or even magazines are all reading and we need to value whatever keeps our students motivated to read.



MEDEIVAL TIMES IN GRADE 4

In Social Studies we learned that people in medieval times lived very differently from us. They ate with their hands, if you were a peasant the whole family slept in one bed and you didn't have any rights, they had to grow their own food, the Lord was in charge of the village and there was a lot of fighting going on. At



Northwood we had two special events while we were studying this unit. We had a visit from "Medieval Man". He showed us different weapons that were used, the clothes they wore to keep safe. He showed us how they ate and the kind of food they ate. He showed us what the wealthy people wore and what the peasants wore.



After his visit, we had a medieval feast with all the grade 4 students. We were given roles to play (i.e. Lord, Ladies, Peasants, Knights or Bishops) and we wore costumes. We had a parade to show off our wonderful costumes. After the parade we had a knighting ceremony where the Bishop performed the knighting. We ate our feast using Pita Bread as our plate and ate with our hands. We made a mess because



we are not used to eating that way. After we ate we participated in activities. Some of the activities were Horses, Knights and Cavaliers, Chess, Checkers, Pin the tail on the Dragon and more. We learned a lot about Medieval Times and had fun doing it.

~ Rawand, David, Adam from 4G. ~

BOYS' VOLLEYBALL

The boys started the year strong with a first place finish in their pool at the Oakwood tournament. They came up short in the playoff round of the tournament, but were on their way to learning how to deal with adversity on the court. The learning continued with a loss in their first regular season game against Talbot Trail. The boys were beginning to overcome the obstacles put in front of them and were playing well together. They became a team that other teams didn't want to face winning 5 straight to finish the season with a 5 -1 record. The boys advanced to the playoffs and won their quarter-final game against Begley. It was on to the city semi-finals from there to take on Forest Glade. The boys played extremely hard and made their coaches very proud, but they lost a hard fought battle to the eventual city champions. Great season and great work all year boys. The team



consisted of: Mike Nguyen, Kevin Nguyen, Isiah Osborne, Omar Hayes-Williams, Karnvir Basra, Mahir Ahmed, Donny Ballantyne, Steven Vratsidis, Jake Akins, Joban Dhindsa, Ali Kadhim, Arshdeep Sidhu, and Leonard Hui. Coaches Dadd, Pfaff and Cushing want to thank all of the boys for their effort throughout the season.

GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL TEAM



The girls volleyball team played a wonderful season where they showed great dedication and showmanship throughout the entire season. They made it as far as the quarter finals, and we are extremely proud of their valiant efforts. The team consisted of 11 girls from grades 6 to 8. Noor Ayoubi and Anna Liang were our captains. The rest of the team was: Lauren Fields (8B), Emily Nguyen (8R), Sarah Zhang (8B), Jaskiran Bansal (7Pi), Autumn Jackson (7Pa), Michaela Maxey (7Pa), Priya Sharma (7Pa), Rose Dhak (6P) and Molly Riccardi (6GN). Thanks to Ms. Borland, Mrs. Matte and Mrs. Ohler for sponsoring and coaching the team.

INDOOR/OUTDOOR SHOES

As the weather changes we have changes in the playground. Some days it is extremely muddy and wet. All students need a pair of clean dry shoes (not slippers) to wear in the school. This will prevent slips and falls. As well, our gym has a rubberized floor and we need to be careful with it. It is important that students have clean, dry running shoes available in order to participate safely in the physical education program. Thank you for your support.



Poetry From Grade 8

Mother's Day

"Today is Mother's Day," she said,
Wearing her favourite dress with a bow.

"Today is Mother's Day at school,"
She just couldn't wait to go.

Her father gave her reasons,
For his daughter to not go.
Perhaps he knew a secret,
Too complicated for her to know.

She understood what she needed to do,
What she had to say.
To explain why she was alone,
Why her mother is not here today.

But her father was afraid for her,
Going to school alone.
It's the day to introduce their mothers,
But her mother was not home.

The girl went to school anyway,
Impatient to tell them all.
Why her mother wasn't here,
Her mother that doesn't call.

She finally reached the school,
And saw the mothers up against the wall.
Her classmates holding their mother's hands,
Nervous to introduce their mother to all.

One by one student's names were called,
As minutes started to pass.
She waited quietly for her turn,
Then her name popped up at last.

The little girl stood up slowly,
As all the others stared.
"Where is her mother?" a student asked,
"Her mother is probably not here."

These words did not offend her,
She knew it was the truth.
She looked up at the crowd with a smile,
Soft words came out of this youth.

"My mother is not here today,
But I'm sure she wished to come.

She is just too far away,
From the place that we are from."

She remembered the times she spent with her
mom,
There were many things they loved.
Like picking flowers and eating ice cream,
And watching the butterflies fly above.

Everyone listened in silence,
As the voice filled the air.
Her tiny hands lay on her chest,
While her eyes started to tear.

"I love my mother a lot,
She knows exactly where we are.
She would have been her today,
If heaven wasn't so far."

She dropped her hands back at her sides,
And stared straight at the crowd.
"Sometimes when I close my eyes,
I can see her," she said out loud.

Somewhere out there in the crowd,
Her father watched with tears.
The girl closed her watery eyes,
And felt the feeling from those years.

The other children and mothers,
Closed their eyes too.
And the father witnessed a miracle,
That was beautiful and true.

A butterfly flew across the room,
Above everyone without a fuss.
And when it reached the little girl,
It turned into sparkling dust.

"I know you are with me mom,
We are not apart.
You will be with me forever,
Deep inside my heard."

For a moment she was blessed,
By that butterfly she saw that day.
She made herself and the others believe
That heaven wasn't so far away.

~ by Cathy – Grade 8 ~