

WOLVERINES

WILLIAM DUNBAR PUBLIC SCHOOL

STRIVING TO REACH OUR POTENTIAL



WILLIAM DUNBAR PUBLIC SCHOOL- MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2019

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Can you believe it's December and the holidays are just a couple of weeks away?

It was great to meet with our so many of our students' families during Parent-Teacher interviews last month. What a great opportunity for us to work together to plan for ongoing student success and achievement.

Speaking of working together, thank you to the many volunteers who support our school both inside and outside the classroom. A collaborative team approach can generate truly great ideas! Through your support, we are able to offer extra help to our students. Thank you as well to our SCC members for their ongoing support advising on school events, policies and priorities as well as fundraising. Their current fundraising event is the yummy popcorn sales; we appreciate their tireless work to make this happen. The money raised through popcorn sales and other events will provide funds to purchase extra phys ed and recess equipment, books for our library, music and FDK supplies as well as classroom extras. Our SCC is also spearheading a campaign to purchase an electronic school sign. That would be a wonderful way to communicate with our community. We are very grateful for your support in making WDPS the great school it is!

We hope you will join us on Tuesday December 17th for our annual holiday concert. Staff and students are hard at work preparing for this year's performances. Doors will open at around 6 p.m.; the performance will begin at 6:30 p.m. More details to come as we get closer to the date. Please note that our Kindergarteners will hold their holiday concert during the afternoon on Wednesday, December 18th. More details on that event to come.

The holiday concert is simply one event amongst the many special activities scheduled for the next few weeks. Our Student Council sponsors both the Food Hamper drive and Tree of Warmth collection; both are currently underway. Our student leadership groups, such as Me to We and Ally Avengers, are delivering classroom presentations concerning Cyber safety and Bullying awareness. There is a lot of learning happening every day in and around our school!

No matter how you mark the upcoming holidays, we hope you have a happy healthy season filled with all the love and happiness that is the promise of this special time of year.

Best wishes from the entire William Dunbar Public School team to our families and friends for a happy and prosperous New Year!

~ Jill Foster & Tanya Hawthorne

Thank you to Callum P. for the portrait of the school!



J. Markovski

M. Bowman

Trustees:

Superintendent

Administrative Officer

Chris Braney 905-509-2426 chris.braney@ddsb.ca

905-666-6376

905-666-6368

Paul Crawford 905-852-0575 paul.crawford@ddsb.ca

Dates to Remember

Dec. 5—Robotics

De. 6—Sports/Jersey Spirit Day

Dec. 13—Pizza Lunch

Dec. 17—Holiday Concert at 6:30 pm

Dec. 18—Kindergarten Holiday Concert at 1:30 pm

Dec. 20—last day of school for 2019

Jan. 6—first day back

Jan 9—SCC meeting at 6:30 pm

Jan. 10—PJ Spirit Day

Jan. 17—PA Day

Jan. 24—Character Spirit Day



LUNCHROOM SUPERVISORS NEEDED

We are in need of adult lunchroom supervisors who are available from 11:30am to 12:30pm Monday to Friday.

Supervisors are assigned to monitor classes while the students are eating their lunch. They also supervise students in the yard with the assistance of other staff members. This is a paid DDSB position.

Please drop by the Main Office and see Ms. Hawthorne if you are interested in pursuing this important responsibility.

SCC NEWS:



Our Bad Monkey offer ends December 6th and pick-up is December 13th!

Stay up to date on the latest SCC news and events. Find us at Facebook.com under groups, "William Dunbar SCC".

For the 2019/20 school year the SCC executives are:

Co-Chairs: Shannon Belmore & Katie Coppolino

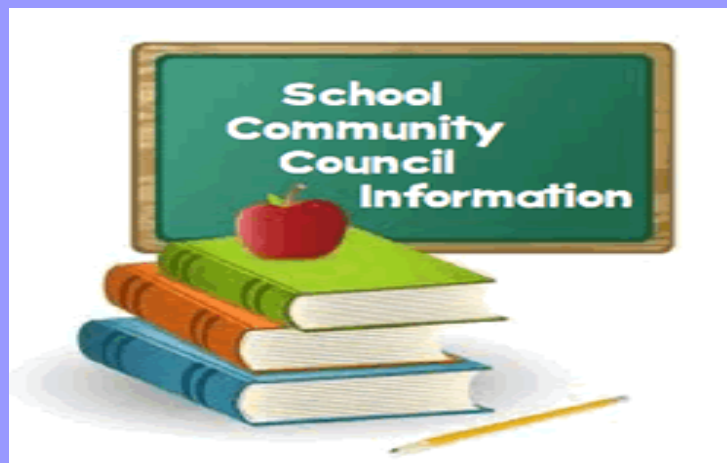
Secretary: Lisa Appelbohm

Treasurer: Julie Chipp-Smith

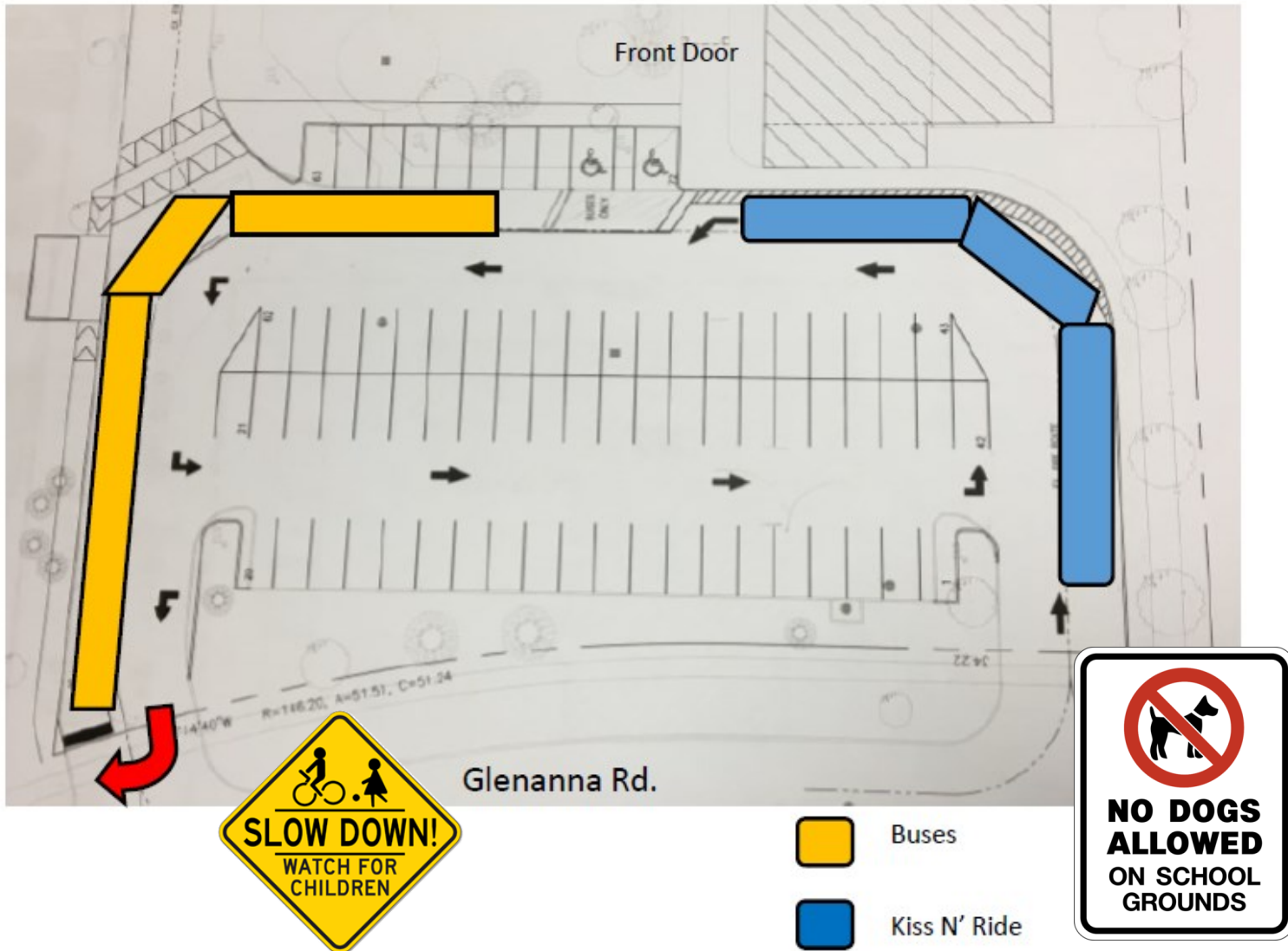
All meetings are at 6:30 p.m. and daycare is provided. The dates are as follows:

- January 9, 2020
- February 6, 2020
- March 5, 2020
- April 2, 2020
- May 7, 2020
- June 18, 2020

If you are interested in attending SCC meetings, helping at school Community events, or want to know more about the SCC, please email us @ SCC.williamdunbarps@scc.ddsb.ca



Parking Lot Reminder



- ⇒ **Kiss and Ride is one lane wide. The second lane is for busses.**
- ⇒ **We do not recommend parking in our lot during Kiss and Ride times. However, if you need to, please use a designated spot. This allows buses and Kiss and Ride to flow smoothly.**
- ⇒ **When exiting onto Glenanna Rd, IT IS A RIGHT TURN ONLY during Kiss and Ride times. This improves flow of traffic and safety.**
- ⇒ **Please share this information with anyone dropping off or picking up your child(ren), for example grandparents or daycare.**

Typing Club

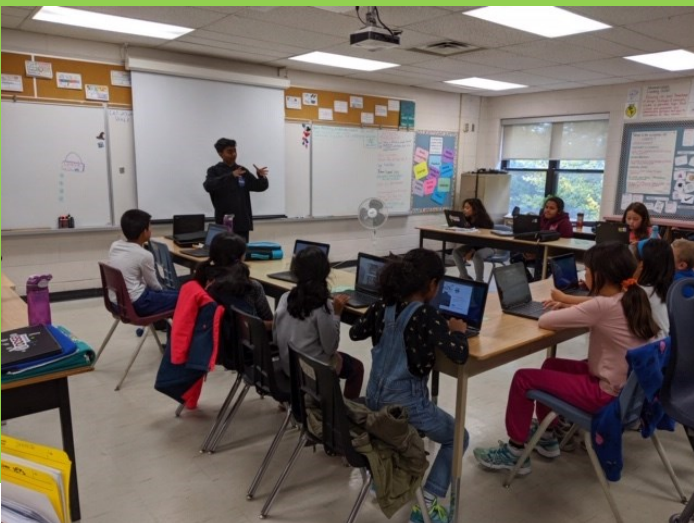
My name is Khavin S. and I am the President and co-founder of Typing Club. This whole idea of creating this club had started in grade 7. I noticed that my Geography/History teacher, Ms Whiler, was pretty fast at typing but I still felt confident enough to think that I could type faster than her. Later that year, I decided to challenge her to a typing challenge. Winner would get crowned the fastest typer in William Dunbar Public School. Also, if I lost, I had to eat mushroom pizza. It may not sound as bad as you think but I really do not like mushrooms. In the end, I had lost. Miserably. However, it was still a lot more fun than I had expected.

I still did practice to improve. Which did happen. I went from around 60 words per minute to around 80 words per minute. Which is quite the improvement. The amount of improvement and fun I got from the whole typing challenge inspired me to create my own club for typing. So I decided to ask the teacher I had challenged to a typing race if she was willing to create the club. She replied by telling me that it was a great idea but to ask at least 10 people if they would join the club to see if enough people would show up. Once I found ten people who said they would join the club, Ms Whiler decided that she, in fact, would start a club in mid October.

Weeks before the first day of typing club had started, I looked into different techniques, courses and websites that people in my club would do. I ended up with about four different websites that we use every week during the typing club. So far, it seems to be a success and hopefully it will become even better!

In Ms Whiler's words: "Khavin has started something so powerful in creating a fun Typing Club! So many junior (and intermediate!) students are developing a critical skill that will help with their future success... and all in a really engaging environment! Khavin's efforts to start a new club and all the work he has put in is simply inspirational!"

By Khavin S.



Dunbar Gives Back!

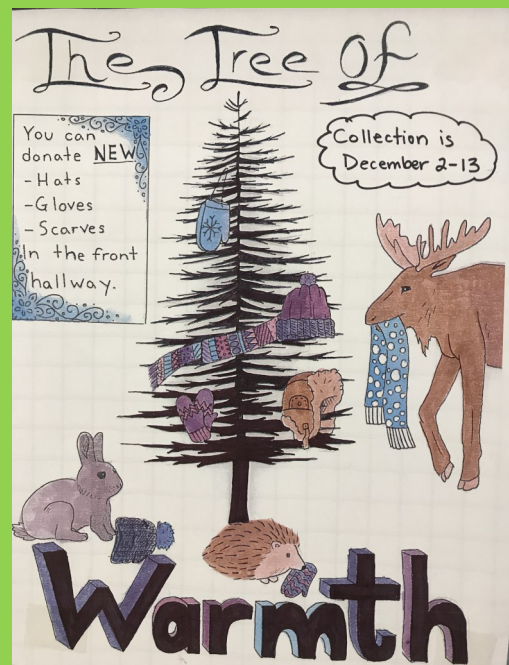
Student Council Update

Food Hampers:

At this time of year, it is always nice to help those less fortunate. The St. Paul's On-the-Hill Food Bank organizes food hampers for the upcoming holidays each year. William Dunbar has once again agreed to participate. Each class will be responsible for filling one food hamper with the necessary non-perishable items for a family's holiday dinner. St. Paul's On-the-Hill Food Bank's corporate sponsor will then add a fresh turkey or ham to make the hamper complete. Your child's teacher will facilitate the organization of this for their class. Our collection period will run December 2-13. All items need to be sent in to your child's homeroom teacher by Friday, December 13th in order to have the Holiday Hampers ready for pick-up. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Wurster or Mrs. Yee at 905-420-5745. Thank you for your support and participation in this worthwhile cause.

Tree of Warmth:

The Student Council has, once again, initiated the "Tree of Warmth," which will be in the front hallway of our school. We encourage families to send in **new** hats, mittens, gloves and scarves. Items can be sent in from December 2nd to 13th and added to the tree by students. These items will be distributed to and greatly appreciated by those in need.





Me to We Update

Hi, I'm Jasmine Khan, the head administrator for this year's ME to WE club! We are very excited to announce that our first initiative, WE Rise Above, is now coming to a successful close. This week, we have had informative presentations on the importance of cyber-safety in every junior class, teaching our grades 4 to 6's about good digital citizenship. Be sure to check out the display case in the front lobby filled with smart tips on how to stay safe online and the slideshow on the TV at the front of the school with advice on how to handle any tricky situations.

This week our ME to WE club is starting two new initiatives: WE Volunteer Now and WE Read Together. WE Volunteer Now is aimed at helping people around our community- and to do that, we need your help. If you go away on vacation over the holiday break, be sure to bring back any unused toiletries! We would appreciate your support, as we are donating them to a local women and children's shelter. WE Read Together takes place within our school. Intermediate students will be paired up with a younger buddy and they will read together every week. We are very excited to move forward in our new endeavors.

Written by Jasmine K., ME to WE Student Administrator



Wrestling Club Coming Soon!

Parents, do you want your child to have an opportunity to improve their balance and agility? To hone in their proprioception all the while getting physically fitter? Starting in January we have the group to do just that! The Wolverine wrestling club has been training for over a decade here at William Dunbar. If your child is between grades 3-8, we offer a great opportunity to learn how to move better and exemplify great sportsmanship. We take girls and boys of any size, shape, and ability and work with them to improve their physical skills and as an end result, their confidence. Wolverine wrestling starts in January with practices being on Thursdays after school and Fridays before school. If you have any questions, please talk to Mr. Ringrose or Mr. Dunccliffe.

Ally Avenger Update

Thank you so much William Dunbar for donating to our used clothing drive. We are so happy that so many of you are helping to make a difference. Thanks to you, kids in Durham will be warm this winter. We received over 82 jackets, 29 pairs of boots, 13 snow pants, and about 100 accessories. In total, we received over 224 pieces of clothing. Thank you again for all the winter clothes. The Ally Avengers.





Digital Devices—Keeping our students safe and focused on learning.

Devices can be a valuable tool to augment learning, such as enabling research or the use of educational apps. However, they can also interfere with learning. Texting, engaging in social media and the taking of personal pictures or videos during class time is detrimental to a safe learning environment. The use of devices at recesses and lunch on school property is prohibited as there cannot be direct supervision to ensure appropriate use. This includes listening to music during these times. While we anticipate student compliance, here is the progressive response in the event of repeated issues:

First Offense: student receives a warning and they must take their phone and lock it in their locker (Please ensure your child has a Dudley lock that works.)

Second Offense: student brings phone to the office where it will be stored in the vault until the student leaves school property, either at lunch or the end of the day.

Third Offense: A guardian is contacted. The student brings phone to the office where it will be stored in the vault until the student leaves school property, either at lunch or the end of the day.

Anaphylaxis



Thanks for remembering
this is a



Peanut/Nut
Free School

NO NUTS PLEASE! Some allergies have the potential of being life threatening. As we have a number of students with life threatening allergies, we ask that all parents assist in our students' safety by reading the labels on all lunch products to ensure that they do not contain nuts or traces of nuts. Even trace elements could cause a severe life-threatening reaction. **Thank you to all community members for putting safety first!**

Also note that any nut alternative products, i.e., SoyaButter, WOWButter, are not permitted in the school. It is difficult, if not impossible, to distinguish these products from real peanut butter which makes it difficult for school staff to control for a "peanut safe"

environment. As alternatives, other peanut-free spreads that don't look, smell and taste like peanut butter can be used as part of a nutritious lunch (e.g. hummus, low fat ricotta cheese, vegetable purees, bean dips, guacamole).



Homemade Baked Treats: We request that students and parents/guardians DO NOT bring in any homemade baked goods for special occasions. If you wish your child to bring in an item to celebrate a special event, we will allow any store-purchased, pre-packaged food item, with the ingredient label(s) clearly visible, indicating that it is a peanut/nut-free item and does not contain ingredients that any classmates are allergic to. As an alternative, we encourage any students wishing to bring a celebratory item to share with his/her classmates, to consider non-food items, i.e., pencils, stickers, etc.



Scents and Latex

We also have members of our community with severe allergies to latex and scents. We ask that no latex products, such as balloons, are brought to school. William Dunbar is committed to being a scent sensitive community so please do not wear or send scented products to school. **THIS INCLUDES HAND SANITIZER PRODUCTS.** These products also violate Health and Safety guidelines for our board.

Administration of Medication at School

Any medications that need to be administered at school require a special form completed and signed by your family doctor. These forms, **Administration of Oral Medication** or an **Administration of Medication by injection**, are available from the office. The completed form, and the medication in the **original** labeled container, must be provided to the school. The parent/guardian is also responsible for providing any special instructions or training to staff before we can begin administration. Please note, all forms expire at the end of the school year and must be renewed each September.

Good attendance patterns can become an important factor in a student's overall success at school.

Did you know?

- If your child is 20 minutes late every day, they will have missed 12 days of instruction by the end of the school year.
- If your child misses only two days per month of school, they will have missed one month of instruction by the end of the school year.
- Students who are absent 15 days of school each year will have lost one year of instruction by the end of grade 12.
- Students who attend school regularly tend to be more engaged in their learning, feel more connected to the school and tend to have better academic outcomes than students who miss a lot of school.

Families can support good attendance at school by:

- Setting a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Getting clothes, lunches and backpacks ready the night before.
- Communicating regularly with your child's teacher.
- Talking with your child about their school day.
- Taking part in school events and activities to show your child that you value school and education.
- Planning vacations and appointments around the school schedule whenever possible.
- Making sure your child goes to school, unless they are truly sick.



**Attendance
MATTERS**



Act early! Let the school know right away if there is a problem or concern. There are lots of ways we can work together to get attendance back on track or prevent an attendance problem from starting.

HANUKKAH

The Festival of Lights





MERRY CHRISTMAS

KWANZAA



A celebration of family, community
and culture





December 1 - World Aids Day – United Nations

The commemoration of World AIDS Day, which will take place on 1 December 2019, is an important opportunity to recognize the essential role that communities have played and continue to play in the AIDS response at the international, national and local levels.

World AIDS Day offers an important platform to highlight the role of communities at a time when reduced funding and a shrinking space for civil society are putting the sustainability of services and advocacy efforts in jeopardy. Greater mobilization of communities is urgently required to address the barriers that stop communities delivering services, including restrictions on registration and an absence of social contracting modalities. The strong advocacy role played by communities is needed more than ever to ensure that AIDS remains on the political agenda, that human rights are respected and that decision-makers and implementers are held accountable.

Source: www.un.org

Click for posters and resources: https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/campaigns/WAD_2019

December 2 - International Day for the Abolition of Slavery – United Nations

According to the International Labour Organization, more than 40 million people worldwide are victims of modern day slavery. Modern Day Slavery is an umbrella term used to cover practices such as forced labour, debt bondage, forced marriage, and human trafficking. In addition, more than 150 million children are subject to child labour, accounting for almost one in ten children around the world.

The focus of this day is on the eradication of these contemporary forms of slavery.

Source: www.un.org

For more information and resources: <https://www.un.org/en/events/slaveryabolitionday/>





December 3 – International Day of Persons with Disabilities– United Nations

The annual observance of this day was proclaimed in 1992. It aims to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development, and to increase awareness of the situation of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life.

International Day of People with Disabilities (IDPWD) stands by its conviction that a person is not inherently 'disabled'...disability is NOT a feature of a person. We say that people have health impairments: some of us need wheelchairs to mobilise; some of us need seeing-eye dogs; some of us need assistive technology – just like some of us need glasses to read; or medication to manage pain; or an inhaler to manage asthma.

All people have different health impairments at some time in their lives. The difference is that most of the time your health impairment doesn't stop you from functioning, being included or participating in your community.

IDPWD exists to make sure that environmental and social BARRIERS are identified, and to help everyone to work together to overcome them. We will never eradicate health impairments...but by overcoming barriers, then we eradicate disablement.

Source: www.un.org; www.idpwd.org

For resources: <https://www.un.org/en/events/disabilitiesday/resources.shtml>

December 10 – Human Rights Day – United Nations

Human Rights Day is observed every year on the 10th of December. The Declaration of Human Rights establishes the equal worth of every person. Though its promise has yet to be realized all over the world, it has stood the test of time. The principles set out in the Declaration of Human Rights are as relevant today as they were in 1948. We can take action in our own daily lives and help to improve the lives of others around the world.

For more information: <http://www.un.org/en/events/humanrightsday/>

www.ohrc.ca

An inverted triangle with horizontal stripes of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple, resembling a rainbow flag.

Positive Space

This is a SAFE SPACE where human rights are respected and where lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender students, teachers, friends, families, and allies are welcome and supported.

CUPE Local 218
Durham District School Board
ETFO Durham Teachers' Local
OSSTF District 13

