



## Principal's Message:



Well we have officially passed the halfway point of the 2022-23 school year. It has been a school year busy with many learning opportunities for our students inside and outside the classroom. Last week, our 3-8 students travelled to Portage for our first round of swimming lessons. We have 6 more excursions planned to Portage leading up to spring break. It was great to see our students in the pool having fun and learning the importance of water safety.

We are hosting Progress Conversations once again on the **evening of Thursday February 23rd**. Closer to the date we will send information home on how to sign up for these meetings with your child's classroom teacher.

These past couple weeks of intense cold has forced us to spend to much time inside at recess. We are sure looking forward to a break in the temperatures and a return to normal outdoor recess. Please remember to send your child to school with appropriate clothing to be outside for extended periods of time.

A friendly reminder that if you have a concern about your child at school or an incident you may have heard of, please reach out to the school. If you have a specific concern or question about how your child is doing in class or a classroom issue then your child's classroom teacher would be the first point of contact. We have a school guidance counselor and resource teacher that can also be of assistance so please do not hesitate to reach out. As always, my contact information can be found on our school website and I welcome any questions or concerns.

On January 20th, our grade 7/8 class spent the day learning about the life-long sport of Cross-Country skiing at Windsor Park Nordic Centre (see picture above). The instructors were impressed by the eagerness and level of respect they saw from our students. Our crew had a blast! Our grade 5 & 6 students will be taking part in the same experience on Friday Feb.10th. I hope everyone makes the effort to get outside and be active during these ideal winter days.

Yours in education,

*Tim Lee*

# Parent Advisory Council

“to support and encourage the development of a positive school community that fosters independent, socially responsible learners”

## Fundraising

Thank you to all who supported our Vista Gift Card fundraiser. We surpassed our sales from last year and earned just over \$1,000.00.

The first hot lunch will be held on February 24th, we will be ordering from Pizza Hotline. Look for the order forms to come home early in February.

A 50/50 draw will be held on March 22nd. Books will be available by February 23rd and will be are to be returned by March 17th.

## Next Meeting

Date: March 14th, 2023

Time: 6:30 pm

Where: Lillies & Latte's Cafe



## Come Join Us!!

We are always looking for energetic individuals who are willing to join our PAC group. We work together to raise funds for the continued development of our playground and assist the school with various events.

For more information on how to volunteer, please contact Andrea Estensen by email at [andreaestensen@gmail.com](mailto:andreaestensen@gmail.com)

## Playground Committee

At our last meeting we had a couple of volunteers who have agreed to organize a sub-committee for the playground. If you are interested in being apart of the playground committee please contact Vanessa Park by email at [vanessa.r.park@gmail.com](mailto:vanessa.r.park@gmail.com) or by phone @204 557-6805.

**Woodlands Parent Advisory Council  
January 10, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Andrea Estensen, Colleen Rosing, Billie Jean Oliver, Margaret Delipper, Jessica Burns, Brette Park, Vanessa Park, Jen Mazur, Grace Purdy, Tim Lee

**Called to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 6:41 pm

**Minutes:** November 2022 Minutes were read. Colleen Rosing moved to have the Minutes accepted as read; Grace Purdy 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Minutes were Adopted as read.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Regular Chequeing:	\$5,686.45
Playground Chequing:	\$11,109.84
Playground Savings:	\$19,843.96

All accounts have been updated. E-transfers will be set up by the Treasurer

**Fundraising:**

- Vista Gift Cards fundraiser was more successful than the previous year; we raised \$1,041; will run the Fundscrip Gift Card fundraiser next year as they offer additional stores/shops etc.
- Townes Apparel – will look at doing school clothing this year as it has been a number of years since the last school gear was ordered;
- 50/50 draw – Billie Jean will purchase lottery license and print out tickets; Draw will be on March 22<sup>nd</sup>; tickets will be ready for February 23<sup>rd</sup> to be disbursed (hand out at Progress Conversations)
- Hot lunches – will hold one on February 24<sup>th</sup> (last Friday of the month); will start with Pizza Hotline and then work with Lillies & Lattes to come up with something for March. Billie Jean to create an order form and get sent out on February 10<sup>th</sup> and have orders returned by the February 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Quiz Night – Brette P. called Quiz Masters and they are booked for the spring; They suggested that we book in the fall. Brette will call back and book something for the beginning of October 2023

**Principal's Report:**

- Mr. Lee had introductions as there were some new faces;
- Swimming program – we are working to finalize dates with Stride Place in Portage La Prairie; it will be from Gr. 3 – 8; applied and was awarded a couple of grants to help offset the costs of the program. Will run from end of January to the end of March (8 sessions in total)
- No downhill ski trip for the Gr. 7/8's
- Will have cross-country skiing trips -January 20<sup>th</sup> will be 7/8's; January 27<sup>th</sup> – will be 5/6's and looking into doing a day for the 4/5's;
- Mr. Lee asked about how the last round of Progress Reports went and if there were any ideas on how to make it run a little smoother; Next set of Progress Conversations are on Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>;
- Check out the Newsletter as there is information regarding new policies for administering medication;
- Discussions were held regarding parent/teacher communication;
- Report cards will go home right before spring break;

**Old Business:**

- Playground Committee – Colleen Rosing indicated that information had been dropped off with Jeannine Campbell; As decisions need to start and be made, Vanessa Park and Grace Purdy will work together to start a sub-committee for the playground. Will put a call out for anyone who is interested in helping.

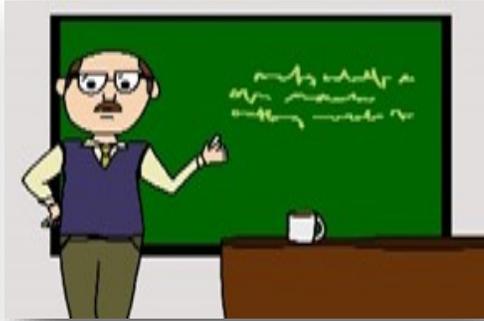
**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting is schedule for Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm at Lillies' & Lattes Cafe.

**Adjourned:**

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm

# News from Grade 4/5



Happy New Year 2023 to all the school community members of Woodlands School. Wishing everyone a safe, healthy, and happy new year.

The Grade 4/5 M students were very busy in the month of January on a variety of projects and assignments in each of the 4 core subject areas.

## ELA

Students completed their reading of the novel of *Shiloh* or *Because of Winn-Dixie*. They created place mats that included information on the setting, major characters, summary, review, and their favourite part of the novel. Students also completed a persuasive letter where many of them wrote on why they should be allowed to wear hats and tuques in class. They were so persuasive that I have now allowed them to wear these to class!! The “power” of persuasion!!

## MATH

Students are learning many mental math strategies related to addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. We have built a daily routine - on Monday students answer a problem of the week; Tuesday and Thursday is an open-ended question; Wednesday is Esti-Mystery day; and Friday is usually dedicated to playing math games on an electronic device.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

Students are learning about the history of Canada including information on the Hudson’s Bay Company, colonial wars, the Battle of the Plains of Abraham, treaties, and the Selkirk Settlement. Ask your child about these topics and they should be able to provide you with some valuable and interesting information!

## SCIENCE

The next unit of Science is Maintaining a Healthy Body. Students are learning about Canada’s Food Guide and the relationship between calories and exercise. We are looking forward to learning about the different body systems and even building a digestive system!

## VISITORS

The 4/5 M class had quite a few visitors this month when our superintendent, assistant superintendent, program support coordinator, a former teacher at our school – Mrs. Ivany, and Mr. Lee joined the class, discussed, and assisted with building/drawing a plate of food recommended by Canada’s Food Guide.

The 4/5 M class were also treated with a visit from David Robertson – an indigenous author, public speaker, and two-time winner of the Governor General Literary Award. He read his book, *On The Trampoline*, and answered many questions from the students.

# School-wide wellness

As many of you know, our school has put a focus on physical activity this year with many different types of activities planned to meet this initiative.

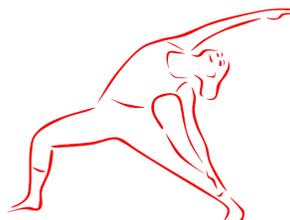
Many of our students will take part in an 8-week swimming program in Portage La Prairie. These lessons are part of the Red Cross Life Saving program and will be delivered by trained instructors. Lessons will be completed in groups of three. While one group is swimming the other groups have the option to be active by skating on the indoor rink or by walking the track.



Another initiative later in February is "Winter Olympic" where our students will take part in various winter activities. Students will be put in their "house" teams and enjoy a friendly competition in different events.



In March, a Wellness Day is planned where students will have an opportunity to learn techniques to focus and relax. This area of wellness is as important as being active.



# HOW DO I HELP MY CHILD WITH... SIGHT WORDS/HEART WORDS/ HIGH-FREQUENCY WORDS



## WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

There can be a lot of terms thrown around, so let's clarify the two biggest terms we hear:

**Sight word:** Any word that we recognize automatically, without having to sound it out.

**High-frequency word:** A word that appears often in text.

## DON'T THEY JUST NEED TO MEMORIZE CERTAIN WORDS?

There are certain words where the sounds don't match the letters. Don't children just need to memorize those words? Nope!

The truth is, we don't memorize words by just looking at them. It's a much deeper process called orthographic mapping. In simple terms, orthographic mapping is when we match the sounds we hear in a word to the letters that make those sounds. When a child can do that, they can automatically read a word.

## HOW CAN I HELP?

Instead of memorizing sight words, let's use the heart word method!

When reading a word that "doesn't play fair," try pointing out the parts of the word that do make sense! Then, tell your child the sounds of the letters that aren't playing by the rules.

Example: From has 4 sounds. 3 of those sounds play fair! The only sound that doesn't is the o making the /u/ sound. So, we say the sounds that do play fair, and then put a heart above the part that doesn't (to let them know we must learn it by heart!)

from

Example: Said has 3 sounds. 2 of those sounds play fair! The only sound that doesn't is ai making /eh/ sound. So, we say the sounds the do play fair, and then put a heart above the part that doesn't (to let them know we must learn it by heart!)

said



**February 2023: "Stories Connect US: We are more Alike than Different" School Day Reading Challenges for Woodlands**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Ask your family to tell you about your culture.	Write down 5 words that describes yourself.	Greet someone in a new language. 	Make a plan on how to include others.	Create Drawings to go with Your Favorite Book	Write Your Own Ending. 	Volunteer to help a family member with a task that they are working on.
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Learn a family recipe. 	Create a list of your top 5 favorite books.	Make valentines for those you love. 	National Flag of Canada Day. Find out how our flag was chosen.	Read a Fiction Story 	Write a list of 5 special memories that you have with family.	Write and Mail a Letter to Someone 
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Celebrate the day! Go for a nature walk.	Recommend a Book to a Friend 	Read A Winter Story	Write down 3 of Your Favorite Winter Activities 	Complete a random act of kindness.	Teachers: Read A Joke to Your Class 	Have a family member tell a story.
26	27	28	<p><b>Don't forget about your journal!</b></p> <p><b>Each day, write 3 things you are grateful for.</b></p> 			
Connect with someone you love. Play a game, watch a movie or read a book together.	Write a thank you note to someone special.	Draw a picture of what you hope for in the future. 				