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# The Westwind wave

September 7, 2023

No doubt there is a lot of excitement in anticipation of us getting into our new classes, and we're now ready to do so with our grade 1 through grade 7 students. Since getting the news about the new Division being added, the staff has been working hard to make classes. We just did our tallies, and we feel good about our balance and where we are. Did you know that we have over 50 new students at Westwind? These families, in addition the 50 new kindergarteners, means that approximately 20% of school population is new.

Of course, even under the best of circumstances, reacting to change can be challenging to some (children and adults) and that is okay. This is why we are intentionally getting into our new classes first thing Friday morning. The students will have lots of time (including a recess and lunch play together) to imprint with their new classmates and teacher. It takes time, but hopefully by the end of the day, all of our new students have new friends, and ones who have already been here will have made new connections as well. It is possible that your child does not have their best friend with them in their new class, but we have given it a lot of consideration to ensure that there are others within the class with whom we see great potential for new friendships.

## PLANS FOR PICKING YOUR CHILD UP AFTER SCHOOL

Logistically, the pick-up afterschool is potentially tricky (mostly for the younger students) because they could be in different classes from where they were dropped off in the morning. We'd like to suggest that parents arrange in advance to meet their child in a specific place after school so you can easily find each other (e.g., the playground).

As a back-up, we will also have on hand (on a rolling bulletin board, one at the front and one at the back of the school) an alphabetized list of students showing what class they're in and what door they can be picked up at. If you didn't make a pickup plan with your child in advance, that's okay. You can refer to the list to find your child's name. Out of consideration of others, kindly move aside quickly once you find your child's name so others can find their child as well.

## ASSEMBLY FRIDAY AT 1:15PM

We'll have an assembly at 1:15 on Friday. This will be our first chance to all be together, sing O'Canada, watch a school spirit slideshow from our first week, and introduce our staff. Parents are welcome to attend our assemblies.

See next page for Important School Dates....



## 2023-2024 IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES

Wed, September 13	Student Photo Day
Friday, September 15	Terry Fox Assembly
Thursday, September 21	Meet the Staff
Friday, September 22	Professional Development Day
Monday, October 2	Truth & Reconciliation Stat holiday
Monday, October 9	Thanksgiving Day
Wed, Oct 18 & Thur, Oct 19	Early Dismissal for Learning Updates (1:45pm)
Friday, October 20	Provincial Professional Development Day
Monday, November 6	Student Photo Retake Day
Friday, November 10	Remembrance Day Assembly
Monday, November 13	Remembrance Day Stat Holiday
Friday, December 1	Professional Development Day
Mon, Dec 25 to Fri, Jan 5	Winter Vacation
Monday, January 8	Return to School
Monday, January 29	Professional Development Day
Wed, Feb 14 & Thurs, Feb 15	Early Dismissal for Learning Updates (1:45pm)
Friday, February 16	District-wide Professional Development Day
Monday, February 19	Family Day Holiday
Thursday, March 14	Last day of school before Spring Break
Friday, Mar 15 to Thur, Mar 28	Spring Vacation
Friday, March 29	Good Friday
Monday, April 1	Easter Monday
Tuesday, April 2	Return to School
Friday, May 17	Professional Development Day
Monday, May 20	Victoria Day Holiday
Friday, June 7	Sports Day (rain out day – Fri, Jun 14)
Tuesday, June 25	Grade 7 Farewell Assembly
Thursday, June 27	Year End Assembly / Last Day of School for Students