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Principal: Shelley Amos  
Vice Principal: Karen Fraser

# Woodlawn Early Years School February 2016 Newsletter



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## **PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

The month of February at Woodlawn School will once again be filled with activities to celebrate the annual "I Love to Read" month. We have several activities planned including the annual Book Fair from Feb. 10-12, guest readers and this year, some preparation and introduction of our MakerSpace! Even though we take this special time to celebrate reading during February, we strongly encourage you to make reading a priority and a daily family event in your home every month of the year.

We are looking forward to another busy month filled with challenging learning activities and engaged children.

As mentioned in a recent letter sent home, I will be away from work during the months of February and March and will return in April right after spring break. Karen Fraser has been appointed as interim Principal and Tara Reimer as interim Vice Principal in my absence. I have full confidence in their abilities to lead the school in my absence and wish them the best of luck during this time.

Stay warm and safe for the remainder of this term and I will see you all in April!

*"The more you read, the more you know. The more you know the more places you'll go." Dr. Suess*

*Sincerely,*

*Shelley Amos*

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## **Vice Principal's Message**

It is hard to believe that January is over and it is already February! January was a busy month. Lots of time in class was spent reviewing routines and working really hard on academics. There was also time for some fun in January. Winter Fun day was a great day and the weather cooperated so the outdoor activities could be enjoyed by all. The red house went to Flippers as a house reward. There are three houses left to get their house reward. Stay tuned orange house, blue house, and yellow house!

February is I Love to Read Month. The theme this year will be "Exploring Reading" as we will be linking reading to our Makerspace. The staff have some wonderful things prepared for our students. Make sure to visit our website for updates and highlights of all of the exciting activities planned.

A big thank you goes out to everyone who has donated supplies for our Makerspace. The construction is being worked on right now and the room is almost ready for our students to enjoy. Please keep sending in your recyclables and spare parts that you have lying around the house. They will be put to good use!

*Karen Fraser*

# COUNSELLOR'S CORNER

Did you know our brain is like a Tootsie Pop? It was so much fun teaching the grade 4's that we can think of the hard crunchy part of the Tootsie Pop as the **cortex** part of the brain. This is the part of the brain we use to **process information, problem solve, plan, create, and cooperate with others**. The stick of the Tootsie Pop can be compared to the **brain stem**. It is a **reactive** part of the brain - **it is not rational**. It resists change and is closed to new ideas. The **limbic system** (the soft middle part of the Tootsie Pop) is like a 'gateway' to both the cortex and the brain stem. The limbic system is the '**emotion centre**' of the brain. When the limbic system senses positive emotion such as love, joy, excitement, high interest, enthusiasm, it opens the 'gateway' to the cortex. When the limbic system senses negative emotions such as stress, fear, anger, depression or resistance, it closes the 'gateway' to the cortex, and downshifts the brain stem part of the brain.



However, as we mature, we can learn to recognize negative feelings in ourselves more quickly, and CHOOSE to access the cortex part of our brain - to think about how we want to respond instead of react.

Understanding how the brain works can help us learn self control. It can also help us understand that how we talk to children can completely affect which part of their brain they will automatically access, which controls how they respond.

Stay well,

Sandy Kehler  
School Counsellor



## 2016 Kindergarten Registration

If you plan to send your child to Kindergarten next school year and did not return the Kindergarten pre-registration form that was sent home in January, please register your child by phoning Woodlawn School (204-326-6110) during the week of February 8 - February 12, 2016.

Information required when you call is: child's name, birth date, mailing address, phone number, legal address, parents' names, parents' workplace information and information regarding custody or medical conditions.

To be eligible for Kindergarten children must be 5 years of age on or before December 31, 2016.

Please pass this information onto any friend, neighbor, or relative who might have children eligible for Kindergarten and who might not be aware of this notice.

## SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREAS

For information regarding school catchment areas please check the Hanover School Division website: [www.hsd.ca](http://www.hsd.ca) or call the Transportation Department at 204-320-2347.

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### IT'S GOING TO BE A MONSTER OF A BOOK FAIR!



Wednesday, February 10 8:30-9:00, 11:55-12:55, 3:45-6:30  
Thursday, February 11 8:30-9:00, 11:55-12:55, 3:45-4:30  
Friday, February 12 8:30-9:00, 11:55-12:55, 3:45-4:30

Students will be browsing Monday, February 8 and Tuesday, February 9, 2016.

Check out the preview flyer going home soon for a taste of what will be at the fair. Don't forget to bring your ballot in (from the back of the flyer) when you visit the book fair with your child(ren).

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### EXPLORE READING!



This year's theme for February's "I Love to Read" month is "Explore Reading". This ties in with the building and opening of our Makerspace in what used to be the computer lab. In the Makerspace, students will be able to explore their creative ideas and inventions. While they are creating, they will be developing their critical thinking skills, growing their oral language, and using literacy skills such as reading to research or writing to do their planning.

One lucky class will be chosen to explore the creation of SLIME! Every time a class meets their weekly reading goal throughout the month, they'll be entered to win. The more entries, the more teachers that will be slimed at an upcoming assembly! Mrs. Harder (Literacy Support Teacher), Mrs. Fraser (Vice-Principal), and Mr. Adams (Phys. Ed. Teacher) may all experience "getting slimed" if Woodlawn students remain dedicated to reaching their reading goals!

In February, as in every month, parents are encouraged to foster a love of reading with their children. Time spent reading together is of tremendous value! It is so exciting and beneficial when children begin to gravitate toward reading for pleasure in their free time.

**HAPPY READING!**

## Pick-up & Drop-off Locations 8:00am - 4:30pm

To ensure the safety of our students and due to the congestion of our staff parking lots and bus loop areas, parents are asked not to enter those areas between 8:00-4:30. If you are dropping off or picking up your child, please park on the street or on the church yard across from the school.

**For the safety of your child, we request that you escort your child across Henry Street, Barkman Street and Penner Street.**

### Arrival/Leaving Time

Walking students and those dropped off by parents should arrive at school after 8:30 in the morning. Teacher supervision is provided starting at 8:30. Any students arriving on the playground before 8:30 will not be supervised and responsibility for the student belongs with the parent/guardian. Students are permitted to enter the building when the 8:53 bell rings. Students are required to leave for home by 4:00 in the afternoon unless prior arrangements have been made.



### **SAFETY FIRST**

*At times, parents or designated others pick up their children during the school day. Most homeroom teachers recognize the parents but at times we have guest teachers or the children are in Music or Phys. Ed. It is virtually impossible for these teachers to recognize all the parents or the designated "picker-uppers". So in order to provide a safer environment, parents are asked to report to the office to sign out their children. The secretary will be happy to call your child(ren) to the office for you. If she is unfamiliar with you she can check our files to ensure your child is being picked up by the correct person. Please work with us as we continue to implement this method and bear with us when we ask you to check with the office if you forget and show up at the classroom door.*

*As a school safety is of utmost concern to us. We have security cameras in various locations on the premise, both inside and outside. We have an extensive crisis plan in place and a crisis team who reviews the plan on a continual basis. We practice lock downs twice per school year in order to prepare our staff and students for a real crisis should it ever happen. All of our staff are trained to be on alert for anything or anyone suspicious and report it to the Principal immediately.*

### **ABSENCES**



*It is the time of year again when many students become ill with a cold or flu. Please call the school between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 if your child will be absent from school for any reason.*

*A phone call is also necessary if your child will be late. Late students are to check in at the office before heading to class.*

*Thank you to everyone for cooperating in reporting to the office when picking your child up from school during the school day.*

## **Bus Information**

The Hanover School Division website, [www.hsd.ca](http://www.hsd.ca), contains an icon “**Bus Delay Bulletins**”.



All school buses that are late for whatever reason will be posted on this site.

We will no longer be calling individual homes when this happens. When a bus route is cancelled due to weather or road conditions it may be cancelled for the a.m. and p.m. runs. If you drive your students to school, you will need to confirm whether or not your bus is operating in the p.m.

Parents will be expected to obtain information, if needed, on the status of their bus through this channel. Busses that are running more than 10 minutes late on a given day will have the bus number and estimated lateness posted on the page. Homes that do not have computer access to the web should make arrangements with another family on the route whom they could contact.

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## **Winter Fun Day!**

Woodlawn's Winter Fun Day took place on January 21st, with the grades K-4 students doing activities both inside and outside all day.

Activities included a hockey shoot-out, scooter races, snow bucket relay, snow painting, and lots of other fun and games. Of course, highlights were the hot chocolate station and the chance to play all day long.

**A special thanks to all the parents who volunteered and to the student volunteers from Clearspring Middle School. Your help make Winter Fun Day a success!**

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## **SKATING:**

All students in grades 3 and 4 will have the opportunity to go skating. Once dates have been confirmed, class notices and informed consent forms will be sent home and parents are asked to have helmets fitted and skates sharpened in preparation for the fun. If you absolutely cannot beg, borrow or buy the equipment, we do have some basic skates and helmets as a back up at the school. I welcome any parents who have any extra equipment they may want to share to call me so that all students can join in the fun!

We also need parents to come out as well and help with supervision, tying skates, and possibly sharing your own expertise in the sport.



Thank you,  
Jesse Adams, Phys Ed Teacher



# February 2016



| Sunday | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday   | Saturday |
|--------|--|----------|---|---|--|----------|
|        | 1 Day 5  | 2 Day 6  | 3 Day 1<br>Ham Pizza<br>\$2.00 per slice  | 4 Day 2   | 5 Day 0<br>Admin/PD Day<br>- No Classes  | 6        |
| 7      | 8 Day 3<br>Kindergarten<br>Phone In<br>Registration -<br>Feb. 8 - Feb.<br>12 | 9 Day 4  | 10 Day 5<br>Pepperoni<br>Pizza<br>\$2.00 per slice<br><br>Book Fair:<br>8:30 - 9:00<br>11:55 - 12:50<br>3:45 - 6:30 | 11 Day 6<br>Book Fair<br>8:30 - 9:00<br>11:55 - 12:50<br>3:45 - 4:30            | 12 Day 1<br>Hot Lunch -<br>Chicken<br>Noodle Soup &<br>a Bun or ½<br>Turkey<br>Sandwich or ½<br>Turkey Wrap<br>\$3.00 each<br><br>Book Fair<br>8:30 - 9:00<br>11:55 - 12:50<br>3:45 - 4:30 | 13       |
| 14     | 15 Day 0<br>Louis Riel Day<br>- No Classes                                   | 16 Day 2 | 17 Day 3<br>Ham Pizza<br>\$2.00 per<br>slice  | 18 Day 4  | 19 Day 5<br>Hot Lunch -<br>Chicken<br>Noodle Soup &<br>a Bun or ½<br>Ham Sandwich<br>or ½ Ham<br>Wrap \$3.00<br>each<br><br>Kindergarten<br>Reports Issued                                 | 20       |
| 21     | 22 Day 6   | 23 Day 1 | 24 Day 2<br>Pepperoni<br>Pizza \$2.00<br>per slice  | 25 Day 3  | 26 Day 0<br>PD Day - No<br>Classes   | 27       |
| 28     | 29 Day 4   |          |   | Chocolate or<br>white milk for<br>sale at<br>lunchtime<br>everyday.<br>.75 each | Please send<br>exact change<br>with your<br>child for milk<br>and hot<br>lunches.  |          |