



# The Woodlands School

Parent/Guardian Newsletter  
August 2015

## Our Mission

*Inspiring all students in an inclusive, caring, and supportive community to reach their potential as successful and responsible global citizens*

## Our Vision

*At The Woodlands, we unify our diverse community, promote innovation, and provide opportunities which engage all of us in the achievement of personal excellence and student success.*

## The Woodlands School

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 @woodlandsrams

## Administrative Team:

Principal: Rosemary Stiglic

### Vice-Principals:

Joann De Murrell, Elementary  
Kerry Everitt, Secondary  
Fraser Kidd, Secondary

## Superintendent of Education:

Shawn Moynihan  
Mississauga Field Office  
905-366-8800

## Trustees:

Robert Crocker  
Ward 6: 905-267-0764  
Sue Lawton  
Ward 4: 905-625-1457  
Janet McDougald  
Ward 7: 905-278-1402

## Welcome

Although the summer is not quite over and the warm weather still means vacation time, it is hard not to think about school being around the corner! Hopefully the summer has allowed you some time with family and friends, rest and relaxation and maybe some travel too. This newsletter will provide you with the information you need to know for the start of the school year. Should you have any questions please feel free to call the school and we will be happy to work with you to prepare for this next school year.

## Renovation Update

The Woodlands School is looking like a new place! Over the summer much construction at the school has resulted in new flooring on the main floor, new bathrooms, a school elevator, new windows, a new elementary wing, and much more. As indicated in the Spring, the total renovation project will take a year and a half, so more work will be completed throughout the school year and into next summer. We ask that all students and parents continue to be patient as we work to beautify the school.

As a result of the renovation **please note that registration this year will take place at McBride Public School in the school's gymnasium.** Students can access the gym on the west side of McBride (facing The Woodlands). Please be advised that the registration process involves the purchasing of activity packages and taking photos for student ID cards and the yearbook. As such, parents/guardians may wish to drop off and pick up their child on their allocated registration day. Note that grade 9 students are divided into two groups, by surname. Secondary students are asked to bring their negative media consent (if applicable) with them to registration.

## REGISTRATION DATES

Monday, August 31	Grade 12	8:30 – 10:30 am
	Grade 11	12:30 – 2:30 pm
Tuesday, September 1	Grade 9 (A-L)	8:30 – 10:30 am
	Grade 9 (M-Z)	12:30 – 2:30 pm
Wednesday, September 2	Grade 7 & 8	8:30 – 10:30 am
	Grade 10	12:30 – 2:30 pm

### Student Activity Package for Elementary students

\$45.00 – includes yearbook  
\$15.00 – no yearbook

### Student Activity Package for Secondary students

\$55.00 – includes yearbook  
\$25.00 – no yearbook

**Registration:**

During registration students will have their student identification/school photo taken, receive their timetable and submit a locker assignment form. Students will also have an opportunity to purchase a Student Activity Package.

The Student Activity Package allows students to participate in the following extra-curricular activities for the 2015-2016 school year: Student Council and Student Council supported activities, intramurals, numerous clubs, and the Arts. It also includes a 2015-2016 Student Agenda and a \$5.00 printing credit. The Student Activity Package supports student life at the school and keeps extra-curricular events and activities affordable for our school community.

**Lockers:**

All students will be provided with a shared locker and a school lock at no cost. Lockers are the property of the Peel District School Board and may be opened at any time by a member of the school administration and/or designate. Students are expected to keep their locker clean, free of garbage and graffiti, and in good condition at all times.

**Busing:**

For information regarding your child's transportation, if they are eligible, please visit <http://businfo.stopr.ca> and/or call the transportation department at 905-890-6000.

If you have any additional questions or concerns please contact the main office.

**Serious Medical Condition:**

If your son/daughter has a serious medical condition that requires medication to be kept at school (EpiPen, etc.) or if he/she requires other immediate medical interventions, please ensure that his/her Vice-Principal is made aware and that this information appears on the school records. Please contact a member of the front office staff for further assistance with this.

**How to Reach Us:**

The Woodlands School uses a voice mail system. If you need to speak with a member of the Office Staff press "0" at the voice mail prompt. Office staff will be available to answer phones daily between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:00 pm.

**Phones:**

A single pay phone is available in the gymnasium wing for student use. Students may receive additional assistance by going to Student Reception in the main office.

**If You Need to Reach Your Child:**

Unless it is an emergency, the office staff is unable to page students during school hours. If you must reach your child, please call the school and press "0" to reach Student Reception.

Parents/Guardians are urged to make all arrangements with their child before they leave for school.

**If You Have a Concern:**

If you have a concern, first contact your child's subject teacher or guidance counsellor.

If you have additional concerns, contact your child's Vice Principal:

Ms. Joann De Murrell (Elementary) x 404

Ms. Kerry Everitt (Sec. surnames A – L) x 403

Mr. Fraser Kidd (Sec. surnames M – Z) x 402

**Student Services:**

Student Services welcomes everyone to another school year!

For the 2015-2016 school year we welcome Ms. Howald as Head of Student Services and Ms. McCleary in the elementary role. Ms. Kennedy and Ms. Pottinger are returning as Counsellors for secondary students again this year.

Please do not hesitate to visit Student Services. Counsellors are available during school hours by scheduled appointments or by dropping in during lunch period. Please see Mrs. Walter – Office Assistant to the Counsellors to book an appointment or to see your counsellor with any questions or concerns.

**NOTE: Course Change Request forms** will be available during registration. Students have until Thursday, September 10 to submit Course Change Requests to the Main Office. Forms will not be accepted in Student Services. Students are asked to make sure ANY course change requests conform to the criteria listed at the top of the form. Only requests which meet the established criteria will be considered.

**Student Assistance/Resources:**

The Special Education Department is excited to embark on another successful academic year. Come visit our Contact Room at our new location on the main floor where we will run programs to support students both socially and emotionally.

New to The Woodlands this year is our Resource Lounge, also located on the main floor. Come work with our amazing staff to help support you with your academics or providing you with an alternative learning space! Looking forward to another great year!

## Student Absences:

Regular attendance and punctuality is an expectation and supports student success. Parents / Guardians are asked to call the school or send a note to the school to explain all absences and late arrivals to school.

All students leaving school for the day must sign out. Students under the age of 18 must have parental permission to sign out of school. Students not returning from lunch must arrange for parental contact with the school.

All vacations should be arranged to take place during the designated holiday periods. Parents/Guardians put their child's academic success at risk when leaves of absence are planned outside the designated holiday periods.

## Parent Web:

Parent Web gives Parents/Guardians Internet access to The Woodlands / Peel District School Board attendance system. Parents/Guardians need to register on our website, complete and submit an authorization form from the school, and can then use the system to monitor and/or check their son/daughter's attendance at any time.

## Security Cameras:

The Woodlands School has a security camera system. Surveillance by the security cameras ensures that our school is a safe place for students to learn.

## Food Brought to School:

There are several students at our school with severe or life-threatening allergies to peanuts, nuts and other foods. We ask that you help care for these students by choosing lunches and snacks for your child that are nut-free.

## Code of Conduct:

The Student Agenda outlines the School Code of Conduct as determined by the Peel District School Board's Safe Schools Policy.

The Woodlands School recognizes that students achieve their best when they feel safe, nurtured, welcomed, respected and included. We are committed to building a positive climate for learning and working in support of student success.

We believe that parents, the school and community must all work together to help students learn to become responsible members of society, being sensitive to the diversity, culture and special needs of individual students. We must clearly demonstrate respect for social justice and human rights, and promote the values needed to develop responsible members of a global society.

## New Staff

We are very pleased to welcome some new teachers and staff members to The Woodlands School.

Mr. Grandy - Head of Physical Education  
Ms. Howald - Head of Student Services  
Ms. Kohli - Head of Special Education and Student Success  
Mr. Kostiuk - History Teacher  
Ms. Moore - Phys Ed and Science Teacher  
Mr. Morris - Art and History Teacher  
Ms. Press - ESL teacher  
Ms. Rieve - ISSP

## Elementary School Hours:

Grade 7 and 8 students are on a full-year schedule of three terms, scheduled over a five-day cycle. Students are expected to arrive for their first period class no later than 8:15 am and leave by 2:53 pm. A regular school day is as follows:

Period	Start	End
1	8:20	9:35
2	9:35	10:50
LUNCH	10:50	12:05
3	12:05	1:20
4	1:20	2:38

## Professional Activity Dates - *Elementary*

Elementary students do not have classes on September 29, November 13, January 18, May 13, and June 13.

## Professional Activity Dates - *Secondary*

Secondary students do not have classes on February 3, May 13, and June 28 - 30.

## Secondary School Hours:

Secondary students are on the semester system (one day cycle). Students are expected to arrive for their first period class no later than 8:15 am and leave by 3:01 pm. A regular school day is as follows:

Period	Start	End
1	8:20	9:35
2	9:38	10:53
LUNCH	10:53	12:13
3	12:13	1:28
4	1:31	2:46

## Secondary Early Release:

Secondary staff and students will have four early release days to accommodate staff professional development. Early release dates are as follows:

Semester 1: October 27 and November 24

Semester 2: February 23 and April 20

## SHSM – Arts & Culture and Health & Wellness



*Focus your learning in high school towards a career that matches your skills and interests!*

Students who successfully complete the Specialist High Skills Major program receive an Ontario Secondary School Diploma with an embossed red seal, the SHSM Record card documenting certifications and credits, and a formal recognition on the Ontario Student Transcript.

Grade 11 and 12 students enrolled in a SHSM are required to complete a bundle of classroom courses, workplace experiences, and sector certifications to receive a special designation on their Ontario Secondary School Diploma. Students have an opportunity to experience future education and training experiences at post-secondary learning destinations.

### Benefits:

- Enhance your skills
- Learn from professionals in the field and make important career contacts
- Study with other students who share your interests
- Earn valuable industry certifications
- Be better prepared for your transition to apprenticeship, college, university, or the workplace
- Get an early start on a rewarding career

The Woodlands School offers SHSM programs in the following sectors:

### Arts & Culture

The Arts & Culture sector focuses on the following areas of study:

- Arts – Drama, Visual Art, Graphic Design, Music, Dance, Fashion
- Culture – History, Religion, Travel & Tourism, Global & World Studies
- Related Studies – Marketing, Accounting, Law

### Health & Wellness

The Health & Wellness sector focuses on the following areas of study:

- Fitness – Fitness, Healthy Active Living, Recreation & Fitness Leadership
- Health Care – Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Exercise Science, Food & Nutrition, Physics
- Child & Family Services – Challenge & Change, Families & Society, Human Growth & Development, Introduction to Anthropology, Leadership & Peer Support, Parenting, Psychology & Sociology

### Interested in finding out more?

For more information on SHSM programs, courses, areas of focus and registration, please make an appointment with your guidance counselor in Student Services, or visit [www.makingmyway.ca](http://www.makingmyway.ca)