



# Westdale Secondary Community Newsletter

October 2025

## Principal's Message

Similar to last year, I will be providing a monthly newsletter for Westdale families to support with home-school communication and to enhance access to important school information and events. A copy of this newsletter will be shared on our school website so families can utilize the “translate” feature to access this information in their preferred language. As Westdale is a busy and dynamic school, there may be some events and dates not listed as events and opportunities evolve during the school year. Please continue to reference our school website: [hwdsb.on.ca/westdale](http://hwdsb.on.ca/westdale) and our Instagram page: [whatsupwestdalewarriors](https://www.instagram.com/whatsupwestdalewarriors), for ongoing schools news, events, and celebrations. As always, I invite your suggestions and feedback so we can better serve our Westdale students and families.

Sincerely,  
Brian Goodram

## Upcoming Calendar Dates



<b>Date:</b>	<b>Event(s):</b>	<b>Audience:</b>
<i>Thursday Oct. 2nd</i>	National Custodial Workers Day	
<i>Friday Oct. 3rd</i>	Homecoming Event (see enclosed poster for details)	All
<i>Sunday Oct. 5th</i>	World Teachers Day	
<i>Tuesday Oct. 7th</i>	Photo Retake Day	Students who missed September photo days
<i>Monday Oct. 13th</i>	Thanksgiving Holiday (no school)	All
<i>Monday Oct. 20th</i>	Preliminary Report Cards sent Home	All
<i>Friday Oct. 24th</i>	PA Day (no school) Focus: Improved Engagement for Every Student	All
<i>Tuesday Oct. 28th</i>	School Council (6:15-7:15pm; Library/Learning Commons)	All
<i>Wednesday Oct. 29th</i>	Director of Education Sheryl Robinson Petrazzini visit to Westdale	
<i>Thursday Oct. 30th</i>	Family-Teacher Interviews (5-7pm; by appointment)	All

## Shout Outs / Good News



### **Welcome (Back) to Westdale!**

This school year, we are excited to welcome new staff, and some returning staff, to Westdale: Ms. Aikey (Educational Assistant), Ms. Costanzo (Science), Ms. Court (English), Ms. Cygan (French Immersion, Geography), Ms. Davy (Vice-Principal), Mr. Ebel (English), Mr. Eckart (French Immersion), Ms. Greene-Stanley (Learning Resources, Math), Mr. Nour Eldaim (Educational Assistant), Ms. Quinn (Office), Mr. Ramsden (Tech), Mr. Rawlins (Special Education), Mr. Smith (English), Ms. Stevenson (ESL), Ms. Walker (French Immersion), Mr. Weatherburn (ESL), Ms. Wilde (Co-Op). Welcome (back) to Westdale!

### **Educational Excursions:**

Many of our educators plan excursions to provide valuable learning opportunities for their students, outside of the classroom. We will share some of these experiences through this communication. In mid-September, Ms. Lepischak and Mr. Harrison planned a collaborative science project field trip for students in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Science program. All Grade 11 IB students participated, making connections to English Language Literature, Geography and the Theory of Knowledge (TOK) course. Students were challenged to work together as a team through collaborative games, and spent time considering human interactions with water as they learned about Indigenous uses of the marsh and traditional ecological knowledge while



### **Changeroom Renovation Project:**

As shared in our Summer Community Newsletter in August, Phase 1 of the Changeroom Renovation project is underway. During this time, students and staff continue to have access to learning spaces in the Middle and Lower Gym areas. The temporary changeroom space for the Lower Gym area is located on the first floor (Drama Changeroom) for students in Health and Physical Education classes and for student-athletes participating in extra-curricular activities. The timeline for completion is January 2026. Upon completion, there will be an additional changeroom available to students (currently there is one changeroom space) and single-occupancy changeroom spaces will be created. The Health and Physical Education department office will be relocated to a new office space that was previously used as the Mindfulness Studio (basement level). This is a welcome renovation that will better serve the needs of our school community. We look forward to seeing the finished product in the new year!

## Other News

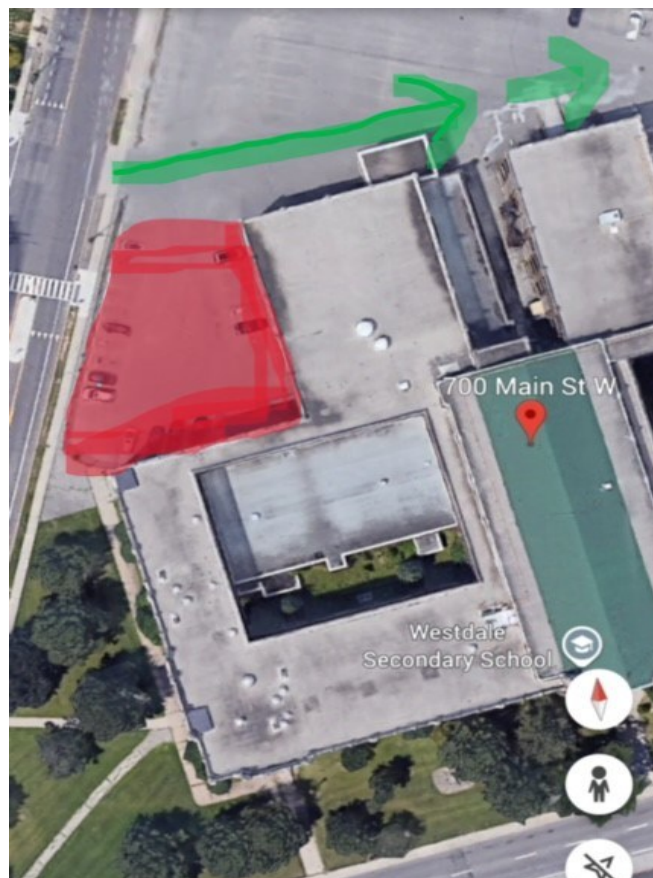


### **Parking Lot and Pedestrian Safety:**

As you may have noticed, our PVP team has been out in the parking lot before and after school to ensure students can safely enter and exit the building. As we have students with accessibility needs and vehicles need to access the area by the ramp door, we are asking parents/guardians to drop their students off prior to 8am by the back central door and proceed through to the Paradise Drive exit (identified by the green arrows below). **The red area highlighted below should not be used for drop off / pick up.** This will help to alleviate congestion from Longwood while ensuring those with accessibility needs can safely access the ramp door.

As we have additional school buses to provide service to our students this year, we are limiting vehicle access after school. We are encouraging parents/guardians to pick up their students off campus on side streets and lots surrounding the school. This will ensure buses and cabs can access the school lot to pick up students and to make the school parking lot safer for students exiting the building. As bus arrival times are staggered in the morning, parents/guardians may continue to access the school lot to drop off students. Due to limited parking spaces, there is no student parking permitted in the school lot. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

During our Grade Assemblies last month, we reminded students of the importance of pedestrian safety. Students need to use designated crosswalks and pedestrian crossings. Additionally, students are encouraged to be vigilant as pedestrians (e.g., avoiding distractions like cellphones and headphones, looking both ways and making eye contact with drivers before crossing).



### **Updated Medical Health Information:**

Parents/guardians are asked to ensure medical / health information is up to date for their student(s). This task can be completed in Parent Portal. This year, parents/guardians do not need to provide emergency / medical health information for each educational excursion and/or sports team. As such, staff rely on the information provided by parents/guardians through Parent Portal. Thank you in advance for your support.

### **Parent Portal:**

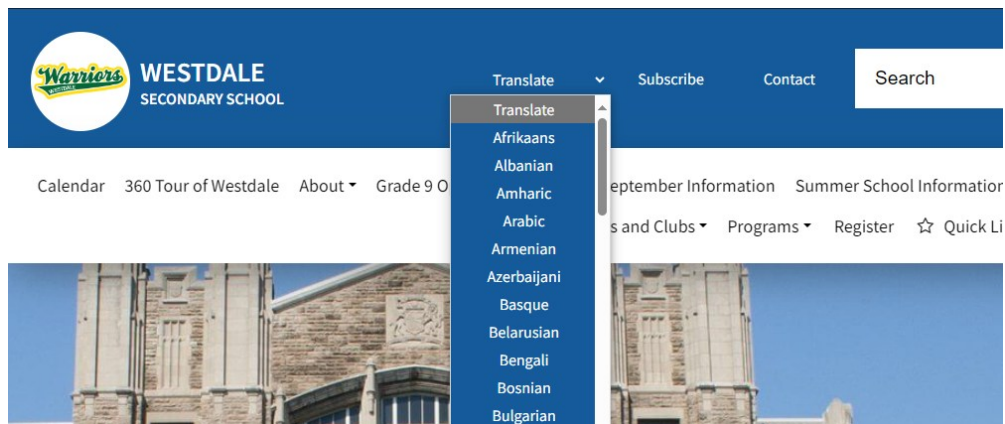
Parent Portal is a great way for parents/guardians to stay connected and support student success and well-being. On Parent Portal, parents/guardians can enter and check absences, access on-line forms (e.g., Athletics, digital tools permission) and access historical grades for their student. Please contact the school by phone (905-522-1387) or email (westdale@hwdsb.on.ca) to get an account set up.

### **French as a Second Language Committee:**

The French as a Second Language (FASL) Advisory Committee helps shape French programming in HWDSB elementary and secondary schools, as well as Ministry and community supports that enhance the learning experience for students. Applications for the FASL Advisory Committee are now open for the 2025-26 school year. HWDSB welcomes submissions from students, parents, guardians and caregivers with students in Core French or French Immersion. The application deadline for FASL Advisory Committee applications is Monday October 6th at 9am. The application can be accessed and submitted via this [Link](#) . We encourage Westdale students and families to share their voice!

### **School Website Translate Feature:**

As shared in the graphic below, our school website has the “Translate” feature embedded. This allows our community to access school information in their preferred language.



### **Laptop Hospital:**

We are fortunate to have 1:1 devices for students to support their learning. Grade 9 and 10 students are provided with laptops while our Grade 11 and 12 students are equipped with iPads. Students are responsible to safely handle and use these devices appropriately. Should students encounter issues, we encourage them to access the “Laptop Hospital” on the Library HUB page. As always, our Teacher-Librarians and Technician are available for student tech support in the Library/Learning Commons throughout the school day.

## **PPM 128 - Personal Mobile Device (PMD) Procedure / Smoke and Vape Free Schools**

As with last school year, we continue to follow the Policy/Program Memorandum 128, including province-wide measures and mandatory learning to address cell phones in schools. This message was shared with students at our Grade Assemblies this past month. This PPM and the actions we take together as a staff and school community, are about reinforcing and further minimizing distractions from student learning and well-being. As we implement the Personal Mobile Device (PMD) procedure and support focused learning for our students:

- Consistent messaging and application of the PMD procedure is important so we are supporting our students and one another in this new expectation. Our collective and consistent efforts now in promoting focused learning will help support student learning and achievement later on. Parents/Guardians are asked to contact their student(s) during non-instructional time. For urgent communication, parents/guardians can contact the main office.
- For our Westdale students, they must have their devices stored out of view and powered off (or on silent mode) during instructional time unless permitted by the educator. There are exemptions to this, for example, students who use their PMD as a health/medical support tool.
- We are discouraging “tech breaks” during instructional time as students within one class will likely be connecting with students engaged in learning in other classes.
- As a way to support students with distractions from their PMD, we have provided classroom teachers with lunch bags. The educator will ask a student who has needed multiple reminders to get a lunch bag or “pouch” from the teacher, turn off their PMD, place it in the bag, secure it, and store it away for the remainder of the period. This will take the responsibility away from staff in terms of taking responsibility for personal student belongings as they are not being confiscated.

### **Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT):**

This November, all Grade 10 students will write the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) during Periods 1 and 2 on two consecutive days. Students enrolled in ESLEO will write with their classroom teacher during Periods 1, 2 and 3 on two consecutive days. The OSSLT is administered by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO), an independent agency of the Government of Ontario, in order to determine whether students have acquired the minimum literacy (reading and writing) skills expected by The Ontario Curriculum across all subjects up to the end of Grade 9.

The OSSLT will be completed online and there are a total of 37 questions: 35 selected-response questions (e.g. single-selection, multiple-selection, drag and drop, drop-down menu, checklist) and two open-response questions. The test is given on two separate days for all Grade 10 students. Classroom teachers will share the dates with their students. Students need to be in attendance on both days. All of the questions are based directly on the expectations set out in The Ontario Curriculum, which is what teachers teach in the classroom every day. Students can prepare as they would for any other secondary school test.

In January 2026, EQAO will send Westdale a school report of results for each student who writes the OSSLT, and we will send it home at that time.

# WESTDALE HOMECOMING



**Friday  
October 3rd**



**FIELD  
HOCKEY VS  
SIR  
WINSTON  
CHURCHILL  
BULLDOGS**

**3:30 pm**

**SR GIRLS  
BASKETBALL  
VS ALUMNI**

**4 pm**

**WARRIORS  
FOOTBALL VS  
ANCASTER  
ROYALS**

**6 pm**

**HWDSB**

**BE YOU. BE EXCELLENT.**