



# WestNiagara

## Secondary School

October 26th, 2022

Wolfpack and Families - please see below for a few reminders and updates.

### **1) Bus Safety Reminders**

- a) A few reminders based on observations:
  - i) Students are reminded not to walk or run in the path of a moving bus - I recognize this might seem like a reminder that is not needed, but I do see this happening each day
  - ii) Students are reminded not to run after their bus as it arrives - this is particularly unsafe as we head towards winter weather - students should wait until all the buses of a given wave arrive and stop, and then move towards their bus
  - iii) Students should not listen to music through earphones while waiting for a bus - today, I saw two students wearing earphones stand directly in the path of a vehicle, whose horn was honking, and they did not move

### **2) Student Activity Fee**

I wanted to provide some context and background information about this item:

- a) As mentioned previously, the student activity fee is currently an item on SchoolCash (\$40)
- b) Prior to the pandemic (when school activities did not happen), this fee was charged each year, and was higher than the current amount
- c) Without the funds generated through this fee, the school is unable to provide many of the events, services and guest speakers to students that we are currently providing on an ongoing basis
- d) This includes: hoodies for grade 9 students, spirit week activities that build a positive school environment, expert training for student mediators, student food and clothing giveaways, guest speakers on topics such as online safety, conflict resolution
- e) Currently, the school is not charging an athletic fee for sports that do not involve outside facilities or significant costs (e.g. other than rowing, football etc.) - without the student activity fee, this practice may have to be revisited in the future - many other schools charge such a fee

- f) Currently, the school is paying for/subsidizing costs (including travel, materials etc.) associated with school clubs and organizations - without a student activity fee, this practice may have to be revisited in the future
  - g) Currently, the school is not charging a grad fee to assist with the set up and running of the graduation ceremony, caps and gowns, diploma folders etc. - without the student activity fee this practice may have to be revisited in the future - many other schools charge such a fee
- 3) Picture Retakes**
- a) Picture retake day is November 1st
  - b) Grimsby Campus AM, Beamsville Campus PM
  - c) If this schedule does not work for your child, please let me know and we can work with the provider to arrange an alternative
- 4) Informed Consent** - Phys Ed, Tech, Science, Family Studies
- a) Please note that these consent forms are on SchoolCash for parents to sign off
  - b) Teachers have been following up for students who have not completed the forms - please have a look if your child is taking any of these classes
  - c) Their purpose is to show the consent of parents/guardians to students participating in hands-on activities in the above subject areas
- 5) Lunchtime Behaviour**
- a) Local businesses have been in touch regarding some inappropriate behaviour in their stores at lunch time
  - b) To be clear - the majority of our students are behaving well, and we have received positive feedback to this effect
  - c) We kindly ask families to reinforce behavioural expectations when in public - speaking to business owners and employees respectfully, following store rules, and refraining from theft and damage to property
  - d) We have asked these businesses communicate with the school regarding these incidents, and school/legal consequences will follow when appropriate
  - e) When our students leave campus at lunch, they represent their family and their school- we truly appreciate your cooperation in this effort
- 6) Please see the attached flyer regarding volunteer opportunities with the Grimsby Santa Claus Parade.

I recognize these reminders aren't always the most interesting! It's very important to remember how many amazingly positive things are going on at the school every day - great work in classrooms, new and engaging co-curricular activities, a full slate of sports teams, and a school spirit that is refreshed and building every day. Last week's pep rallies were so much fun, and

the students of WNSS showed their amazing enthusiasm and spirit. I'm very proud of what students and staff have accomplished in WNSS's first two months - keep it up!

Well done, Wolfpack!

Mat Miller  
Principal, WNSS