

SHEPPARD WINTER NEWSLETTER



Save the Date!



January 21	Kindie (SK) Vision Screening
January 24	Sheppard Spelling Bee
January 31	Sheppard Movie Night
February 7	Bus Safety Presentation
February 10	Bus Evacuation Drills
February 10	Achievement Reports sent home
February 12	School Council meeting (7pm -library)
February 17	Family Day (no school or childcare for students)
March 7	Beach Day
March 10-14	March Break (no school for students)
March 21	U of W Warriors Visit and Sheppard Earth Hour
March 31	PD Day (no school for students)

Principal's Message

Happy New Year!! I hope that you were able to have some valued time with family and friends over the winter break. As we move into the winter time at Sheppard, there are lots of exciting things on the horizon.

A successful school community is created by dedicated staff, parents, and community members. Together you all contribute to the “magic” that we see happening at Sheppard on a daily basis. I both feel so fortunate to get to do a job that we absolutely love! It’s the relationships that are formed within the school community that motivate me. There is nothing that I enjoy more than the smiles, laughs, excitement, and ideas that come from our students. I firmly believe that if we can foster a love of learning in each of our students at a young age, we will set them up for a future filled with curiosity, innovation, well-being, and success.

Please check our website (she.wrdsb.ca), and sign up for School Day to keep yourself informed of all of the Sheppard news!

Rebecca Jutzi
Principal



Information and Reminders



Construction Update

As you are likely aware, we had a major flood in our school last January. This has required a lot of work both inside and outside of the school. The final step is now to repair the main water line into the school at the front of the building. You will notice that the front area of the school is completely blocked off. There will be no entrance to the parking lot from Weber St. and the front doors of the school will be off limits for the month of January. Any cars entering the parking lot (staff and extended day drop off/pick up only) will need to enter and exit off Borden Ave. As a reminder, the parking lot is not to be used for student drop off or pick up during the school day.

We are now in the final stages of our construction project and it should be wrapped up by the end of this week. During this last stage, the water will need to be turned off and we will be using the outdoor portable washrooms for Monday and Tuesday. The washrooms are heated and have running water for washing. We will have a staff supervisor at the door to let students in and out. We have also provided hand sanitizer and wipes to classrooms. I know that this isn't ideal but it's necessary to ensure that we don't have any issues with flooding moving forward. Since our bottle filling stations will be closed, please send your students with enough water to last throughout the day.



Timely Reminders

This is a reminder for the New Year that our **school day begins at 9:00 a.m.** All classroom activities begin right away and teachers need to have everyone in class promptly. Thank you for your help in having your children arrive on time. This one small detail makes a great deal of difference to starting the day off right! Also, please help us by choosing to park on the street if you are arriving at the school just before or after the school day. **Please remember that all students should enter with their classroom from the tarmac.**

Our school day ends at 3:20 p.m. with supervision ending at 3:35 p.m. Students are asked to make their way home at this time. If they choose to come back to play after the school day, that is the parent's decision and they are required to provide supervision. If your child will be away or late, please be sure to call the school 519-578-5920 ext. 1 or email us at she-attendance@wrdsb.ca to report their absence.

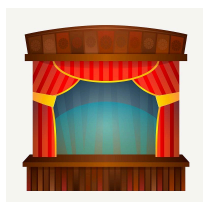


Staff Changes

Before the break we said good-bye to Julia Wooten, our LTO in the Grade 5/6 FI class. We have welcomed Carrie Claus into this role until the regular classroom teacher, Susan French, returns February 18th. We also officially welcomed Morgan Strome into our kindergarten class to cover for Bogdana Ivan who is taking a leave of absence for the remainder of the school year.

Clubs and Activities at Sheppard

We all know that the more students are able to get involved in student life, the more they will feel connected and engaged at school. Below are some of the clubs and activities that are being offered at Sheppard, thanks to the many staff volunteers:



Intramurals
Pizza Helpers
Office Helpers
Primary Choir

GSA Club
Lunch Helpers
Green Team
Strong Start

Spelling Bee
Announcements
Dance Club

Our "Cool to be Kind" campaign will be selling kindness bracelets in February to raise funds for Nutrition for Learning. Stay tuned for more information.

Movie Night

Our School Council is excited to announce that there will be a school movie night in the gym on **Friday, January 31st**. Save the date and please stay tuned for more information.

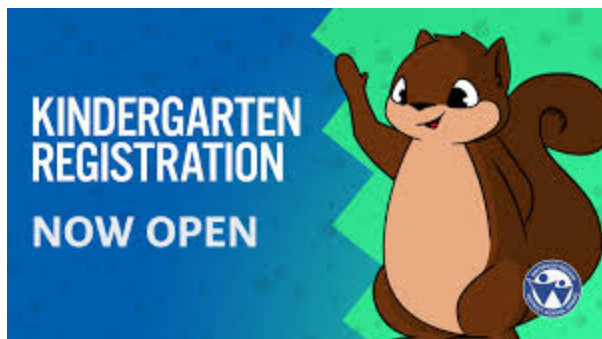


Fundraising Initiatives

Thanks to our School Council and Sheppard fundraising initiatives, we continue to make significant improvements to school. With the funds raised, we were able to purchase a sandbox for our outdoor natural area, and hope to add a new fenced in designated kindergarten play area in the front of the school in the spring. A huge thank you to the many volunteers who work at the school during Ranger games to collect parking donations!

Nutrition for Learning

Thanks to our teacher volunteers and your donations, we continue to offer bins of healthy snacks in each classroom that all students can access when they need additional healthy food throughout the day. We also offer our snacks requiring refrigeration to students at second break.



Kindergarten Registration is Now Open for September 2025

Families can now [register their child\(ren\) for Kindergarten!](#)

We are dedicated to ensuring that your children receive an education supporting their full potential from kindergarten to graduation. Our commitment includes:

- Providing a welcoming, secure, respectful, and nurturing environment
- Fostering a sense of belonging and connection through diverse experiences

Kindergarten plays a crucial role in laying a strong foundation for learning within a safe and caring play-based setting. It allows students to develop essential skills in literacy, numeracy, and social-emotional learning.

Who can register for Kindergarten?

- Children born in 2021 are eligible for Junior Kindergarten
- Children born in 2020 are eligible for Senior Kindergarten

If your child is already enrolled in Junior Kindergarten, you do not need to register again.

Join us at Sheppard P.S. in September 2025! [Register today.](#)

Please note: Registration for the 2025-26 WRDSB Before and After School programs opens in Spring 2025. The date will be confirmed on the [Before and After School website.](#)

After completing the online registration, you will be invited to an appointment to review your registration documents at our school.

French Immersion

The WRDSB has transitioned to a Grade 2 entry point for French Immersion. The WRDSB will accept Grade 2 French Immersion applications for September 2025 (for students born in 2018) until January 31st.



All French Immersion students will transition to 58% French instruction in Grades 2 through 6 and 50% French instruction in Grades 7 and 8. All students will receive double the amount of French instruction (16%) in Grade 1 Core French. Core French instruction will remain at 8% in Grades 2 through 8. For more information, please visit the WRDSB [French Website.](#)

[Apply for the French immersion program.](#)

Inclement Weather

It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to determine whether or not it is safe for his or her child to leave for school during inclement or severe weather. A parent/guardian must be aware of the following:

- When a bus does not travel a route in the morning due to fog, ice, or snow conditions, it will not travel that route in the afternoon.
- While we have an excellent transportation system, buses may be delayed in the morning due to traffic, poor road conditions, mechanical breakdowns, etc. To ensure your child is not stranded at his/her pick-up point, please make sure they know what to do and where to go if their bus is more than 15 minutes late. Please sign up through www.stswr.ca to receive updates about bussing cancellations and delays.



Winter Dressing

We try to go outside for each break and we do monitor the weather carefully. Our students need fresh air and love to play outside. Students have two outside 20 minute breaks each day. All students are expected to be outside for fresh air and activity. Thus, students must dress appropriately for winter weather. Thank you to all parents/caregivers for providing hats, snowsuits, scarves, mittens and footwear for your children. It is a good idea to send along some extra clothes with your child. An extra pair of dry socks and an extra pair of mittens are always good things to have tucked into the backpack. In the event of inclement weather, students will be supervised inside the school.



Winter Safety

Students are to stay off the playground equipment in the winter months when the ground is frozen. They are allowed to play on snow hills on school property at breaks when it is safe to do so, but they must be wearing snow pants and no pushing is ever allowed. Teachers on duty will determine when it is safe to use the Gaga Ball pit.

Report Cards

First term report cards will be sent home on February 10th. How you interpret and respond to your child's report card is important. Listed below are some suggestions to help you read, understand and celebrate your child's report card.

1. Read the learning skills on the first page of the document first. Celebrate and acknowledge your child's efforts, improvements and strengths and who they are as a person.
2. Pay attention to the section that deals with "days absent" and "times late." Sometimes this is an area that surprises parents and offers insights into why your child may be struggling.
3. Talk about the report card together and seek your child's opinion about their accomplishments.
4. Look at the grades that your child is getting and set some goals with your child in areas that you both agree would benefit from improvement.
6. Make a plan on how to meet these goals and share in the responsibility of helping support your child achieve these next steps.
7. Request a meeting with your child's teacher if you need clarification, want more information or need ideas and resources to support your child's learning goals.
8. Remember that the term one report card is a checkpoint. There are five more months of work ahead and a lot can change during that time. Hard work and effort do pay off.



Although there isn't a formal day for parent/teacher interviews, please don't hesitate to set up a meeting with your child's teacher if you have questions or concerns.

