



Claude Watson School for the Arts

Weekly Update - Friday February 1, 2019

Upcoming Events

February 4

- School Council

February 6

- Winter Walk Day

February 9

- Auditions

February 12

- Sweater Day
- Term 1 Reports Go Home

February 14

- Evening Parent Teacher Interviews

February 15

- Parent Teacher Interviews/PD Day

February 18

- Family Day Holiday

February 21

- Pizza Lunch!

February 23

- Auditions

February 26

- Grade 4s & 5s to the TSO

February 27

- Pink Shirt Day

March 1

- 6.1 Gardiner Museum Trip

March 5

- 6.2 Gardiner Museum Trip

Collaboration

Often our students struggle with collaboration. Teachers give them projects where they have to work with a partner or small group in order to create or produce something and they think - **Yuck!**



Working with others is not an easy task- it requires your children develop certain skills. In life we are always interacting with others so collaboration - working together is a skill that will last our students a lifetime. This week we discussed why working with a new partner or group sometimes gets a little 'bumpy'. We learned about Psychologist Bruce Tuckman's research on the stages of group development - forming, storming, norming, performing and the characteristics of each stage ([see image here](#)). It's important that your children understand that feelings of uncertainty, awkwardness, and tension are all part of the process. If they hang on, stick with the group and communicate in a positive way, the group will find consensus, accept a leadership arrangement and build the trust necessary to become an effective team with roles. At this stage students will take individual responsibility within the team while being flexible enough to help others when necessary. Collaboration is one of the ways our students learn resiliency - when you hit a bump - you get up and keep going because you understand it's a process - and you remember everything will be okay.

Finally, please continue to support your children at home. When a successful group disbands support them if they are a little sad. If the group was challenging and it was a difficult experience support their self-evaluation. What would they have done differently if given another chance? This will help your children prepare for the next awesome opportunity to **COLLABORATE**. Building resiliency in our children is tough. Thank-you for partnering with us! Let them know they are capable!

Have a cooperative, collaborative week-end!
Ms. Jones

Energy Conservation Month

February is Energy Conservation Month at Claude Watson. As a Platinum Eco School we are always looking at ways to make our school more energy efficient and to encourage students to be energy savers at home. During the month, we will be having a number of activities that will encourage student to look for ways to save energy and reduce the need to burn fossil fuels. **Each Friday, will be Power Down Friday.** The lights in the halls and classrooms will be dimmed and we are asking the students and staff do their part in reducing the energy they use. The **Junior Green Team** will be creating **Energy slogans** for the classroom doors and the **Senior Green Team** will be conducting an **energy audit** of the school and graphing their results. Each week, there will be an **energy riddle** that will be read on the PA system and homerooms can submit their answer for points towards the **Green Footprint Award**. Each class will be monitoring their light use in their homeroom classrooms and on **Tuesday, February 12**, CWSA will be having their annual **Sweater Day**. Students are encouraged to wear their favourite sweater to recognize that turning down the heat at home by just a few degrees can make a big difference in the energy that each household uses. And yes, once again, hot chocolate will be on sale in the lunchroom.

Eco-Schools Leadership Conference

Mr. Handscomb takes grade 7 & 8 Eco-Team members to this important leadership conference for middle school students.

TSO Trip - "Play it By Ear" Concert

Grade 4s and 5s are off to the Roy Thomson Hall to see the Toronto Symphony Orchestra on February 26th for a special concert.

Next School Council Meeting

Monday, February 1st at 7pm! All welcome.

Turf - Etiquette

The CWSA yard is not grass but turf. Recently we have noticed community members are shoveling the turf on the week-ends. If you see individuals shoveling the turf please tell them this is not necessary and actually damages the surface. Thank-you!

Traffic Safety – In the Loop

We kindly ask all members of our community to:

- Please notice the STOP sign at this intersection
- Please drive with extreme caution around our school
- Please keep traffic moving
- Please do not keep your car idling for long periods of time

Cold Weather

As the temperature drops please remember that CWSA operates in all types of weather. Students should come prepared in appropriate clothing. Recess and lunch breaks will still occur when it gets cold. During extreme cold (when the temperature/windchill factor is between -20C and -28C recess might be shortened.

CWSA Hours

School Entry time is 8:30 am. Please **call** 416-395-3180 before 8:25 am to report a student absence. Please note entry doors open for extra-curricular at 7:15 – 7:45 am. Doors will remain locked until 8:20 for regular entry.

Zoo Trip

Junior Student Activity Day! On May 6th the grade 4s and 5s are off to the Zoo for this special annual fieldtrip.