

December 2017

Elk Island Public Schools

THE WESTBORO REPORT



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



As we start preparing for the holidays with Christmas concerts and other festive activities, there is a lot of excitement in the air. The students, parents and teachers at Westboro have been hard at work over the last three months and I am very happy to see the progress we have made. Our literacy program has been very successful in its early stage of implementation of school wide guided reading and our Parent Literacy Toolkit. Students in these classes are very engaged in their learning and have made great progress in their reading ability. Our grade five and six teachers have begun "Scholar Hour" projects and it is great to see students showing their excitement about learning. I have also been really impressed with the work that Mr. Matheson has done with our students during circle time. Our students cooperate and support each other with school goals and treat each other with respect. This is a great fit with the teaching that Mrs. Richard has been doing with our students on the Seven Grandfather teachings. I am looking forward to the work they continue to do as we work with our students to learn about wisdom, love, respect, courage, honesty, humility and truth.

Thank you to all parents for your continued support and help as we work in partnership to educate the students at Westboro Elementary. Please continue your efforts to read with your children every night as this truly has a lasting impact on their success. We wish every family a very happy and safe Christmas break and look forward to working with you all in the New Year.

From our School family to yours,

Mike Lastiwka



DECEMBER

- 6 Early Dismissal
- 8 Newsletter
- 11 Princess Raffle Draw
- 12 LAST Swimming LESSON for Gr. 1-3
- 12&13 Spirit Wear
Pick up 3 - 4pm
- 13 Christmas Concert
6:30pm
- 15 Kindergarten
Christmas Concert
2:00 pm
- 18 Stawnichy's Pick up
- 19 Staff Christmas Luncheon
- 20 - 22 Caroling 11:15 am
- 22 PJ & Pancake Breakfast
- 23 - 7 Christmas Break

JANUARY

- 8 Welcome Back!
- 9 Logos Meeting 7pm
- 10 Early dismissal

PRINCIPAL
Mike Lastiwka

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
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SCHOOL NEWS

WESTBORO CHRISTMAS BOXES



“Thank you all so much for your wonderful responses to our Operation Christmas Child box drive this year. Westboro filled close to 50 boxes! This beats last year’s total of 41! Woot! Woot! Awesome job, Warriors! All of this would not have been possible without some wonderful parent volunteers, namely Mrs. Willisko, Mrs. Boskers and Mrs. Wieler who tirelessly made, organized, filled and packed boxes. I cannot thank you enough ladies! Also, to our very own Mrs. Guyda who took her boxes to her Bible study group and filled 15 boxes in their time together. Wow! Thanks again so much for helping teach our kids about generosity, selflessness, and thankfulness. May each of you be blessed in return this Christmas season!”

-Mrs. B.

STRATHCONA CHRISTMAS BUREAU



Westboro is now accepting donations of non-perishable food items and new unwrapped gifts to support the Strathcona Christmas Bureau. We are also asking students to bring in new mittens, hats or scarfs to put on our Mitten Tree. Your donations are sincerely appreciated.

Deadline for donations is **December 13th, 2017.**



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Let Christmas Joy Ring out in Song!

It is hard to believe that the Christmas season is almost upon us once again. We are very excited to invite all parents and families to our upcoming Christmas Concert this year!

WHO?

♪ Starring all students in our Grades 1-6, PLACE, and STEPS programs.

WHEN?

♪ Wednesday, December 13th at 6:30 p.m. **Doors to the church will open at 6:00 p.m.** Please ensure that all students are at the church no later than 6:15 p.m. We hope that all students will join us for the evening performance to celebrate the season together.

WHERE?

♪ We are incredibly blessed to be able to host our school Christmas concert again this year at Park Church, located at 1 Brower Dr. Sherwood Park.

EXTRA INFORMATION

♪ **Please watch for a notice going home with your child the week of the concert. It will provide additional details regarding where to go and what to do once you arrive at the church.**

♪ Dress Rehearsal will be in the afternoon on Wednesday, December 13th at Park Church. Please watch for field trip forms coming home for this. We are aiming for the rehearsal to start at 12:45. Families are welcome to attend to view the practice.

♪ **HELP NEEDED!!!**

- If you are able to help with moving instruments to Park Church at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, December 13 please contact Mrs. Richard as soon as possible (courtney.richard@eips.ca). **We will need about 4 volunteers to facilitate this endeavor.**

PRINCESS PARKING AND FRONT ROW SEATS RAFFLE: In order to help cover costs of the Christmas concert, the Parents' Group will be running a lottery at the school. You will have the opportunity to win a Princess Parking stall and 2 front row seats. Four prize packages will be drawn. Please watch for the ticket order form coming to you as we get closer to the concert.

Kindergarten Christmas Showcase and Celebration

Please note: The Kindergarten students will be hosting their own concert and celebration on the afternoon of Friday, December 15th **beginning at 2:00 p.m. in our school gymnasium.** They will prepare some songs to enchant you with and then you are invited to enjoy some hot chocolate and cookies. We hope you will be able to join us!

LOGOS SOCIETY NEWS



“When we keep the spirit of Christmas, we keep the spirit of Christ, for the Christmas spirit is the Christ spirit.” – Thomas S. Monson

As we all look forward to enjoying family and friends and celebrating the birth of our Saviour, here are a few reminders to keep in mind for January. The next Logos Meeting will be held at Westboro Elementary on January 9 at 7pm. Please join us as we plan for the rest of the school year. Chapel will be held at the school January 18th at 1pm. Hope to see you there!

Also remember that for information on Logos happenings between newsletters, visit our website at <http://elkislandlogos.ca> and join the Elk Island Logos Society Facebook page.

Wishing you and yours all the blessings of the season!

Rachel Milne

Westboro Logos Representative

Isaiah 9:6

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be upon his shoulders, and he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

PATROLLER OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to our AMA Safety Patroller of the Month:

Rebekah

Many thanks to our dedicated team of School Safety Patrollers who are outside monitoring our crosswalks in the morning and after school. This is especially difficult in the cold weather. Well done! Keep up the great work!



PARENT COUNCIL NEWS

December is such a busy month! We will be hosting our annual Pancake Breakfast again this year on December 22nd. Westboro Parents Group will be providing pancakes and sausage for everyone. We ask that each child please bring \$2 to help cover the costs. We also invite anyone who would like to help cook and serve pancakes to please join us. It is one of my favorite events as we always have such an incredible turnout for volunteers. Often, we have more people than jobs, but I love to see parents visiting. We have a truly incredible community at Westboro and I think the pancake breakfast is one of our best events.

We are really excited to have launched our first Literacy Video. We will be sharing the strategies children learn in class in a series of videos designed to help parents help their children read and comprehend. There is more information about this elsewhere in the newsletter, and on the school website, but here is a direct link <https://goo.gl/3YHsD2>. If you are interested in being a part of our video series, and helping us describe and demonstrate a reading strategy, please email us at WestboroParents@gmail.com. We are filming a few more this week, which we will be releasing in the New Year.

HOT LUNCH NEWS

As the end of 2017 comes near, we are looking ahead to hot lunches for January and February. Here is what we have coming up:

Jan 19 Wild Wing (to accompany crazy hair/crazy bread day) *

Feb 23 Little Caesars

Online ordering will open December 5. Ordering will close on Friday, December 22. Go to westboro.hotlunches.net to place your order. If you have any questions, please email us at westborohotlunches@gmail.com.

Also, if you are interested in volunteering, please check the volunteer box when placing your hot lunch orders.

*On January 19 Westboro School is having Crazy Hair/Crazy Bread Day! All students will receive complementary Crazy Bread as a snack with their lunch (regardless if they ordered hot lunch or not) courtesy of the Westboro Parents Group. The Kindergarten Regular class will have their Crazy Hair/Crazy Bread Day on January 26th.

STAWNICHY'S

Thank you to everyone who ordered. Pick up will be December 18th. Watch your emails for updates. Don't forget to bring bags

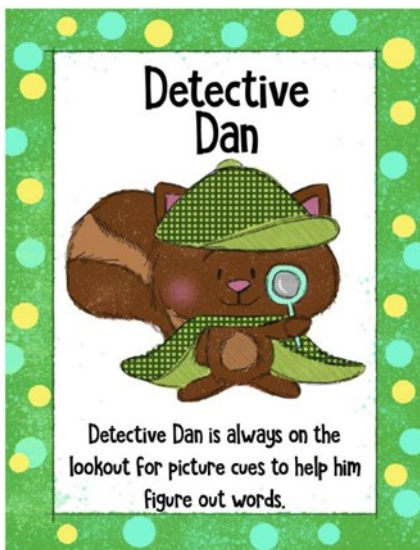
DETECTIVE DAN

Think back to when you were learning to read ...

- Did someone cover up the pictures and tell you to stop cheating by looking at them?

MEET DETECTIVE DAN

Did you know that using pictures is an important decoding and comprehension strategy? Use them to help your child in several different ways:



- Look at a picture and see if it gives a clue to figure out a difficult word so you can make an educated guess
- Look at a picture and see if you can guess what might happen next
- Look at a series of pictures to confirm the order of a story
- Look at a picture and relate it to another story you've read or to something in your life (eg. With a picture of a playground, talk about your favorite playground, a fun time you've had on a playground or a different story which talks about a playground)

View the video here <https://goo.gl/3YHsD2>

ABORIGINAL STUDIES: DECEMBER

For the month of December we will be continuing working on the second of our Seven Grandfather Teachings, Wisdom, which is represented by the Beaver. In the past few weeks, students have had the opportunity to explore a little bit more about Inuit culture and will soon be reading a story about Métis Christmas traditions, comparing them with our own.

In late November, we had the opportunity to meet with some parents at our parent information night. Thank you to those of you who were able to attend. Unfortunately, due to low numbers we had to cancel our parent blanket exercise. We will be looking at a date in the New Year to offer this again so stay tuned!

COUSELLOR'S CORNER

Season's greetings to all of you! Christmas time is here once again. For some, you've strung the lights weeks ago, eager to be the first on the block. For others, you are wondering when the last possible moment will be, begrudgingly joining the others around you. Whichever the case, there seems to be a choice that we all make to enter into the season. A choice that some never make, for Christmas can be the hardest season of all. And we all come together in the community of our school, all parents and guardians. All hoping we are doing our best and that it will be enough. This season, may we decide to be intentional with our time. To bring the best of Christmas into our lives and into our families, into the relationships with our kids. To remember what matters most.

Three years ago, I was at the NCTCA teachers' convention here in Edmonton. One of the keynote speakers had a captivating quote that rippled through the two day event. "Non catastrophic painful failure." The words belonged to Dr. Alex Russell as part of his talk on *Raising Resilient Children*. For most of us, to know that our child will be resilient in this world would allow us to breathe easy. They will find their way...they'll be okay. But what price are we willing to pay for this. Exposing them to failure? Allowing them to sink? Hoping they'll swim? As you enter Westboro Elementary through the main entrance, you will see a bulletin board to the left with a familiar title - Counsellor's Corner. Here you will find descriptions of failures from Michael Jordan, Thomas Edison, Walt Disney and others. Dispelling the myth that only the fortunate succeed. Lives that somehow just worked out, finding pathways the rest of us could not. In the center, Dr. Alex Russell and the quote that never left me. His bio can be found at <http://russellpsychology.com> as well as a candid description of his powerful book *Drop the Worry Ball: How to Parent in the Age of Entitlement*. A book that sets out to help parents see failing as a natural and normal part of growing up and not a sign of parental incompetence, stop doing all the worrying for their children, and to resist the social pressures to become over-involved. Dr. Russell has a great Ted Talk which you can find by searching Dr. Alex Russell and TedxCrescent School. The board also features the work of Dr. Martin Brokenleg and his Circle of Courage as well as Dr. Gordon Neufeld, founder of the Neufeld Institute, and bestselling author of *Hold On to Your Kids*. Beneath the imposing title of Counsellor's Corner, the subtitle reads just one word. Resilience. Our kids need us to be compassionate supports in their lives, they always will. May we allow ourselves to embrace this role more and more. To let them rise and fall and find their way. So they can take on the world that is already theirs.

DIVISION NEWS

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Happy Holidays from the Board of Trustees

It's the holiday season once again and the winter break is just around the corner. Before we take time off to enjoy with our loved ones, I want to extend warm holiday wishes to all our students, staff and families, on behalf of the Elk Island Public Schools Board of Trustees. We hope you have a wonderful and safe holiday, and a new year filled with joy.

We look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Monday, Jan. 8, 2018.

Thank you and best wishes,

Trina Boymook, EIPS Board Chair

ELK ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS - HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURE

Enjoy the Winter Break

Westboro Elementary School will close for the winter break at the end of the day on Dec. 22, 2017 and will reopen on Jan. 8, 2018. During this time, if you have any school-related questions or concerns, contact the Central Administration office at Elk Island Public Schools.

EIPS Central Administration Office Winter Break Hours

Closed: December 25 - 29

Open: January 2 - 5 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

*for location and contact information visit www.eips.ca.

From everyone at Elk Island Public Schools, we wish all of you a happy holiday season and a wonderful New Year.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION 2017 - 2018

Kindergarten Registration Starts Soon!

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2018? If so, it's almost time to register for Kindergarten.

Kindergarten registration opens for the 2018 - 19 school year on Jan. 15, 2018. To register, simply complete the *online registration* form at www.eips.ca/kindergarten.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION CHECK LIST:

- Determine your child's designated school
- Scan and upload all required documents: proof of name, residence, date of birth and citizenship.
- Additional documents to scan, if applicable include: Guardian Letter and Parental Custody Agreement if restrictions on access.
- Once the online registration is complete and submitted, a confirmation notice will be sent to the given email address.



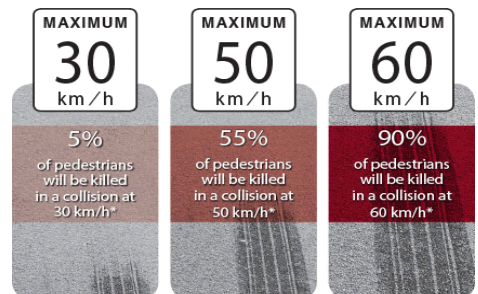
NOTE: The online registration form is available as of Jan.15, 2018 - the paper version is no longer available.

To help families prepare, Elk Island Public Schools has put together an online toolkit to make the transition as smooth as possible. The kit includes information on registration, important dates, programming options, what to expect, eligibility, how to find your designated school, transportation and more. Find it by visiting <http://www.eips.ca/programs-services/kindergarten>.

Additional information regarding kindergarten can be found on our school website at <http://westboroelementary.ca/school-info/kindergarten>.

TRAFFIC SAFETY

Remember to slow down in our school zones! Also a reminder to obey all posted signage regarding drop off and pick up zones. These zones are designated for buses and we would kindly ask that they are respected, even in the cold weather! Many thanks for your ongoing help and support in keeping our students safe!



CHANGES COMING TO KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMMING

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) is changing its kindergarten program. Starting in the 2018-19 school year, all elementary schools will offer one kindergarten option, alternating full-day programming. Children will attend two full-days a week and occasionally, three days a week to meet the required 475 instructional hours—the quality and hours of education will remain the same. Already, more than half of EIPS' elementary schools offer the alternating full-day kindergarten, which have all seen positive results around preparing students for successful transitions to Grade 1.

The decision to standardize kindergarten programming is based on available funding to sustain the noon-hour bus service. The alternating full-day program allows the Division to keep education dollars in the classroom rather than subsidizing transportation.

The complete kindergarten program schedule will be available prior to registration on January 15. For more information, visit www.eips.ca.

2018 - 19 ATTENDANCE BOUNDARIES: UPDATE

As you're aware, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) is opening a new K-6 school in Sherwood Park, named Davidson Creek Elementary, in fall 2018. In preparation for the new school, the Board of Trustees recently approved the new school's attendance boundaries and, consequently, the new elementary and junior high attendance boundaries for the northeast quadrant of Sherwood Park. A letter is being sent home that will describe exactly how the changes will impact your children. General information is also available by visiting the EIPS [website](http://www.eips.ca).

Please note that students residing in the Davidson Creek Elementary attendance area will be designated to this new school and boundary exemptions will not apply. The exception is for "grandfathered" students entering Grade 6. Students in Grade 6 for the 2018-19 school year may continue at their current elementary school. The new attendance boundaries do not apply to students taking French Immersion, German Bilingual, Alternative Christian, Logos and system programs.