



October 29, 2021



WESTBORO ELEMENTARY

Weekly Newsletter

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

November 3: Early Dismissal

November 5: Remembrance Day Ceremony 10:30 a.m.

November 8-12: Fall Break - No school for staff or students

November 11: Remembrance Day

REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY AT WESTBORO

Westboro School's Remembrance Day Ceremony will be held virtually on Friday, November 5 at 10:30 a.m. You can use the following Google Meet code to take part (you must use a gmail account for access): meet.google.com/wdt-virc-rxz

If your child is involved in Cadets, Sparks, Beavers, Brownies, Cubs, Guides, or Scouts they are invited to wear their uniform to school on Friday and play a special role in our ceremony. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Richard at courtney.richard@eips.ca.

DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER

A reminder to parents/guardians to please send your child to school dressed in weather appropriate clothing as we enter into the colder months. This includes a warm jacket, warm footwear, mitts and a hat. Students will be outside for recess and will need to be dressed appropriately. Thank you.

POSTCARDS FOR PEACE

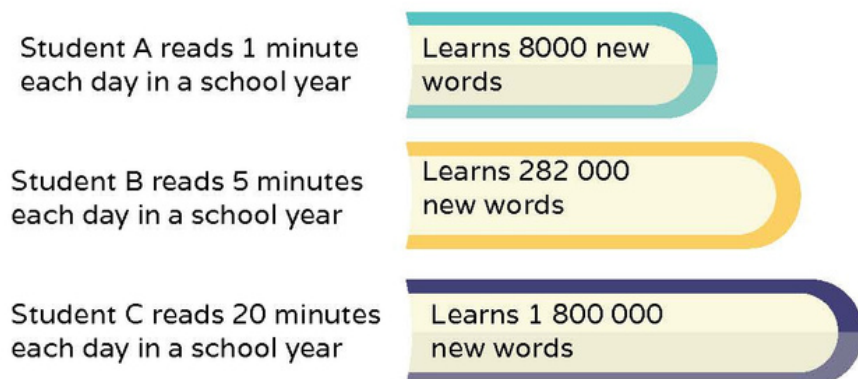
If you would like to take some time to recognize a Canadian Armed Forces veteran or a member still currently serving we encourage you to look into this [website](#). Whether you choose to send a postcard or an e-message, your encouragement and gratitude will make a difference in the act of remembrance. You can also [click here](#) for more information on where to send your message."

LITERACY AT HOME

Literacy at Home: The Importance of Vocabulary

Parents often ask for tips on working with their children at home to build literacy skills. Daniel Willingham, a psychology professor at the University of Virginia who writes about the science behind reading comprehension, explained that whether or not readers understand a text has a lot to do with how much background knowledge and vocabulary they have relating to the topic. That's because writers leave out a lot of information that they assume readers will know.

In fact, a study by Nagy & Herman showed the following results:



*Sources: Iowa Reading Research Centre, Nagy, William and Herman, Patricia: Breadth and Depth of Vocabulary Knowledge: Implications for Acquisition and Instruction, Willingham, Dan: The Reading Mind



You can see that the difference is significant!

So, what can you do at home? Here are some ideas:

- Read with and to your child for 20 minutes each day.
- Have conversations with your child and try to include “big words” and new words.
- Tell stories to your child and encourage them to ask questions.
- Involve your child in the activities you do -- cooking, fixing the car, etc. Use terms specific to the activity to build vocabulary.

STAY AT HOME GUIDE: WHEN DO I KEEP MY CHILD HOME? REVISED

Use this guide to determine when to keep your child home from school and when it's safe to return. [STAY AT HOME GUIDE: When do I keep my child home?](#)

Complete the COVID-19 [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#) with your child every day. The checklist helps determine if it's safe to send your child to school. If your child answers “Yes” to any of the checklist questions, DO NOT send your child to school. Stay home and see the instructions below. If the answer is “No” to all the questions, your child can attend school. Always follow the advice of Alberta Health Services. For more information contact [Health Link](#).

O c t o b e r

Scooter Rack Fundraising

We discussed some fundraising options and we would like parental input. We will be putting together a parental fundraising group that will run and organize the fundraisers for the 2021/2022 school year.

Last school term we started a book study at our meetings. We will continue with the study again, the book is Drop the Worry Ball- by Dr. Alex Russell. Please email the parents group if you are in need of a copy.

Updates

Parents group is still in need of a secretary. In the interim we are looking to recruit parents to take the minutes at the meeting. Reach out to us on Facebook or email. Westboroparents@gmail.com

Highlights from the month of October

Mrs. Richard talked about the artist in residence that attended our school. Mrs. Prouse talked about the safety patrol program, coffee and treats that was provided for staff members. Don Irwin our school trustee (who attends every council meeting) talked about Bus Transportation and dipping into reserve funds, the outcome of the election as well as answered parents question. Fundraising options were talked about with those in attendance. Mr. Lastiwka spoke about the book study and getting that started. We spoke about allocating money for Mrs. Graziano the school councillor for educational games. We also put money towards providing books for those that need them for the book study.

November 24th is the next Council/Parent Group meeting. Our meetings will continue to be virtual. All parents are welcome to attend. We also have our facebook group check us out- Westboroparents group

INCLEMENT WEATHER

With the winter season almost here, we want to remind families to dress children appropriately for the weather when getting ready for school or the bus. The weather often changes unexpectedly throughout the day, so please select suitable outerwear and ensure your child is prepared for changing conditions.

If inclement weather conditions occur, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) advises families of any bus cancellations using various communications tools—automated-telephone messages, alerts posted on www.eips.ca and school websites, Twitter, Facebook, local radio stations, and notification through both the Bus Status and the Ride 360 apps. Morning bus cancellations are posted on www.eips.ca by 6:30 a.m.

Decisions regarding bus cancellations are guided by EIPS administrative procedures that state, “school bus service may be suspended...when there is a forecast or current temperature of -40 C, including wind chill factor, in one or more regions.” Other reasons for suspending or delaying school bus services include adverse weather and poor road conditions. When school bus services are suspended, schools remain open to students. EIPS believes families have the right and responsibility to make choices for their children based on their beliefs and perceptions of safety during times of inclement weather.

For more information, contact EIPS Student Transportation at 780-417-8151.

THE SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Experience the joy of a Book Fair online by joining us! Our very own online shopping site will be open until **November 1**.

<https://virtualbookfairs.scholastic.ca/pages/5160129>

Extended family can participate in the **Virtual Book Fair** from the comfort of home.

Remember, all purchases benefit our school and earn **Rewards** that can be redeemed for books and Education Resources for our school's library.

Thank you for participating in our **Scholastic Virtual Book Fair!**

Happy reading!
Mrs. White

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK POSTER CONTEST

The Alberta Student Transportation Advisory Council (ASTAC) is sponsoring a provincial poster contest for students in kindergarten to Grade 6 to promote School Bus Safety Week, October 17-23. This year's theme is “Bus Rules Rock!” The entry deadline is November 6.

[Learn more](#)

BYSTANDER INTERVENTION


Sherwood Heights will be hosting a virtual parent night in partnership with Saffron Centre to talk about assault and harassment. As parents and caregivers, we want to step in and offer help if our kids come to us with concerns. Sometimes this can feel difficult or overwhelming if we don't have the language and knowledge to guide our decision making. Learning about bystander intervention can help us feel equipped to assist others experiencing sexual assault or harassment. This training will talk about barriers to bystander intervention, how to overcome them, different ways of intervening and we will work through some examples together. There will be a question-and-answer time at the end. If any parents need resources or organizations to follow up with there will be time for that as well. If you would like more details, please contact our FSLW jessica.moen@eips.ca

Thursday, November 4, 2021

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

The virtually with the zoom link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89409061200pwd=QVBiZU9yWnlTbkF2SmFtbWJhUFkrQT09#success>



SAFFRON CENTRE

BYSTANDER INTERVENTION

FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT AND HARASSMENT

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH
7:00PM-9:00PM
JOIN VIRTUALLY WITH THE ZOOM LINK BELOW

Learn why intervention isn't an easy task.

Understand what real intervention looks like.

Equip yourself with skills to intervene when necessary.

For more information please email jessica.moen@eips.ca or ryanc@saffroncentre.com

ZOOM LINK:
[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/89409061200?PWD=QVBiZU9yWnlTbkF2SmFtbWJhUFkrQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89409061200?pwd=QVBiZU9yWnlTbkF2SmFtbWJhUFkrQT09)

Hello Westboro Families!

Welcome to a new school year! We are hoping to run another Christmas giving campaign this year for families in need. This has been a tough year for many but an even more difficult one for some. Two years ago, we were able to collect specific items for specific families in and around Edmonton. This year, because of Covid 19, purchasing, handling and delivering these items is not recommended. In light of that, we are hoping we can purchase gift cards to be distributed to the same charitable group that we supported last year.

Gift cards for the following are suggested:

- *Grocery stores
- *Restaurants
- *Bus passes
- *Wal Mart
- *Amazon

*Any other ones that could be beneficial to providing a good Christmas, whether it be in the form of food, personal hygiene items or gifts.

We are asking that you begin thinking of what you may contribute toward many families in need (please know this is optional). Perhaps next time you are at a till, or even shopping online, we ask that you consider buying a gift card from that store for someone else. We would like to drop these off to the organization earlier in December so that they may be put in the right hands before Christmas. With this in mind, please have all gift cards handed in to your homeroom teacher on or before **Tuesday, November 30, 2021.**

Cards collected will be donated to the organization we supported last year. This group is called "Hearts Thrift Store" or "The Christmas Campaign for Families in Need" (see both on Facebook). We will not be adopting a family per se but will give these cards to Teresa Roque who heads up these groups and they will be distributed as needed. If you are a family in need, please reach out to this organization. Every year, more and more families seek her help for necessities and everyday things. It is sad to hear, but we are happy to help, even in a small way!

Thank you for your generosity, your kindness and your empathy. We are a strong school full of warriors with very big hearts! Take good care everyone. Stay healthy and happy and may you be blessed by this giving as much as we and others are! Please feel free to contact either or us if you have any questions.



Stacey Bouwers and Tracey Prouse



Strathcona County Information

COVID-19 UPDATE

Starting October 6, private outdoor gatherings are limited to 20 people and 2m distancing. Proof of vaccinations required to access non-essential County services, effective September 20. Masks and physical distancing are mandatory province-wide in all indoor public spaces, workplaces and public vehicles. Albertans 12+ can get vaccinated. View the current Strathcona County COVID-19 case count. Isolation is mandatory if you have COVID-19 or core COVID-19 symptoms. Learn more [here](#).

FALL BREAK SWIMMING PROGRAMS

Stroke improvement classes are Monday-Friday (omit Thursday, November 11) for ages 5Y+:

Red Cross Swim Kids levels 3-5: <https://bit.ly/3pD0eAu>

Red Cross Swim Kids levels 6-7: <https://bit.ly/3Eks88u>

Red Cross Swim Kids levels 8-10: <https://bit.ly/3mgIWG5>

Reminder: Strathcona County is participating in the Restriction Exemption Program. Please read our know before you go swimming tips before arriving for your class:

<https://www.strathcona.ca/.../recrea.../aquatic-programs/...>

FALL BREAK PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAMS

This fall break, embrace your inner artist and performer. From November 8-12, we have an exciting lineup of performing arts programs for those aged 5Y - 12Y:

Just Imagine each day has a playful new theme to entice the creation of dramatic characters through storytelling, dance movements and music. **Register now (5Y - 12Y):** <https://bit.ly/3ptbGij>

Best of Both (performing & visual arts combo). Come and explore with us and see how both art forms can be creatively connected. Participants will become both a visual artist and a performer.

Register now (6Y - 12Y): <https://bit.ly/3jtk8tP>

Performing arts aren't your jam? We also have several other opportunities available during fall break, you can check them out here <https://reconline.strathcona.ca/.../browse/PROGFALLBREAK>

FREE SKATES AND SWIMS

Enjoy a healthy halloween in Strathcona County! There are various FREE skating and swimming opportunities throughout the day on October 31:

FREE SKATES (remember to wear your costume!):

- 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at Strathcona Olympiette Centre
- 1 - 3 p.m. at Ardrossan Recreation Complex
- 1:30 p.m. - 3 p.m. at Moyer Recreation Centre
- 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. at Glen Allan Recreation Complex
- 2 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. at Broadmoor Arena

FREE SWIM:

- 2:30 p.m. - 5 p.m. at Emerald Hills Leisure Centre (sponsored by Pasta Pantry)