



September 24, 2023



WESTBORO ELEMENTARY

Weekly Newsletter

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

September 30: Orange Shirt Day

ORANGE SHIRT DAY

September 30 is the annual National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a federal statutory holiday created to honour the survivors of the residential school system, the children who never returned home, as well as their families and communities. Westboro Elementary will recognize the day on Friday, September 29. Staff and students are encouraged to wear orange shirts to commemorate the solemn day of remembrance of the tragic history and ongoing impacts of the residential school system. Learn more about [Orange Shirt Day](#).

SCHOOL FEES

School fee information for the 2023-24 school year is now posted on the PowerSchool Parent Portal. All fees are due within 30 days of being posted. To access your fee information, simply log in to the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) and go to "Student Fees." There you can view your fees and pay them online.

Don't forget to also log in to the PowerSchool Parent Portal regularly throughout the year. Fees are often added to your child's account to cover the cost of various school activities such as field trips, class projects, extracurricular activities fees and more.

If circumstances exist where you're unable to pay your fees, you can apply to have certain [fees waived](#) by submitting an [Application for a Waiver of Fees](#). The application deadline is Dec. 15, 2023.

For more information about school fees, waivers and payment deadlines, visit www.eips.ca/schools/fees and <https://www.westboroelementary.ca/about/fees>. Alternatively, contact Billie Jean Mepham, Business Manager at Westboro Elementary at 780-467-7751.

PRINCIPAL MESSAGE

One of the main goals for our school this year is to strengthen the relationship between the school and the caregivers of our students. Please read on so I can explain why this is important:

The role of both the school and parents/guardians or caregivers is to help our children become contributing members of society when they become adults. In most cases, this means students entering the workforce. The role of the school in this journey includes teaching kids curricular outcomes that encompass literacy skills, numeracy skills, and a general understanding of how the world works. At an elementary level, this includes teaching kids to read, write, and develop their foundational math skills.

Schools are often referred to as microcosms of the world. At school, children have the opportunity to meet people with different backgrounds and ideas. It is through these experiences of meeting and working with others that students learn to make friends and resolve conflicts. Often, these skills are referred to as cross-curricular competencies. Along with learning to collaborate, these competencies include critical thinking, problem-solving skills, creativity, and innovation. The culmination of these skills is what helps our students enter the workforce and become contributing members of society when they finish school.

As we all know, preparing kids for their adult life is complicated and challenging. This is why it is important that the school and home work together to support each other for the betterment of our children. The most important role that families have is ensuring their children's basic needs are met, including food, clothing, and sufficient sleep on school nights. Often, these roles become more complicated as we help students learn to read, understand math, and navigate peer relationships, social media, and many other challenges that our youth face today.

In an effort to better collaborate, Westboro Elementary would like to invite families not only to seek help but also to offer help when needed. If you are a family that faces any challenges, please reach out to the school as we can provide assistance and connect you to community resources for support. If you are a parent or caregiver who would like to assist others, please reach out to the school as well. Even simple acts, such as volunteering at the school to read to children, are greatly appreciated.

If at any time you have questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher or the school administration at Westboro School. We are always here to answer questions and assist our families in navigating the challenging and important task of raising our children.

RESPIRATORY ILLNESS GUIDANCE

The health and safety of staff, students and visitors is a top priority. Continue to reinforce the following hygiene habits to protect staff and students from spreading respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19.

- Stay home if you're feeling sick.
- Wash or sanitize your hands often.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Clean and disinfect high touch surfaces regularly.
- Wear a mask if you get sick or develop symptoms while at school or work.

As per Alberta Health [guidelines](#), staff, students, contractors and visitors who have symptoms of respiratory illness or test positive for COVID, should stay home until:

- symptoms have improved,
- they feel well enough to resume normal activities, **and**
- they have been fever-free for 24 hours without using fever-reducing medications.

For anyone who has a respiratory illness or has tested positive for COVID, it is **recommended** that they wear a mask for a total of **10 days** from the onset of symptoms—even if the symptoms have resolved or improved—when in indoor settings with other individuals.

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK: OCTOBER 15-21

Schools throughout Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) are celebrating School Bus Safety Week October 15-21. The theme: 'Stand Back From Yellow and Black,' which focuses on proper school bus safety behaviour. Throughout the week, various activities are planned, including information sessions, bus-safety lesson plans and bus-evacuation drills.

As part of School Bus Safety Week, Westboro Elementary reminds students and families all Division school buses are equipped with a Tyler Drive tablet, bus-pass scanner, GPS technology, the Child Check-Mate system and surveillance equipment, which allows Student Transportation to better monitor and manage its more than 175 buses. Families and students also have access to the Traversa Ride 360 app, a mobile tool to help determine the location of a bus, projected arrival times and when a child is scanned onto a bus.

For more information, visit [EIPS Student Transportation](#) or contact 780-417-8151.

FROM ALEXA TO ALGORITHMS: PARENTING IN THE ERA OF AI

Join the University of Alberta and Amii for an engaging 45-minute online webinar designed to boost AI literacy for parents of kids of all ages, from kindergarten to graduate students. The session will focus on global citizenship, online safety, and education and career guidance.

Don't miss this fun and informative opportunity to empower your parenting in the age of AI, ensuring your kids thrive in tomorrow's tech-driven world.

Event Details:

Date: Nov. 2, 2023 Time: 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 p.m.

Location: Virtual [REGISTER NOW](#)

ALBERTA HEALTH SERVICES ADDICTION AND MENTAL HEALTH NEWSLETTER

The September edition of the Alberta Health Services Addiction and Mental Health Newsletter focuses on parent involvement in schools. [Newsletter](#)

Themes include:

- [Parent involvement in school](#)
- [Parent involvement in school is one of the 40 developmental assets](#)
- [Ways to stay involved in your child's education—Part One](#)
- [Ways to stay involved in your child's education—Part Two](#)

CAREGIVER EDUCATION SESSIONS

Alberta Health Services hosts a variety of virtual caregiver information sessions throughout the year focused on ways to support students' mental health. The sessions are free and geared toward parents, caregivers, teachers and community members who want to learn more about challenges impacting children and adolescents. Session topics include anxiety, ADHD, depression, self-harm, technology, teens and teaching leadership skills, communication, resiliency and more.

Visit [Caregiver Education](#) to see the monthly caregiver sessions.

Strathcona County Information

STRATHCONA COUNTY CULTURE DAYS CELEBRATION 2023

Explore and celebrate the wonder of Strathcona County's diverse and rich cultures during Culture Days, **September 23 to 24!**

Experience **FREE**, family-fun activities - there's something for everyone.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/264454556484539>

NATIONAL DAY OF TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Join Indigenous Elders, knowledge keepers and presenters to learn about the history, heritage, resilience and diversity of Indigenous Peoples and honour those affected by residential schools. The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation will be hosted at Broadmoor Lake Park and surrounding locations on September 30. All activities and events are free throughout the day.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1026206295352912/>

CONFIDENT KIDS

Confident Kids is back! For grades 1-3.

Helping children to develop confidence and strong social-emotional skills, they need opportunities to experience peer interactions in a safe and encouraging environment. This interactive program will create space for your young person to connect with others and learn new skills in a fun way!

Thursdays starting **September 28 until October 19**

5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Strathcona County Family and Community Services

Register at <https://www.strathcona.ca/.../family-resource-network/>

CONNECTION PROGRAM GUIDE

And just like that, we're back to school! Fall brings fresh opportunities to meet new people, try new activities and get connected in the community.

Designed for all ages and stages of life, the Connections program guide is your one-stop resource for events, volunteer opportunities, mental health support and more!

Check it out: <https://ow.ly/1HwQ50PLMxl>