

October 2016

Elk Island Public Schools



THE WESTBORO REPORT

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



During September Mr. Matheson and I have had the opportunity to visit each class and we are busy learning many new names and seeing many new faces. It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Welcome Back BBQ!

October also promises to be a busy month with Read-In Week, Shop 'Til Ya Drop and Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences. Thank you to the many parents who joined us for our Numeracy night in September! It was a great evening and the pizza was much enjoyed too! We are also looking forward to the beginning of our swimming lessons for Grades 1-3. As well, plan on joining us for our Family Read In on Wednesday, October 12 over the noon hours!

KUDOS FROM WESTBORO

THANK YOU to all staff, parents, students and friends that attended and made our Meet the Teacher BBQ. It was a great evening!

A special thanks goes to the following:

- ◆ Nottingham Sobeys – discounted donations of hotdogs, buns and condiments!
- ◆ Mr. Matheson and Mrs. Alpern for picking up all the food and the barbeques. And a special thank you to Mr. Matheson for manning the Barbeque!
- ◆ All the staff who attended for their help and for volunteering all evening!



From the Office

OCTOBER DATES

- 5 Early Dismissal
- 5 Newsletter out
- 5 Emergency Bus Evac Drill Gr. 1-6
- 6 & 7 No School - PD Days
- 10 Thanksgiving Day
- 11 – 14 READ IN WEEK!
- 14 Hot Lunch
- 17 – 22 Book Fair
- 18 Swimming Starts for Gr. 1-3 (every Tuesday until December 18)
- 19 School Council Meeting 6:30
- 22 Shop 'Til Ya Drop!
- 26 Photo Retakes
- 26/27 S/P/T Conferences 4 - 7PM
- 28 Hot Dog lunch

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WESTBORO NEWS!

TERRY FOX

Congratulations goes out to Savannah who was the top fundraiser in our school for our Terry Fox run.

Congratulations to all our students who demonstrated excellent perseverance as they completed their run on the afternoon of September 16th. Students and families in Westboro Elementary managed to raise over \$800.55 in donations. What a fantastic accomplishment!



LIBRARY NEWS

Scholastic Book Fair in the Library

Monday, Oct. 17th	9:00AM - 2:30PM
Tuesday, Oct. 18th	9:00AM - 2:30PM
Wednesday, Oct. 19th	9:00AM - 2:30PM
Thursday, Oct. 20th	9:00AM - 2:30PM
Friday, Oct. 21st	9:00AM - 2:30PM
Saturday, Oct. 22nd	10:00AM - 4:00PM



PICTURE DAY!

Picture Retake Day is Wednesday, October 26th!!



Please watch your students' agendas or backpacks for their picture proof sheets. Should you need, picture retakes are scheduled for Wednesday, October 26th. Retakes for kindergarten and grades 1 to 6 students will be done in the morning starting at 10:30 a.m. and concluding at 12:30. Please be sure to let your student's teacher know if you would like your student(s) to have another picture taken.

HALLOWEEN AT WESTBORO

After numerous discussions with our school community, Halloween will be celebrated in the following manner at Westboro Elementary this school year. This year we will hold the annual Halloween classroom celebrations in the afternoon only—the last two periods being reserved for individual classroom activities. Students will be allowed to change into their costumes in the afternoon only. Please ***do not send your student(s) to school dressed up.***

Please note Westboro adheres to a strict policy of **no ghoulish or gory costumes.** We have younger children in our school population that we must consider. As well, there are to be **no weapons or weapon-like props** included in the costumes—these are best enjoyed during your evening outings. This year, our Logos classes will be attending an alternate activity. Details will be forthcoming.

WESTBORO NEWS!

READ-IN WEEK! OCTOBER 11 - 14 "ONE WORLD - MANY VOICES ... CAN CHANGE THE WORLD!"

One World—Many Voices ... Can Change the World!

Reading is Groovy—dig out your tie-dyed shirts!

We will be celebrating "Read-In Week" from October 9th to October 12. Our staff have been busy planning many fun, and "groovy" 60s-themed activities.

Students will have the opportunity to "S.U.R.F." (Silent Uninterrupted Reading Fun) during the day on Tuesday and Thursday. Students will need to carry a book with them at all times and listen for the surfing music that will signal the reading fun!

On Wednesday, we would invite parents to join us at school with a blanket and their favorite books to enjoy a picnic style lunch and read-in with their child(ren). Find a spot in the hallway, in a classroom or outside to curl up with your favorite book and enjoy lunch together! It will be super cool dude!

Because many voices have changed the world throughout history, Friday will see an assembly in the gym at 9:00 for a story and an official sit in, where students will SURF for 15 minutes. We will all dress in our groovy 60s clothes and have a Groovy Friday!!



COUNSELLOR'S CORNER - MS. FEDOR

Caregiver Education Sessions

These **FREE** sessions provide parents and teachers with basic information about issues that can impact children and youth. Upcoming sessions include:

- Breaking the Cycle of Anxiety
- Test Anxiety
- Supporting Self-Regulation in Children
- Social Skills
- Parenting Teens
- Supporting Children with ADHD
- Youth with Depression and Self-Injury

Please see the schedule posted on the parent board for information on dates, locations and registration. If you would like a copy of this schedule, please contact Ms. Fedor.

EXCITING NEWS: The Roots of Empathy Program Returns to Westboro!!!

The Grade 3 Logos class is participating in the Roots of Empathy program this year. It is a character building program with many layers of positive impact. Students learn about child growth and development through monthly visits from a mother and baby. In watching the unique parent/child bond, students learn about feelings and relationships and increase their emotional literacy. This increases empathy for others, which is believed to contribute to less bullying in schools.

Once a month, Mrs. Fitzgerald and Baby Jayne will visit the 3L class. Ms. Fedor is a certified Roots of Empathy instructor and will teach the monthly lessons which include writing, science, health and art activities. We will learn about baby care, safety and development, and celebrate the baby's milestones. Students explore their own feelings and celebrate their personal accomplishments. This encourages self-esteem and feelings of positive self-worth.

Ms. Fedor taught Roots of Empathy at Westboro School years ago, and some of our former "Roots" babies are now students at our school. Nathalie, Sophie and Aliana once visited our classrooms and shared their first year with us. It is a very special program and one I am proud to offer to our school. Westboro is one of the few schools in Sherwood Park schools delivering the Roots of Empathy program. J

We are very excited to have Julie Fitzgerald and Baby Jayne visit our school this year! It is extra special as Mrs. Fitzgerald is a member of our Westboro family on maternity leave – and she will be visiting and sharing this exciting year with us! J We will be posting photos of our special moments on the Roots of Empathy Board by Ms. Fedor's office – be sure to take a moment to stop and look!

If you have questions or would like more information on this wonderful program, please see Ms. Fedor or go online to <http://www.rootsofempathy.org/>. At Westboro School, we will work together to change the world, child by child!!

REMEMBRANCE DAY ASSEMBLY

Please join us on Friday, November 10th at 10:30 a.m. for our annual Remembrance Day Service in our school gymnasium. Our service will pay tribute to the countless men and women who have served and continue to serve our country.

We would like to extend an invitation to any war veterans or members of the military to join us, in uniform, if applicable. There will be reserved seating available for these honoured guests. Students are also invited to wear their club uniforms to school. e.g. Cubs, Scouts, Brownies, Guides, etc. to school for this special event.



It is hard to believe that September is already over but here we are moving steadily into the fall and coming up on Thanksgiving. The Lord has given us so much to be thankful for including the wonderful teachers of the Logos program. We wanted to take a moment and also thank everyone in the Logos family for their support with the apple fundraiser, specifically Jenn Wolfe our fundraising coordinator. I know that I have grown to equate September with apple deliciousness because of this fundraiser!

October is another busy month. I encourage all parents to join us on October 11 at 7:00pm in the Sherwood Heights library for our next board meeting. We are also having our first chapel on Tuesday, October 18th at 1:00pm. Chapel is being hosted by the grade one and two Logos classes and Pastor Battison will be the guest speaker. I also hear that there is a special song that the grade one and two classes have been preparing so you don't want to miss it!

Our combined Logos Fall Chapel will take place on October 31. This year it is going to look a little different. Our division 1 students will be spending the afternoon at Kids Quarterz and division 2 will be swimming at the Kinsmen Pool!! Watch for permission forms to be coming home with your children. Remember, to stay connected and up to date on what is happening with Logos, please visit our website at <http://elkislandlogos.ca> and join the Elk Island Logos Society Facebook page.

Krista Goretzky and Rachel Milne
Westboro Logos Representatives

Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods. Psalm 95:2-3



Hello Westboro Parents!

Thank you to everyone who attended our first meeting. We had some wonderful conversations about what Parents as Partners means to each of us (Parents as Partners is Board of Trustees Priority/ Outcome). We also looked at some of the emergency procedures from a parent perspective and we welcome feedback (we will be discussing this in October).

Our annual Shop Til Ya Drop event is coming up on Saturday, October 22nd! If you haven't attended, it's an awesome event. We will have a bunch of vendors set up in the gym and you can get all your shopping done in one place! If you know of someone who might be interested in selling, please contact Amy at WestboroShopTilYaDrop@gmail.com.

Stay fully informed by joining our email list. Due to FOIP, we must maintain our own list, separate from the school. We use it mostly to send out agendas and minutes, so I promise you won't be bombarded by emails! To join, just email us at WestboroParents@gmail.com. We also have a Facebook page to serve our community at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/WestboroParents/>

We are also working on a pilot project relating to traffic safety at Westboro. We will be sending home a contest sheet where you can take the pledge to do your part for traffic safety, and your child can depict what 5 metres looks like. Completed forms can be returned to the school to be entered into a draw. Watch for more information to come home next week!

Playground Update

Our playground officially opened last week! We had a wonderful turnout for this ceremony, including many key officials. I found their speeches interesting as each one referenced community and how important this community is. For those who know me, building community is also one of my passions, so I was happy to hear that reinforced by others as well.

The students were so well-behaved during the formal portion of the ceremony and everyone enjoyed watching them play afterwards! A special thank you to our two grade 6 emcees who did an excellent job. We were so proud of them and received great feedback about them, as well as our special greeters.

CBC Edmonton was in attendance and if you didn't see the story, you can check it out at <http://www.cbc.ca/beta/news/canada/edmonton/sherwood-park-playground-opens-after-2-years-of-fundraising-1.3785030>

An extra special thank you to **Ken Galbraith Professional Horseshoeing** for stepping up at the last minute to sponsor the BBQ. We loved watching everyone play, eat and chat.

We are so excited to have our playground completed. There are always kids and families playing and enjoying it! Our dream of building an accessible and inclusive community playground has indeed come true.

Jacquie Surgenor
Chair

WESTBORO ELEMENTARY PRESENTS

Shop til ya Drop



With Dozens of great vendors and fantastic raffle prizes, this is an event you don't want to miss!

Get a head start on your holiday shopping! Treat yourself to a fun day out with friends and family at our fabulous fundraiser!

Saturday, October 22th
10:00am – 4:00pm

WESTBORO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GYM
1078 STRATHCONA DRIVE, SHERWOOD PARK, AB

All are welcome!

Along with the **Scholastic Book Fair**, the event showcases these fine vendors:

- Arbonne
- AVON
- Epicure
- Get Chipped
- Glasses to Go
- Jamberry
- Joan's Creations
- Norwex
- Pampered Chef
- Say it With a Sign
- Seacret
- Steeped Tea
- Thirty-One Gifts
- Tupperware
- Younique
- ZIZI's Place
- AND MANY MORE.....**

Accepting Donations
for the Foodbank!



UNITED WAY

Do you support The United Way campaign through your work?

Did you know that you can also help Westboro Parents with the same donation? When you fill in your form, you can direct your donation to any Canadian Charity and Westboro Parents Group is a registered charity. So, you can write our name on that line and we will receive that donation. It's so easy to support us! Questions? Please contact the Westboro Parents' Group.

STUDENT SAFETY

Just a reminder that students and visitors are required to enter through the front doors and sign in at our office if they arrive after the bell at 8:37 a.m.

If you are visiting our school for an extended period of time (volunteering in a classroom) please ensure that you sign in at the office as well as pick up one of our name tags. These practices ensure that our students remain safe at school.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



It's that time of year again (almost!). This year Westboro is pleased to announce that we are taking part in Operation Christmas Child as part of our sharing our blessings program.

In order to allow all children to participate, we are doing things a little differently. Outside of each classroom will be a basket labelled with an Operation Christmas Child label. Please, together with your child if possible, head to the store and purchase one or two small items that each class could gather and put together in a class box to be sent away for a needy child.

Of course, if you and your family would like to do a box or two at home, there will be plenty of boxes to go around! I will leave extras by the office. Our goal to fill 50 boxes from our school community. Do

remember, however, that your participation is entirely optional. A pamphlet outlining suggestions for the boxes will also be found at the office.

After you've made a donation, please feel free to take EITHER a sticker or a bookmark as a small token of our appreciation. Whether you buy for a boy or girl, or what age, does not matter as Mrs. Christenson, Mrs. Dickey and myself will be putting together the boxes when we have received all of the donations.

As our boxes need to be ready to go by mid-November, I am asking that all gifts be into the school boxes by **November 8** so that we may get them off before Fall break.

Finally, if you do not wish to purchase something, but instead can make a donation, these will also be gratefully received. Each box costs money to send away and these funds will be used for this purpose.

Thanks again so much for helping teach our kids about generosity, blessings, and thankfulness. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask!

TRAFFIC SAFETY

Thank you to the many parents who continue to respect the rules around drop off and pick up for our students at Westboro Elementary!!

Over the next month, students in Grades K-3 have been practicing correct procedures for crossing roads and also for movement on our playgrounds.

In addition to this, police have been on site issuing tickets for various infractions. **Did you know?**

- It is illegal to park within 5 m of an entrance, driveway or crosswalk?
- The speed limit in specifically marked school zones is 30 km/h. A school zone is in effect on school days from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.?
- The fine for failing to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk or passing a vehicle stopped at a crosswalk is \$575?
- The fine for stopping in a zone marked as busing, handi-capped or no stopping is \$275?

Once again, we would kindly ask you to be good neighbors and refrain from parking in the front stalls of the parking lot across from our school. Businesses have kindly allowed us access to this lot and we would suffer greatly if this privilege was revoked.

Thank you for all you do to help keep our students safe!

Congratulations to our AMA Safety Patroller of the Month, Jaida.



WESTBORO HOT LUNCH

The school year is well underway and so is our hot lunch program. Online ordering for November and December will be open from Oct. 23 to Nov. 4. Visit westboro.hotlunches.net to place your orders. If you registered for online ordering in September, you can now use that login username and password for the rest of the school year. If you are just starting for the year, sign up as a new user. If you have any questions email us at westborohotlunches@gmail.com.

Also, a big **Thank You** to our volunteers for their continued support!

PARENT COFFEE GROUP

Please mark these dates on your calendar and then join other Westboro parents for coffee and a visit and to continue to create great connections! Coffee is held in our Library from 8:30 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. Siblings welcome!

Monday November 7th

Monday December 5th



Parent/Teacher/Student interviews will be held at **4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.** on **Wednesday, October 26 and Thursday, October 27, 2016.** This year we will continue using the online booking system to book interviews. The steps for this process are outlined below.



Now you can book school interviews for the times that suit *your family*.
Go to www.schoolinterviews.ca and follow these simple instructions.

Simply enter the code and press "Go"

Enter your details

Select the teachers you want to see

Select the appointment times that suit your family best

When you click **FINISH**, your interview timetable will be emailed to you automatically. If you do not receive your email immediately –

check your junk mail folder

You can return to www.schoolinterviews.ca at any time, and change your interviews - until the bookings close.

BOOKINGS OPEN MONDAY OCTOBER 11th at 9:00 a.m.

For parents that do not have internet access, computers will be available in the School Library for parents to make their own bookings. Interviews are for a duration of 10 minutes, however, if you require more time, please contact your teacher directly to make alternative arrangements.

PLEASE NOTE: Kindergarten conferences run for a period of 30 minutes. A one-on-one interview will be embedded into this time.

BOOKINGS CLOSE WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25th at 3:30 p.m.

You may change your bookings, any time prior to the closing date, by re-visiting the www.schoolinterviews.ca website, and using the event code. Remember to use the same name and email address, you used when you made your original booking. Parents wishing to change their interview times after the closing date, should contact the school directly at (780) 467-7751.

EIPS DIVISION NEWS

HEAD LICE

REMINDER: Make head checks for lice a regular routine!

As many of you are aware, head lice are tiny, greyish brown insects that live on the scalp and lay their eggs, or nits, in the hair close to the scalp. Anyone can get lice and they are commonly detected on school-aged children—itching is the main complaint. As such, head lice can appear in school communities at any time.

While head lice prevention and control is primarily the responsibility of the parent, the handling of it is a shared responsibility between the parent/guardian, school and community. To prevent the spread of head lice, we strongly encourage you to speak to your child about preventative behaviour such as avoiding head-to-head contact and not sharing combs, hats, pillows and hair accessories. We also ask you to check your child's hair weekly for any signs of head lice or nits. If your child has head lice, notify the school, treat the lice using both a treatment solution and lice comb and keep your child home until all signs of active head lice are gone. The school will support you by working discreetly with the teacher, students and families to prevent further transmission.

For more information about head lice prevention and treatment, visit www.eips.ca/parents/health-safety-information/head-lice. Alternatively, you can contact the school at **780-467-7751**.

CELEBRATING WORLD TEACHERS' DAY: OCTOBER 5

October 5 is World Teachers' Day! Launched in 1994 by the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Teachers' Day is celebrated annually around the world as a way to recognize teachers and the integral role they play in providing quality education to students. On October 5, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) encourages all of its students, parents and community members to show their appreciation for their teachers and the positive impact they make on our lives.

EIPS extends its heartfelt thank you to all its teachers for their dedication, hard work, and commitment in guiding and educating our students through their Kindergarten to Grade 12 years.

LITERACY AND LEARNING DAY

The 14th annual Literacy and Learning Day Conference takes place on Oct. 22, 2016 at the Edmonton Expo Centre. The event is a fun-filled day for both parents and teachers, and includes various free workshops and keynote speakers. Participants are guaranteed to walk away with new strategies, tools and resources to support children as they grow and learn. The conference is free and everyone is welcome. For more information, or to register, visit www.literacyday.ca.

MEASLES IMMUNIZATION REMINDER

Alberta Health Services (AHS) advises persons who attend, work or volunteer at schools are at risk of getting measles. Lack of measles immunization can mean possible exclusion from work or school when there is a school measles exposure. Contact your local Public Health Centre to receive the measles vaccine or check immunization records. **Please communicate this information to your school community by distributing this [measles immunization letter from AHS](#).**

EIPS DIVISION NEWS

Fentanyl Fact Sheet

As many of you are aware, the drug Fentanyl is having a devastating impact on many Albertan families. In an effort to increase awareness and educate students and parents about the drug Alberta Education has put together a [Fentanyl Fact Sheet](#) .

For more information email AlbertaValuingMentalHealth@gov.ab.ca.

NO CHILD WITHOUT

In our ongoing effort to provide safe and caring schools for our students, **Westboro Elementary** is once again participating in the Canadian MedicAlert Foundation's No Child Without program. The program is a national initiative that provides children - between the ages four of 14 - who have chronic health conditions with MedicAlert services, at no cost. The goal is twofold: to help children with severe allergies, medical conditions or special needs and to assist schools with medical-emergency plans for students.

Once a child is registered, their school is provided with advice on a medical-emergency plan for that student and given a list of medications, allergies and medical conditions the student has. If your child has a serious medical condition or allergy and would benefit from MedicAlert services, please contact the school office at **780-467-7751**. To learn more about the No Child Without program visit www.nochildwithout.ca.

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK: OCTOBER 18–24

Schools throughout Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) are celebrating School Bus Safety Week October 17–21. The theme: Know the Zone, which is all about teaching children the danger areas surrounding the bus. Throughout the week, various activities are planned including information sessions, bus safety lesson plans, and bus-evacuations drills.

As part of School Bus Safety week, we'd like to remind our students and our families all EIPS school buses are equipped with both a bus-pass scanner and GPS technology, which allows Student Transportation to better monitor and manage its more than 170 buses and 600 bus routes. Thanks to this technology, parents and students also have access to the Versatrans My Stop app, a mobile tool to help determine the location of a bus, projected arrival times and when a child scanned onto a bus.

More information about School Bus Safety Week and EIPS Student Transportation services can be found by visiting www.eips.ca/student-tran or by contacting Student Transportation (780-417-8151, st@eips.ca) directly.