



VIRTUE

Kindness

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IMPORTANT DATES:

Feb 8, 9 –
 Teacher's Convention
 NO SCHOOL

Feb. 14 –
 Valentine's Day

Feb. 16 –
 CPF Family Dance

Feb. 19 –
 Family Day –
 NO SCHOOL

Feb. 28 –
 Anti-Bullying Day –
 Pink Shirt Day

Feb. 28 –
 Early Dismissal

Fox News

from École Westlock Elementary School

Kindness...springs Happiness...

January has come and gone and so has the first half of the school year. We need to 'keep our foot on the gas' though, as we still have a considerable amount of work to complete. Learning opportunities for all students in an inclusive, safe and caring environment remains the focus of programming. We appreciate your assistance in helping us maintain a healthy school climate in an effort to support the school experience of your children

The Self-Control virtue of January gives way to the virtue of **Kindness** for the month of February. February is also Heart month, making the virtue of **kindness** that much more prominent.

January and February is the time frame for collecting feedback from parents, students, and staff via telephone and on-line surveys. You might have been contacted in this regard. Pembina Hills and individual community schools use this feedback to inform the planning process. As always, if you have any questions about your child's experience at school, don't hesitate to contact us and we are looking forward to a successful second half of the school year.

We need your help....

This is a reminder to please contact the school office (780-349-3385) any time your child will be away from school. This includes those days when the weather is cold and busses are not running. When children are unaccounted for at school, we are responsible for determining their whereabouts. Some mornings, as was the case on day last week with 166 students absent, there are so many names on the list that phone calls take hours to complete. If ever circumstances led to a child being truly missing, in danger, or injured, we might not know about it until it's too late because of the volume of phone calls made for children who are legitimately absent. *So please call the school, and when possible do so before 9:00 am.* Thank-you.



No One Likes a Bully....

Wednesday, February 28 is Pink Shirt day. Started about a decade ago because of a bullying incident at a Nova Scotia school, this has grown into an international awareness campaign. At WES we would like to show our support for anti-bullying, and the virtues of kindness and acceptance. We will therefore, once again re-visit the Dare to Care anti-bullying curriculum with the students and will promote Pink Shirt day on Wednesday, February 28th.



And the Survey says.....

Surveys are part of the Pembina Hills Public Schools and Alberta Education feedback collecting strategy. Students, staff, and parents are surveyed annually regarding various aspects of public education generally and of their community school specifically. Many parents were contacted in the month of January; surveys for staff and students are completed in the month of February. At WES, grades 4, 5, and 6 complete the Pembina Hills survey; grade 4 students also have an Alberta Education survey to complete. The feedback collected from these surveys does inform decisions made relative to student learning, school infrastructure, and daily operations.

CPF Family Dance is back!

After a brief hiatus, Canadian Parents for French (CPF) will once again be hosting a dance. It's on Friday, February 16 from 7:00 – 9:00pm here in the school gym. \$2/person or \$5/family. Draws, door prizes, photo booth, concession, tons of fun, and dancing of course! Please join us.

After School Parking Issues...



Please use the *South Parking lot* when picking up children after school. The area in front of the school is a *No Parking* zone and must be clear of unattended vehicles. Another parking concern is vehicles parked on either side of 106th street; that's the street running east-west from the bus lane entrance towards the main highway. Parking along this corridor is problematic for busses and is a safety concern, so *please* use the south parking lot instead of 106th street to pick up children after school.

