



Fox News

from École Westlock Elementary School

VIRTUE

Kindness

CONTACT INFO

P 780.349.3385
 F 780.349.3478
 10515 – 106A Street,
 Westlock, AB T7P 2E7
westlockelementary.ca
 Facebook

Pierre Ouimet

Principal

Amber Monteath

Associate Principal

IMPORTANT DATES:

Feb 5 – Air Band

Feb 6, 7 –
 Teacher's Convention
 NO SCHOOL

Feb 13 – Heritage
 Classic

Feb. 14 –
 Valentine's Day

Feb. 17 –
 Family Day –
 NO SCHOOL

Feb 21 – French
 Family Dance

Feb. 26 –
 Pink Shirt Day

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 timeframe for collecting feedback from parents, students, and staff via surveys. Thank you to all who completed the survey, this feedback *does* inform the planning process. As always, if you have any questions about your child's experience at school, please contact us. We look forward to a successful second half of the school year.

Parking Woes

Safety is of paramount importance in and around the school. The flagrant disregard for parking regulations and signage continues to be a major safety concern putting all of us at risk.

Please adhere to the parking and handicap paint and signage and exercise common courtesy when dropping off or picking up students. There is always **plenty of space in our south parking lot**. If you are in need of assistance with anything, as always, please ask.

No One Likes a Bully....

Wednesday, February 26th is Pink Shirt day. Started a few years 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, re-visit our anti-bullying strategies and curriculum with the students and promote Pink Shirt day on Wednesday, February 26.



We need your help....

This is a reminder to contact the school office (780-349-3385) any time your child will be away from school. This includes those days of extreme cold weather and busses are not running. The school is responsible to account for the whereabouts of all children who are absent. Some mornings, like on January 14 and 15, there is so many phone calls to make that it take hours to complete. The office staff made over 300 phone calls on those two days alone.

If ever a child was truly missing, in danger, or injured, we might not know about it until it is too late. So please call the school, and when possible do so before 9:00 am. If you get the answering machine, leave a message please. Thank-you for helping with this.

And the Survey says...

Surveys are part of the Pembina Hills School Division 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. Parents were to complete the survey on-line this year; surveys for staff, and students in grades 4-5-6 were complete in the month of January as well. Grade 4 students also have an Alberta Education survey to complete; that will occur in the month of February. The feedback collected from these surveys helps inform decisions made relative to student learning, school infrastructure, and daily operations.

CPF Family Dance

Canadian Parents for French (CPF) will once again be hosting a dance. It is on Friday, February 21 from 7:00 – 9:00pm here in the school gym. There will be a silent auction, raffles, door prizes, a photo booth, a concession, tons of fun, and of course..... dancing! This event is open to everybody so please join us for some inexpensive (\$2/person or \$5/family) family fun.

School Council...Friends of WES...

We are grateful for the continued partnership with School Council and the fundraising arm, Friends of Westlock Elementary. The Staff Appreciation Lunch last Thursday was a huge success. Thanks to all who contributed to this event, the staff were extremely grateful.

School Council and "Friends" is working with the school to support a few projects. One project is the purchase of new garbage cans and refurbishing the benches in the front entrance area. Another is the purchase and installation of hands free water dispensing stations. "Friends" will be fundraising for these projects, so look for an upcoming opportunity where you can support the realization of these projects.



Parents are encouraged to visit the PHSD website for information relative to the PHSD School Board ward review. There is a survey open until February 10 for your feedback.

School Council next meets Thursday, March 19 at 6:30pm in the school library. Hope to see you there.

BOSTON PIZZA FUNDRAISER

If you visit Boston Pizza in Westlock or any other location in Northern Alberta, keep your receipt and bring it to the school office. As you can see on the poster, Operation Education Fundraiser runs for the first six months of the calendar year and in years past, WES has been able to contribute a few dollars to certain projects. We would like to help with the garbage can/bench project this year. So please remember us when dining at Boston Pizza!

