

September 2020



Fox News

from École Westlock Elementary School

VIRTUE

Respect & Responsibility

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IMPORTANT DATES:

Sept 18 –

Terry Fox Run
(modified format)

Sept 23 –

School Advisory
Council Meeting-5:30

Sept 25 –

PD Day – No School

Sept 30 –

Orange Shirt Day

Oct 02 –

PD Day - No School

Oct. 6 & 8 –

Goal Setting-4:00-7:00

Hello WES families,

We're back! As cliché as this might sound, it is fantastic to have students and staff together again! We truly value being back at school in-person under Scenario 1 and look forward to a year of learning and growing.

Entering our new school environment and following the guidelines and direction of Alberta Health, we fully anticipated learning new things and having to make adjustments as we go. This has certainly been the case since our staggered entry last Thursday and Friday and four days of school this week with all grades in attendance.

We have been focussing on **relationships, routines, and new safety protocols** for students and staff. The kids have been awesome in all aspects of school re-entry and the support we have received from parents and guardians has been equally fantastic and very much appreciated! WES is off to a great start!

If you have any questions about anything related to your child's experience at school, as always, don't hesitate to contact the school.

Pierre Ouimet



WELCOME.....

We welcome Mrs. McRitchie back from maternity leave; she will co-teach a grade 4 class with Miss Biberdorf. Also join me in welcoming Mr. Jerry Buchko to our grade 6 teaching staff.

On behalf of the entire staff whether new or returning, we look forward to a great year of teaching and learning.

PARKING DO'S AND DONT'S.....

Please use the south parking lot when arriving at school with a vehicle. Pay attention to the **No Parking** signs and **yellow and blue curbing** in front of the school. These areas are NOT to be used to park vehicles, attended or unattended, for any length of time. By-law enforcement and the Fire Department authorities help us monitor this area throughout the year and can issue \$80 parking tickets.



Also, **do not enter the bus lane** when dropping off or picking up your child, specifically between 8:15 – 8:55 and again between 3:00 – 3:40. If you are parked behind the Rec Center or Community Hall, use the sidewalk to go to and from the school. For safety reasons we ask all students to do this, so the adults must as well.

Bell Schedule...



The structure of our school day and corresponding bell schedule has undergone some revisions again this year. For a look at the new schedule, go to our website, click on Our School then on Time Table.

VISITORS IN THE BUILDING...

As many are already aware, AHS has mandated health and safety protocols that we are all getting used to, especially here in an elementary school. All visitors must enter through the main front doors, not be sick or have symptoms, must wear a mask, sanitize their hands at the entrance, and proceed directly to the office to sign in. All school doors are locked most of the day, so visitors will have to ring the doorbell.

STUDENT ILLNESS – IF A STUDENT HAS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

If you have any of these symptoms you are legally required to isolate for at least 10 days from the start of your symptoms or until they resolve, whichever is longer:

- Fever
- Cough (new cough or worsening chronic cough)

- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing (new or worsening)
- Runny nose
- Sore throat

If you have any of these other symptoms, stay home and minimize your contact with others until your symptoms resolve:

- Chills
- Painful swallowing
- Stuffy nose
- Headache
- Muscle or joint aches
- Feeling unwell, fatigue or severe exhaustion
- Gastrointestinal symptoms (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or unexplained loss of appetite)
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Conjunctivitis, commonly known as pink eye

Note: When symptoms arise and pre-existing medical conditions are present (like asthma and allergies for example) these situations are handled differently.

JOIN OUR SCHOOL COUNCIL:

Our first WES School Council meeting this year will be held Wednesday, September 23, 2020 @ 5:30pm. This will be an in-person meeting in the school library. In order to attend, you must be feeling well, free of COVID-19 symptoms, wear a mask to enter and move through the building, and sanitize your hands at the entry. Once seated in the library, masks can be removed as long as you are physically distanced and remain seated. You won't sign in at the front office, names of attendees will be taken at the meeting.

I'M GOING TO BE AWAY...

Using your child's Agenda or sending a note for your child's homeroom teacher letting them know when daily routines are going to change, is an excellent way to communicate. This greatly reduces the chance that a message gets lost. When this is absolutely NOT possible and information has to be passed along to children please call the office **BEFORE 3:00 PM**, leaving office staff sufficient time before dismissal.



If you know ahead of time of an appointment for your child, please notify the homeroom teacher. Should an absence not be known in advance please call the school first thing in the morning as attendance is done by 9:15 AM.

Any student arriving after 10:30am will be absent on the attendance for that morning. If students must leave before 2:00 pm they will be marked absent for the afternoon.

Breakfast Program...No Den

Our school canteen known as the Den is not available at this time. With COVID-19 related protocols, we are not sure when or if the Den will re-open.

However, we are excited to once again offer a breakfast snack to all interested students beginning Monday, September 14. Healthy, nutritious choices will be featured including dry cereal, milk, and fruit. We look to add yogurt, cheese, and eggs (or other protein items) as we get the program up and running. All health measures and protocols will be strictly followed in the preparation and distribution of food and drink. More information will be sent home in student agendas next week.

TERRY FOX RUN.....COVID-19 STYLE.....

We will still be organizing a Terry Fox event, though it will look a little different than in years past. We will not be walking, jogging, or running the circuit as a large group. Rather, individual classes will participate at times staggered throughout the day. If you can send a loonie or toonie to support the Terry Fox Foundation, that would be great. This event is planned for this Friday, September 18th (weather permitting) or Thursday, September 24 if it's miserable on the 18th.

ORANGE SHIRT DAY

This tradition began a few years ago and has grown nationally. It is an opportunity to show support for and to educate Canadians regarding the residential school experience of Canada's indigenous people and the impact it has had. If you have an orange shirt, wear it to school on September 30th!

The next newsletter is planned to go out October 2nd.