

**VIRTUE**

Respect & Responsibility

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:

Oct. 2 – PD day. No school

Oct. 5 to 9

PT interviews during this week. Oct 6 and 8 from 4 – 7 pm are specifically designated.

Oct 12 – No School Thanksgiving

Oct. 13 & 14

School Picture Days

Fox News

from École Westlock Elementary School

Settled In...

September has quickly come and gone, classroom routines and expectations have been established, and we have settled in for another year of learning.

The pace of September is usually quite frenetic and with COVID-19 health and safety protocols, it was even busier than usual. We leap into October looking forward to parent-teacher conferences, school photos, and the Thanksgiving season.

For many families, harvest season is in full swing; we hope this is going well despite the wet weather early in the summer that affected crops. Harvest also means it is time for our annual Goal-Setting conferences where teachers meet with parents to discuss the month of September and plans for the upcoming year. These meetings are scheduled for the week of October 5 - 9. We hope to hear from you.

It is often easy to lament what we perceive as lacking or annoying in the places we live, work, and play, especially in the pandemic era we are currently experiencing. Be thankful for the blessings and gifts we do have.

Pierre Ouimet

Parent-Teacher Interviews/Goal-setting Conferences

Parents and teachers working together to benefit student learning is important. These meetings will not be in-person this time, but rather teachers will be in contact with you to schedule a phone call or Google meet. If the context is such that an in-person meeting is what is needed, let us know and we will arrange it.

Meetings can be scheduled at any time in early October but Tuesday, Oct 6 and Thursday, Oct 8 from 4 – 7 pm is specifically assigned for these conversations.

We look forward to meeting with you.

Due to the COVID19 pandemic.....

We have had to make a few sacrifices and adjustments to our programming and pre-COVID school routines. We wholeheartedly thank all of our parents, students, and staff for their patience and understanding related to Stay at Home protocols (see below), modifications to long-standing practices, and the postponement or cancellation to a long list of other activities such as Intramurals, Soccer, the Farm Credit Canada food drive, buddy classes, using the Library, student assemblies, etc...

COVID-19 INFORMATION

Stay at Home Guide

A resource to help parents understand when they should keep their child home from school and when it's safe to return to class.

This is a summary of the Alberta Government guidance document titled "**Student Illness**" <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/covid-19-information-student-illness-if-a-student-has-covid-19-symptoms>

Most importantly: Students with symptoms **must not** attend school



DAILY HEALTH CHECK

You must screen your child for symptoms each day before school.

The Daily Health Check screening tool is available at www.pembinahills.ca

How long do students have to stay home?

If your child has ANY of these symptoms:

- Fever
- Cough (new cough or worsening chronic cough)
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing (new or worsening)
- Runny nose
- Sore throat

Here's what you need to do

You are **legally** required to have your child isolate for **at least 10 days** from the start of their symptoms or until they resolve, whichever is longer.

Returning to school

- Your child may return to school:
- once the 10-day isolation is complete **OR**
 - when your child has received a negative COVID-19 test result **AND** symptoms have resolved.

TIP - If your child gets tested for COVID-19, the quickest way to receive results is by **text message**.

If your child has ANY of these symptoms:

- 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 (pink eye)

Here's what you need to do

You must keep your child home from school until symptoms resolve. You should also minimize their contact with others until symptoms resolve.

Returning to school

Your child may return to school once symptoms have resolved. There is no need to get a COVID-19 test.

Cool, Cooler...COLD...

So far the weather has been nothing short of fantastic, both for the harvest season and for the first few weeks of school. We are especially grateful for the nicer weather during this time of COVID and the need to be outdoors more often and for longer periods of time. The colder weather is inevitable of course and will upon us soon.....so I send the following reminders:

Cold/Inclement Weather: Have your child dress for the weather including proper winter footwear, headwear and gloves/mittens. And please put your child's name in their boots!

Whenever the temperature drops to -25 including wind chill our school will have an 'inside day'. Anything warmer and children are expected to be lined up outside before 8:35 in the morning, remain outside for morning and afternoon recess, and quite possibly for their daily Phys. Ed. Class.



Parents

Sign up to receive text messages

Text "Y" or "Yes" to 978338



This fall, Pembina Hills School Division implemented a phone, email and text messaging service called **SchoolMessenger**. PHSD schools and the division will use it to contact parents and staff quickly and efficiently. SchoolMessenger will be especially important when we need to communicate regarding emergency situations or other important updates.

- **Parents can sign up by texting "Y" or "Yes" to 978338.**

While we strongly encourage parents to participate, the text messaging service is entirely optional and once parents are in, they can OPT-OUT at any time by replying "STOP" to any message.

It is **very important** that your child's school has your cell phone number on file to ensure that you receive updates from your school. After you sign up, you should also contact your child's school to ensure the correct phone number is on file.

Terry Fox and Orange Shirt day

These two events were **not** significantly affected by the pandemic. A big thank you to everybody who participated in and donated to our Terry Fox event on September 18th. It's an opportunity to learn about Terry Fox and his story, to get some exercise and fresh air, and to raise a bit of money for cancer research.

Similarly, Orange Shirt day was on September 30, and it too is an opportunity to learn and raise awareness related to the residential school experience of Canada's indigenous people and the mantra "Every Child Matters". Thanks to all who participated in Orange Shirt Day.

Foxes Fundraising for Camp Mack

For years Mr. McDonald's Grade 6 class sold ice-cream on lunch time on Fridays to raise money for the Red Cross. A few years ago, thousands of these dollars from the ice-cream sales was sent to the Red Cross to help those in Fort McMurray devastated by the 2016 wild fires. We have since re-vamped the program.

Under Mr. Weiss' direction, his Grade 6 class continued with the ice-cream sales after Mr. McDonald retired but the funds now go to support the Grade 6 Outdoor Education camp in the Spring. They are making a change this year from selling ice-cream to selling individual treats such as chocolate bars or bags of chips, again, as a treat once a week Friday at lunch time. These treats will need to be pre-ordered and paid for by Wednesday of the given week. Sales will begin the week of October 13th and run through into mid-June. Supporting this fundraising is supporting our Camp Mack opportunity for sixth graders!



The Westlock Literacy and Learning Centre provides one-to-one tutoring and small class programs to help adults with reading/writing/math or ESL. The Literacy Program Coordinator will meet with you weekly help you improve your literacy skills; provide encouragement and support you in your goals.

Book your appointment and get started today!

780 349 5253

bsiegle@westlocklearn.com

Or drop in we are in the Heritage building:

#2 10007—100 Ave Westlock



