

**VIRTUE****Kindness****CONTACT INFO**

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**IMPORTANT DATES:**

**February 24** – Pink  
 Shirt Day

**February 26** – PD for  
 certified staff. No school  
 for students

**March 1** – Our Reading  
 Blitz begins.

**March 2** – Dr. Seuss'  
 birthday....he authored a  
 few books!

**March 8 - 11**  
 PTS Interviews as  
 arranged by the  
 teacher(s).

**March 12** – District PD  
 day. No school

# Fox News

from École Westlock Elementary School

**PINK SHIRT MESSAGE IS STRONG**

February is zooming by. We kicked off Heart/Kindness month with a virtual Teachers Convention and a two week cold snap. We celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school and St. Valentine's Day on February 12th and look forward to Pink Shirt day next week and our reading blitz in early March.

In March, we transition from **Kindness** to the virtue of **Acceptance**. Respecting all people and celebrating our differences would be another way of defining the acceptance virtue. Concurrently, we continue to be committed to providing a safe, caring, welcoming environment that honors the diversity among us. We aspire to bring the anti-bullying message along with the virtues of kindness and acceptance to life every day, not only for a few days in February and March.

We wish you the very best as we put the pandemic behind us and embark on the final part of the school year. The last four months are in many ways the busiest for us but can also be the most rewarding as the fruit of our labor often manifests itself later in the school year.

**\$2500.....A GENERNOUS DONATION!**

We recently received word of a gift for Westlock Elementary School, left by the late Ed Magee. Mr. Magee passed away about a year ago and left directions in his estate to gift the reading/literacy program at WES with \$2500! Back in the day, Ed Magee was a school board trustee and his wife Beulah was a volunteer "reading momma". We are extremely grateful for the donation and will purchase many books in their name. Thanks!

**Speaking of reading.....**

Did you know that by simply reading 20 minutes a day, a child could read as many as 1,800,000 words in a school year? Those same students often score significantly higher on tests and exams. One of our Education Plan strategies relates to reading and for the past few years have organized fun school-wide reading activities in the month of March. We have designated March 1 – 11 for our "reading blitz" this year. If we reach our goal of 5000 cumulative minutes of reading, yours truly will have to perform some sort of silly task. Hint: look for a Tik Tok video with a school principal who dances very poorly!

## NO PARKING !!

Please, please, **please** respect the Fire Lane No Parking zone at the front of the school. Also, do not double-park when picking up at the end of the day. Student and staff safety is compromised every time somebody is in violation of this bylaw.



## COMPOSTING...

We have partnered with a NAIT student in a 4-week composting project. In short, we will gather as much food waste as possible over the next month, compiling it all into a fermentation bin. Before the end of June, the school will receive sealed bags of rich compost material to use, sell, or give away. This is the capstone project for a NAIT technology student, a student who is from our area and graduated from R. F. Staples a few years ago. Pretty cool.....

## Is Early Learning right for your child?

Click on the link below for more information.

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/19dUW2cGABD2O76gdPnoOBV-hMfO\\_Hf5AGPn\\_t6Mvnc/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/19dUW2cGABD2O76gdPnoOBV-hMfO_Hf5AGPn_t6Mvnc/edit?usp=sharing).

## Say “Oui” to French Immersion!

Not choosing French Immersion (FI) might be a mistake. Look for a new FI video in the next few weeks that promotes this program and the limitless benefits and opportunities a second language can provide. Parents being fluent in French is not a prerequisite, in fact, you don't need any French background to be successful learning the French language. Our FI teachers are willing to answer any questions, concerns, or anxieties you have about placing your child in French.



## Kindergarten registration



École Westlock Elementary School will not be hosting an “in-person” Kindergarten Open House. Registration is now open year round, so if your child turns 5 on or before December 31, 2021, you can register for

Kindergarten anytime. Go to the school website and click on **Student & Parent Info**. Contact the school office if you have any questions.

## **March Interviews.....**

The week of March 8 – 11<sup>th</sup> is set aside for parent-teacher interviews. In person visits are still not permitted so expect your child's teacher to connect with you to set up a phone call or virtual meeting to discuss learning and progress to date.

**Prior to Christmas** we organized a COVID friendly fundraiser for our local FCSS office and the people they support. Thanks to the generosity of our extended community, we were able to donate \$841. Thank you.

And another huge **Thank-You to the WES School Council**. The staff and custodians are being treated to a free lunch today courtesy of School Council. We really appreciate it!