

September 2021



# Fox News

from École Westlock Elementary School

## VIRTUE

Respect & Responsibility

## CONTACT INFO

### Contact Information:

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### Principal

Amber Monteath

### Associate Principal

Robert Weiss

### IMPORTANT DATES:

#### Sept 17 –

Terry Fox Run

#### Sept 24 –

PD Day – No School

#### Sept 30 –

Orange Shirt Day

#### Oct 01 –

PD Day - No School

Hello WES families,

We have just finished our first week back to school and it has been wonderful reconnecting with our students! We very much look forward to the year ahead.

As we begin our new school year we will be following the guidelines and direction of Alberta Health, we fully anticipate having to make adjustments as we go. Changes to our protocols will be shared via school messenger, Facebook page and our school webpage.

We have been focussing on **relationships**, **routines**, and new **safety protocols** for students and staff. Our students 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!

Unfortunately, due to the uncertainty of COVID and changing protocols we will not be hosting a Welcome Back BBQ. We hope one day to be able to do this again.

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

*Amber Monteath*

## September 8 Board Meeting

The board decided to maintain the August motion to NOT layer on additional restrictions to the guidance provided by the province. Mask wearing will continue to be voluntary by each individual.

## Office Hours

Please note our office hours are 8 am-3:45 pm. If Mrs. Fifield or Mrs. Kallal cannot answer the phone, please leave a message and we will return your call.

## Parking lot and Bus lane

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. We also ask that parents parked in this area not use the bus lane to cut through to the main road.

## Picture Day

**Sept. 13-** WPREP, KJ, Grade 1, 3, 5, French Immersion 1/2, 3/4, & 5/6

**Sept. 14-** WPREP, KG, KL, Grade 2, 4, 6 & Mrs. Carter's 1/2 class

Retake Day: October 7



## Parents, Guardians & Visitors in the school

Parents and guardians if you have something to drop off for your child or a message to deliver, please go directly to the office. Parents are to stay in the office area and we will call down your child. This is for the safety of our students and staff and less disruptions during instructional time. If you need to speak with your child's teacher, please arrange with them a time and date to meet.

We also ask that parents wait outside in the morning and after school to drop off or pick your child.

## **Student Illness- If your child has Covid-19 symptoms**

If your child has any of these symptoms you are legally required to isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of symptoms OR receive a negative COVID-19 test and feel better before returning. Please continue to use the [Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#)

- Fever
- Cough (new cough or worsening chronic cough)
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing (new or worsening)
- Loss of sense of smell or taste

## **Student Messages or changes of plans**

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 the best 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.



## **Student Absences**

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. A phone call will be made home if we are unaware of your child's absence.

Any student arriving after 10:00 am will be absent on the attendance for that morning. If students must leave before 1:00 pm they will be marked absent for the afternoon.

## **Student Fees/Powerschool Parent Portal**

Invoices will be sent home this week for student fees as well as your access ID for Powerschool Parent Portal. We ask that all parents sign up through Powerschool Portal to pay fees and have access to various forms.

The Demographic Verification forms have been uploaded to Powerschool Parent portal. This updates your vital information with us. We recommend that you do this on a computer versus your cell phone.

Please go to our school website and click on “Student & Parent Info”, then choose “online payment system”.

## **Breakfast Program**

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 reopen.

However, we are excited to once again offer a breakfast snack to all interested students beginning Tuesday, September 7. Healthy, nutritious choices will be featured including dry cereal, milk, yogurt, and cheese 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.

## **Terry Fox Run**

Students and staff will be participating in the Terry Fox Run, Fri. September 17 weather permitting. If you can send a loonie or toonie to support the Terry Fox Foundation, that would be great.



## **Orange Shirt Day**

On September 30, we ask all students and staff to wear orange to show support and honour the Indigenous children who were sent away to residential schools in Canada. During this week, staff will take the opportunity to educate our students regarding the residential school experience of Canada's Indigenous people.

## **School Council meeting**

Our first WES School Council meeting this year will be held Thursday, September 23, 2021 @ 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 and sanitize your hands at the entry. You won't sign in at the front office, names of attendees will be taken at the meeting.

## School Trustee Elections

**Are you a leader in your community? Become a school board trustee**

School trustee elections are taking place this fall. In order to run you must submit a nomination before **September 20, 2021** at 12:00 pm. For more information about the role of school trustee or to print a candidate package, visit <https://www.pembinahills.ca/election-2021/>.

Candidate packages may also be picked up at the Regional Office at 5310-49 Street in Barrhead.

For more information, feel free to reach out to any of the current school board trustees: <https://www.pembinahills.ca/school-board/your-school-trustees/>

## Thank you!

A huge thank you to Westlock Community Thrift Shop for your generous donation of \$600. This will go toward our Breakfast program!

