



# Fox News

Ecole Westlock Elementary School 780 349 3385

**Principal:** Amber Monteath

**Associate Principal:** Robert Weiss

Administrative Assistants: Toni Fifield & Linda Kallal

## Important Dates:

**Sept. 2:** No school

**Sept 9:** Picture Day- WPREP, K, Gr. 1, 3, 5, 3/4 FI & 5/6 FI

**Sept 10:** Picture Day- WPREP, K, Gr. 2, 4, 6, 2/3 FI

**Sept. 12:** School Council AGM 5:30 pm- in the library

**Sept. 26:** K-6 French Immersion Epluchette Day 12-3 pm  
Terry Fox Run- am

**Sept. 27:** Orange Shirt Day

**Sept. 30:** National Day for Truth and Reconciliation- No school

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Welcome back to WES! I hope you all had a wonderful summer. We're excited to start a new school year filled with learning, fun and growth.

To our new students and families, a special welcome! We're thrilled to have you join our community.

This year, we have many wonderful things planned. Our dedicated staff have been preparing for their students' arrival and setting up their classrooms.

Thank you to those parents who were able to make it out for our Open House. We had a large turnout.

Mr. Robert Weiss, Associate Principal and myself look forward to the year ahead working with our students, parents and community members.

Sincerely,

Amber Monteath

## Office Information:

**Office hours are 8 am - 4:00 pm.**

If Mrs. Fifield or Mrs. Kallal cannot answer the phone, please leave a message and they will return your call.

**We would like all visitors, parents and guardians to check in at the office before proceeding to any classroom.** Forgotten lunches, clothing etc. can be dropped off in the office and we will either call your child down or deliver at the appropriate time. This is for the safety of our students and staff and less disruptions during instructional time.

A circular graphic with a blue background and a green grassy foreground. In the center is a yellow school building with a clock tower. Above the building are a megaphone, a calendar, and two speech bubbles. To the right, a hand holds a smartphone displaying a list of messages. The graphic is surrounded by a white border.

**SCHOOLMESSENGER®**  
**SafeArrival**

Use SafeArrival to report your child's absences!

**Three convenient methods:**

- SchoolMessenger app (Google Play or Apple Stores)
- SchoolMessenger website [home.schoolmessenger.ca](http://home.schoolmessenger.ca)
- By phone 1-833-568-2538 (toll free)

Visit [pembinahills.ca/absence-reporting](http://pembinahills.ca/absence-reporting) for more information

**SafeArrival** is an absence-reporting and notification system that allows parents to pre-report their child's absences **anytime**.

This is a more efficient way for parents to report their child's absences. It also uses the SchoolMessenger automated notification system to contact parents when their child is absent and their absence has not been reported.

For more information please go to [www.westlockelementary.ca](http://www.westlockelementary.ca)

Click on Student & Parent Info

Click on Absence Reporting

If you are still having issues with this program, please contact the school office.



## Alberta Education has announced new restrictions to limit the use of Personal Mobile Devices in schools.

Personal Mobile Device (PMD) is defined by any personal device used to communicate or access the internet, including cell phones, tablets, laptops and smart watches.

Personal Mobile Devices will not be permitted during school hours. This includes during recess and lunch break.

*PHSD is finalizing administrative procedure and will be asking for feedback from parents.*

**Cell phones will be stored in student lockers and turned off.** If storing cell phones in your child's locker becomes an issue, teachers will store them in the classroom.

Exemptions to these restrictions for health/medical reasons or for supporting special learning needs will be determined case by case.

Students may use the classroom phone if there is an emergency to call home.

### Student messages or change of plans...

Please write in your child's agenda or send a note for your child's homeroom teacher letting them know when daily routines are going to change. 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.

Those students who ride the school bus, please inform your bus driver if your child will not be on the bus. This should prevent students from accidentally getting on the bus when they shouldn't be.

### School Fees



Invoices will be sent home in the next couple of weeks for student fees. All fees can be paid online through your Parent Powerschool account. If you forget your password or require help, please call the office.

Payments by cash or cheque are accepted as well. **Mrs. Kallal is in the office (Mon-Thurs) from 8:45 am to 3:30 pm to accept payments.**

If you are unsure how to access this, please contact the office.

## Time to update your Annual Enrollment forms via PowerSchool Parent...

Gr. 1-6 Annual Enrollment Verification forms, as well as walking forms, FOIP, Technology, etc. will be accessible in Powerschool Parent portal. This updates your vital information with us. We recommend that you do this on a computer versus your cell phone.

**Parents will receive an automatic email from Pembina Hills (School Engage)** in early September indicating they need to update their child's school enrollment information and to complete this form.

**Please complete these forms by Sept. 20 through the PowerSchool Parent Portal** (select the New Registration & Enrollment Verification link in the bottom of the left menu). Instructions on how to complete it will also be listed in the email notification.

*Please note that if the walking permission form is not completed, your child will not be able to leave the school grounds with the classroom teacher.*

### Timetable

Please note that all school doors will be locked during school hours. **If your child arrives after 8:50 am, please send them to the front doors.**

If you need to drop off something for your child, there is a doorbell on the right hand side of the front main doors.

**8:35 am-** students to enter the school

**8:48 am-** announcements/O Canada

**8:51 am-** period 1

**11:28 am-11:58 am-** recess

**11:58 am-12:18 pm-** lunch time

**1:51 pm- 2:21 pm-** recess

**3:25 pm-** dismissal

We also ask that parents wait outside in the morning and after school to drop off or pick your child. Each classroom has been given a designated spot to line up. An adult supervisor is there to greet and let students in when the bell rings.



### Parking Lot & 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.

**No entry into the bus lane 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. We also ask that parents parked in this area not use the bus lane to cut through to the main road.



### **Student Illnesses...**

Please keep your child home if he/she has one of the following symptoms: Fever, Sore Throat, Coughing (uncontrollable), Vomiting and Diarrhea.

We want to keep our students and staff as healthy as possible.

**Check us out on Facebook:  
Westlock Elementary  
School**

### **Medications...**

As per PHSD Medication policy (F 5-23) medication should be brought to school appropriately labeled by the pharmacy in the original prescription container. Medication should be brought to school by the parent, not the student.

Please stop by the school office to fill out the appropriate forms.

### **Foxes Treats...**

Every Friday, students can purchase "Foxes Treats". Each week a variety of treats are listed for students to buy for \$2. Throughout the year we sell chocolate bars, ice cream, popcorn etc. This is a Grade Six fundraiser for Outdoor Ed that occurs in June.

Starting next week, you will be able to purchase a \$20 prepaid card. Teachers will keep these in the classroom. Students can bring \$20 to the office to purchase their card.

You can find the weekly Foxes Treats on our [website](#). Click on Student & Parent Info and then Foxes Treats.

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### **Goal setting meetings..**

Our first round of parent teacher conferences will be Wed. Oct. 9 & Thurs. Oct. 10. These meetings will be in person. Parents will need to book online to set up a time. More information and the online booking system will be available early Oct. We will notify parents once this system is up and running.





## School Council is looking for new members!

**AGM – September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**5:30 pm at the school library**

*Come and learn what School Council is all about! It's a chance for everyone to share their ideas and opinions on things that affect our students. We meet every two months.*

*Our School Council organizes and serves all hot lunches that are scheduled throughout the year. We also help fund the Grade 5 ski trip, Grade 6 Outdoor Ed trip, and free hot dog day during track and field/play day to name a few.*

*Here are a few of the bigger items our group has completed the last few years!*



New gazebo, picnic tables and two garbage cans



Two new swing sets and one accessible seat

## WES Terry Fox Run for Cancer Research

*We can make a difference*

Westlock Elementary Fundraising Goal \$2000

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Action #1 | <u>Toonies for Terry!</u> Collection bin available in the office or send \$2 to your child's teacher.  |
| Action #2 | <u>\$6 for a hotdog, juice and dilly bar.</u> Extra hotdogs are \$2.50. <b>Order online</b> starting on Tuesday, September 6th and ending Friday, September 20th. Meals served on Thursday, September 26, 2024.  |
| Action #3 | <u>School Run Donations</u> are accepted until September 30th: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Donate directly to the school online</li><li>• Set up a student page and share the link. Click <a href="#">here</a> to donate or join.</li><li>• By cheque or cash using the pledge sheet</li></ul> |

**On September 26th at 10:45am, all students will be participating in the Terry Fox Walk/Run to raise funds for cancer research. Please ensure your child is prepared for the walk by bringing a water bottle, wearing good walking/running shoes and dressing for the weather.**

