



**SPECIAL  
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# “Get the Scoop”

## On Whitecourt Central School

OCTOBER 2017

### Principal’s Message

Fall is now here and the weather has been very unpredictable. It is recommended that students have a warm sweater for these chilly mornings. Just a reminder that our Breakfast Program opens at 8:25 a.m. when buses begin unloading.

It has been a very busy start up. For those parents who are new to Central, reading through the Parent Handbook is a great way to find out all about the policies and procedures that are followed. If you have any questions about any of these procedures, please send an email to the school and a response will follow. Questions posed by parents on our “Getting to Know You” page are answered at the School

Council Meetings and then posted on our website.

We have said farewell to Mrs. Titanich and welcome to Ms. Christie West, who will be the new Educational Assistant in 3B. We would also like to welcome Ms. Cindy Lewis, who has been hired to teach our new Grade Four class. Welcome to Central!!

All schools in Northern Gateway Public Schools use PowerSchool, a student information system. Within this system, only **legal** names of students are used. Preferred names can be used within the classroom; however, any documents that are generated by PowerSchool, or legal documents required by Alberta Education will use student legal names.

This is our second year of using PowerTeacher Gradebook for student assessment. We have provided all parent feedback from our first year and our first Parent Council meeting to

Northern Gateway’s Learning Services Team. This program enables teachers to enter student assessments and parents will be able to monitor their child’s progress daily. Teachers are asked to communicate student progress and achievement to parents three times over the course of a term, for all three terms. This communication may be email, phone call, or as a request to meet. Parents should have a clear understanding of where their children are academically through the Gradebook and teacher communication. If you are uncertain, please contact your child’s teacher.

Thank you to everyone who has stopped by the school to introduce themselves and chat!

Regards,

Mrs. Tammy McKeever  
Principal



**Northern Gateway  
Public Schools**



### EDUCATION TIDBITS.....

#### *Forming a Positive Relationship with your child's Teacher:*

Teachers have valuable insights into how your child functions in a classroom setting, his/her learning style, and, behaviour, just as you have valuable insights from the home perspective. Discussions with the teacher about observations that you have made will assist with relationship building and programming. Never hesitate to ask questions about your child's development and progress in school. When everyone works together as a team, sharing information, and responsibility, the whole child is best served.

#### **Mornings at Central...**

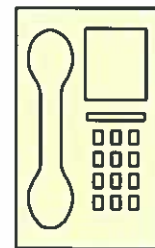
When dropping your child(ren) off at school each day, please be aware that supervision on our playground begins at 8:25 a.m. Prior to 8:25 a.m. your child will be unsupervised. Our Breakfast Program also opens to all students at 8:25 a.m. Thank you!

#### **Attendance:**

Attendance is taken at 9:05 a.m. each day. If you know your child will be away for an activity or appointment, please write a note in the agenda or email the classroom teacher. If your child is ill, please phone the office in the morning, prior to 9:00 a.m. Our phone system is equipped with an answering machine should you wish to phone before 8:00 a.m. This contact will enable us to account for the whereabouts of all students. Please do not use Remind to send a notification of a student absence. If a teacher marks a student absent, and we have not been informed, our Synervoice automated phone system will place a call home to the primary home phone number at 9:30 a.m.

#### **Office Helpers**

Over the next several weeks, we will begin training some of our Grade 5 students to answer phones and greet visitors over the lunch hour. Thank you for your patience and understanding as they learn the "ropes!"



#### **School Photo Day:**

Our annual school photo day was held today. Proof packages/order forms will be sent home when we receive them in approximately three weeks.

If your child would like a school memory book, please be aware that must be ordered when you place your photo package order.

## Volunteers:

### *Calling all Volunteers!*

When you visit our school to assist in the classroom or with field trips, please sign in at the office in the binder provided on the front counter. Once you have signed in, please help yourself to a volunteer lanyard to wear while you are in the school and then return to it's spot when you are finished. Thank you!

## Student Transportation:

The Transportation Department of Northern Gateway Public Schools does not allow students to ride on a bus route other than their own. Students are also not allowed to get off at a stop that is different than the one assigned to them. Transportation is only provided from home to school and from school to home. A student may get off at another stop **IF** the parent is there to facilitate the change. If you have any questions about this policy, please contact the school office.

## Student Awards:

### Congratulations to our Eagles of the Month for September 2017!

#### Grade 3:

Abby Danks  
Michael Klassen  
Austin McDonald  
Ian Leduc  
Ishan Adhikari  
Max Dickson

#### Grade 4:

Bradley Marin  
London LeCoure  
Abby Puddicombe  
Rebecca Thompson  
Nathan Weed  
Parker Rempel

#### Grade 5:

Keaton Pearce  
Brady Goudreau  
Victoria Ferguson  
Abbygail Wilson  
Lili Craft

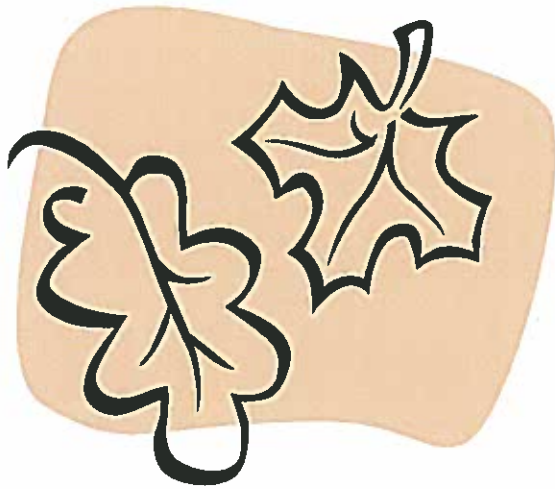


## Student Messages:

We receive numerous calls each day asking that we deliver messages to students. In cases of absolute emergencies we are happy to deliver these last minute messages. However; we ask that all students are aware of their appointments, family commitments and changes to after school routines **before** coming to school each day. Student messages disrupt class time and interrupt the learning of all students within the classroom. We appreciate your consideration in this regard.

**Jeans For Charity**

You may notice that on Fridays our school staff wears jeans. Staff members make a donation at the beginning of each year to wear jeans on Fridays and the funds are forwarded to local charities.

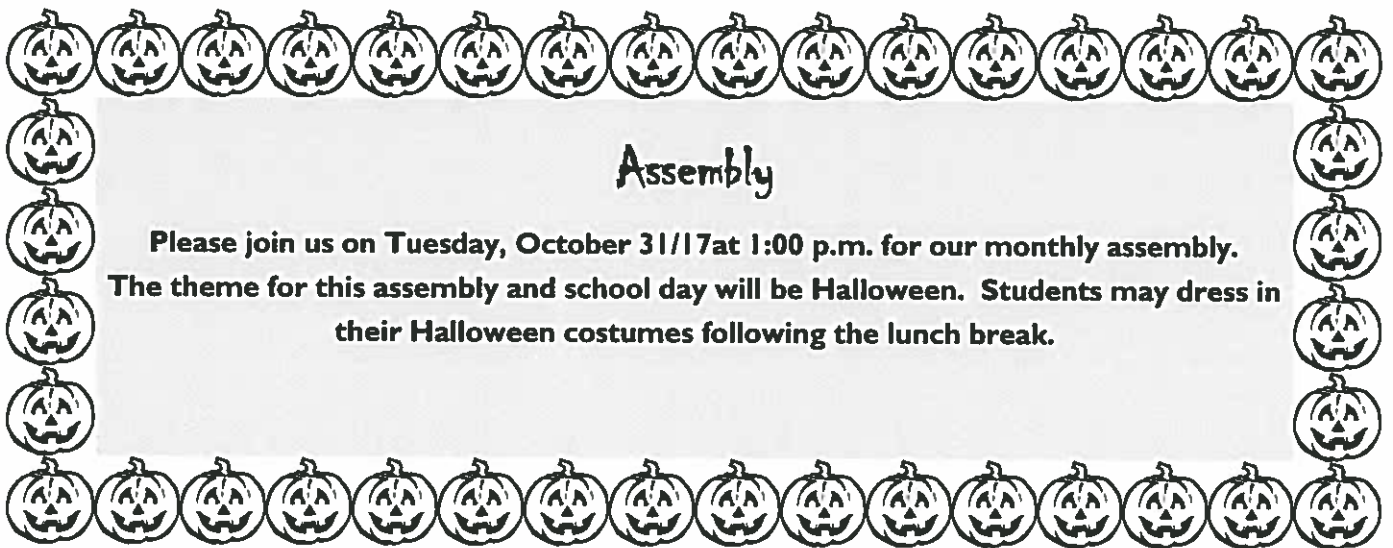
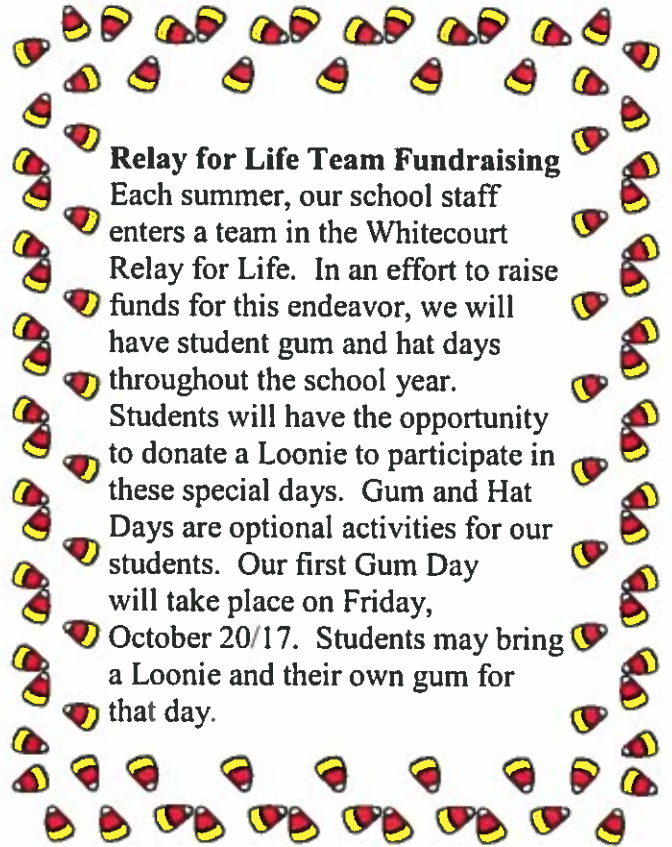


**Relay for Life Team Fundraising**

Each summer, our school staff enters a team in the Whitecourt Relay for Life. In an effort to raise funds for this endeavor, we will have student gum and hat days throughout the school year.

Students will have the opportunity to donate a Loonie to participate in these special days. Gum and Hat Days are optional activities for our students. Our first Gum Day will take place on Friday,

October 20/17. Students may bring a Loonie and their own gum for that day.



**Assembly**

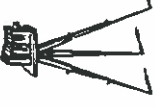






Please join us on Tuesday, October 31/17 at 1:00 p.m. for our monthly assembly. The theme for this assembly and school day will be Halloween. Students may dress in their Halloween costumes following the lunch break.



# October 2017



Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

1		2 Photo Day 	3	4	5	6 No School - Staff development day	7
8  Happy Thanksgiving	9 Thanksgiving Holiday - No School	10 Pizza Day School Council—7:00 p.m. 	11	12	13	14	
15	16	17 Pizza Day 	18	19	20 Gum Day 	21	
22	23	24	25	26	27 Hot Dog Lunch 	28	
29	30	31 Halloween Assembly— 1:00 p.m. 					



## Helping Your Child Succeed: School Linked Team Visits

Date:

Dear Parents/Guardians:

All classrooms at Whitecourt Central School will be supported by a School Linked Team. School Linked Team members provide coordinated and integrated services with staff from the school district, Alberta Health Services, Children's Services and Community and Social Services. The School Linked Team in your school includes:

- Occupational Therapist – Holly Robson
- Speech-Language Pathologist – Deirdre Conlin
- Psychologist – Carolyn Lynch

The School Linked Team will be visiting classrooms, observing and interacting with individual students in the classroom, hallway and playground. The School Linked Team will also be meeting with School Staff to brainstorm and share ideas on ways to support all the students in the classroom.

A member of the School Linked Team or School Staff will contact you if any follow up or individualized services are being considered for your child.

If you have any questions regarding the services being provided in the school, please call me.

Sincerely,



J. McKeever

Principal

# October

## Donations Accepted

Any donations of shoes, clothes, or school supplies are welcomed at any of our schools! Last year we handed out around 10 pairs of shoes to students who desperately needed them!

## **How to Contact the Team for Success:**

**Project Coordinator:**  
E-mail: [teagan.arnott@ngps.ca](mailto:teagan.arnott@ngps.ca) or  
Call: (780)262-0466.

**Tanya (Pat Hardy):**  
Call: (780)778-6266 ask for Tanya

**Maren (Whitecourt Central):**  
Call: (780)778-2136 ask for Tanya

**Stacey (Percy Baxter):**  
Call: (780)778-3898 ask for Stacey

## CANADIAN TIRE JUMPSTART

1 in 3 families cannot afford to enroll their children in organized sports. That's almost 750,000 kids every year who want to play, but just can't. Team for Success can connect you with the support to enroll your child in an organized sport without a credit check. Physical activity helps keep your mind and body healthy and we are strong supporters of maintaining mental health.

# Team for Success

## Staff:

Project Coordinator  
Teagan Arnott

## Success Coaches

Pat Hardy  
Corinne Millington

Central School  
Maren Skipper

Percy Baxter School  
Stacey Wright



## Follow Us!

Follow the Team for Success on Twitter: @Team4SuccessWct or on Facebook for more updates!

## Programming

The Team for Success is shifting our focus from targeted groups (anxiety and anger management) to universal programming where we will provide programming to ALL students in our schools! At Whitecourt Central we will be giving programs called Superflex and Zones of Regulation. We also facilitate music/art mental health!

## Simple Ideas to Promote Positive Mental Health in Your Child

1. Have a weekly family game night. Take turns choosing games.
2. Spend one hour a week alone with each child. Take a walk, listen to music, or just hang out.
3. Find out one area where your child is struggling. Listen to your child's concerns. Help your child think of ways to address the issue.