



“Get the Scoop”

On Whitecourt Central School

JANUARY 2018

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Ask Dr. Jim

Important
Reminders

Get the Scoop
on School
Improvement

Assembly

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Principal's Message

Welcome back! The holidays have quickly come to an end and we are now back in the full swing of school. We hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable break.

We would like to welcome Mrs. Heather Perry back to Grade 3 and Mrs. Melissa Uttley back to Grade 5. The students had a wonderful start to the year and are eager to demonstrate their abilities to the returning teachers.

We would like to take this opportunity to again thank all of our volunteers who have been working at the school up to our Christmas break. Many hours of reading and helping out with projects followed by the delicious lunch prepared and served to our staff, and the Holiday Gift Shop are very much appreciated. If any parents would like to volunteer in their child's classroom or in the Breakfast Program, please contact the school. We value the time that our volunteers dedicate to our students.

As we move into Term 2, students will be given new challenges and projects to complete that will demonstrate their understanding of curriculum outcomes. Technology, hands on activities, and projects are being used to allow all students the opportunity to be successful in their learning. In addition to a variety of learning opportunities, consistent attendance is essential. When students miss a great deal of school or arrive late on a daily basis, they miss valuable instruction time. Teachers do not always have time to go back

and review when students continually arrive late, or are absent. Individual letters regarding attendance and tardiness concerns will be sent out by the end of January.

We hope everyone has a prosperous and rewarding 2018!

Mrs. T. McKeever
Principal



Ask Dr. Jim....

"So what is your opinion regarding the impact of our environment on children and behavior/learning? Nowadays, home always seems to be blamed for everything!"

An interesting question as the first one to consider! Probably there are two parts here....with perhaps the most important being the use of blaming or giving away responsibility for how our children behave. As adults, we can only take responsibility for our own actions. With our children, we model and teach the kinds of behaviors we want. We always need to continually be challenging our children to assume responsibility for their behaviors and providing them with opportunities to have responsibility. While we want our kids to experience success, sometimes "failing" at something can also teach a valuable lesson.

The second part of this question likely touches on the nature versus nurture debate. Personally, while I am sensitive to the impact that genetics plays, I am fairly firmly entrenched in the camp of a parent's responsibility to shape our children in to the adults and citizens we want them to be. Nature sets the base for this instruction, but nurture can provide many surprises as to how our children are capable of overcoming many genetic obstacles.



Plan for tomorrow, but live for today.....

Dr. Jim

Tidbits:

Children learn in many different ways beginning at home with modeling and playing. By exposing them to many learning experiences it becomes evident what type of learner they are.

Teachers provide differentiated instruction to meet the needs of various types of learners.

Parents can support learning by:

- ◆ Exposing children to many different learning experiences.
- ◆ Asking questions that promote higher level thinking.
- ◆ Ongoing conversations about everything and anything.

Important Reminders.....

After a busy day of learning in the classroom and working hard, it is important to us that students arrive home safely. If there is a change in after school routines, please ensure that you have discussed this with your child before they go to school in the morning. We often get questions from students about what they are supposed to do after school. Writing a note in the agenda to the teacher is a great way to let us know where your child is going after school, or who is picking them up. If an emergency arises during the day, please call us at the school and we will gladly give your child a message.

Our buses enter the parking lot at the end of the day at 3:00 p.m. and finish picking up our students at 3:40 p.m. Vehicles are not permitted to enter or leave the parking lot during that time.



CONGRATULATIONS!!

We present our Eagles of the Month for December 2017!

Grade 3

- Cameron Johnson
- Kloey Ratzlaff
- Emma McLaren
- Presley Madsen
- Mylah Haug
- Victoria Layton

Grade 4

- Kyle Merrifield
- Caleb Vanderwolf
- Ethan Gallant
- Andi Kennedy
- Jessica Doble
- Enalee Buruma

Grade 5

- Olivia Peters
- Jenessa Underwood
- Kyla Johnson
- Dante Marrelli
- Cash Hunt



Accountability Pillar Surveys:

As an annual check-up on the education system, the Accountability pillar provides an opportunity for Alberta Education and school authorities to ensure that we are equipping students for success. From January to the end of February, Alberta Education will conduct the annual Accountability Survey.

- In January, parents of students in Grades 4 will receive a survey from Alberta Education.
- In February, Grade 4 students will complete their surveys online at school.

All surveys are anonymous and ask questions about experiences with your school. In addition to English and French, the parent survey is available in Chinese, Punjabi, Arabic, Blackfoot, Cree, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog, and Urdu.

Your participation in the survey helps provide important information on the quality of education your child is receiving, so we encourage you to return your survey promptly.

Survey results will be available to school authorities in May 2018 and will be reported publicly as part of their 3-year Education Plans and Annual Education Results Reports.



Get the Scoop on School Improvement

Our goals for the 2017/2018 school year:

Goal #1:

Whitecourt Central School will continue to focus on strengthening literacy and numeracy skills to assist students in achieving grade level expectations.

Goal #2:

Whitecourt Central School will increase communication with stakeholders regarding programs, policies and procedures to increase understanding and how they influence student success.

Literacy:

All teachers, Grades 3 to 5, encourage students to pick “Good Fit” books. At the beginning of the year, students are taught a strategy to assist them to pick books that fit their reading and comprehension level which makes reading much more enjoyable.

<i>I</i>	can choose a book.
<i>Purpose</i>	Why do I want to read it?
<i>Interest</i>	Does this book interest me?
<i>Comprehend</i>	Do I understand the text?
<i>Know</i>	I know most of the words.

There is a 5 finger rule per page. If there are 5 or more words on a page that a student doesn't know, then the book is too hard. If a student knows all of the words, then the book is too easy. The same goes for comprehension. If a student understands everything, then they may need a more difficult book; however, if they do not understand what is going on in the first 2 pages, then the book is too difficult. It is a good strategy for students to learn and our students are presently using this strategy as they choose library books and classroom books to read.

Website

**Our school website is a terrific spot to check out important school dates and information. Check it out at Whitecourtcntral.ca
Follow us on Twitter: [@ngpswcs](https://twitter.com/ngpswcs)**

Assembly







Our regular monthly assembly will take place on Friday,
January 26, 2018 at 9:30 a.m.

Our theme for January is
Favorite Food Day.
Come dressed as your favorite food!



January 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 Pizza Day 	10 Soup Day - Ham/Cheese 	11	12 School Wide Breakfast 	13
14	15	16 Pizza Day School Council Ming—7 p.m. 	17 Soup Day - Beef/ Barley 	18	19 Gum Day for Relay For Life 	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 Assembly—9:30 a.m. Favorite Food Day Hot Dog Lunch	27
28	29	30	31 Staff Planning Day No school Math Games Night 6:00-7:15 p.m.			

FAMILY MATH GAMES NIGHT

MATH GAMES FOR KIDS USING CARDS AND DICE

box cars
and
one-eyed jacks®

FOR KIDS:

- A fun way to review and strengthen basic math skills!

FOR PARENTS:

- Motivating, simple and economical homework support
- Children who feel secure in their math skills, have greater self-esteem and greater success in math
- Fun new hands-on games with dice and cards to help your child with math!

GAMES REINFORCE:

- Counting & Number Recognition • Problem Solving
- Basic Facts: +, -, x, ÷ • Place Value

WHERE

Whitecourt Central School

WHEN

January 31st 6:00-7:15pm

RSVP to

the main office (780-778-2136)

RSVP by

January 19

If your school has requested:

Math resources for your home will be available for purchase

January

Team for Success

How to Contact the Team for Success:

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

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

Maren (Whitcourt Central):
Call: (780) 778-2136 ask for Maren

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

Staff:

Project Coordinator
Teagan Arnott

Success Coaches

Pat Hardy
Tanya Smithson

Central School
Maren Skipper

Percy Baxter School
Stacey Wright

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!

Follow Us!

Follow the Team for Success on Twitter:
[@Team4SuccessWct](https://twitter.com/Team4SuccessWct)
or on Facebook for more updates!

Myth Busting Mental Health Style

Myth: Blue Monday is the most depressing day of the year, which occurs on the third Monday of January.

Fact: This date was originally derived by a company called *Sky Travel* in 2005 who used an equation, which was later found as unscientific to select this date. The company used this as a promotional date to sell more vacations to the general public.

