



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Effective Behaviour Supports**
- **Education Tidbits**
- **Thank you!**
- **Terry Fox Walk**
- **Hot Dog Lunch**

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“Get the Scoop”

On Whitecourt Central School

OCTOBER 2014

Principal's Message

Where did September go? Thank you to all the families who joined us on our “Get the Scoop” night at the end of August. We had many positive comments about meeting the teachers before school and enabling parents to drop off school supplies. We are glad that the students had the opportunity to visit the school before their first big day!


All schools in Northern Gateway are using a new student information system called PowerSchool. This program has many different features and provides us with many different types of reports. Within this system, only legal names of students are used. Preferred names may be used within the classroom, but any documents or reports generated by

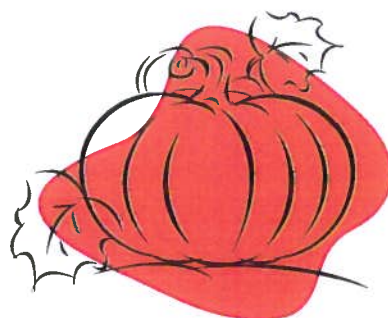
PowerSchool will always use the student legal name.

This year, we have moved to one-on-one Chrome-books for each student in the school. These electronic devices are very similar to laptops except they start up faster, save data automatically and are lighter for the students to pack around. Teachers have ordered dish racks for the classrooms which hold these devices perfectly and at the end of every day, students are asked to plug them in so they are charged and ready for the next day. Students will be doing a number of different projects and activities on these computers.

We are also noticing that several of our students are bringing electronics (cell phones, ipods, ipads, etc.) to school. Although we agree that technology has a valued place in education, we also know that a sense of responsible digital citizenship is necessary. Students who have their teacher's permission to use their electronics in class, or use them on the bus to entertain themselves are demonstrating responsible use. We do not want electronics to be used on the playground where they can be damaged and used inappropriately. If supervisors see electronics on the playground, they will refer to the steps in our technology policy which I have included in this newsletter for your reference.

We are off to an exciting start and look forward to many adventures throughout the month!

Sincerely,

Tammy McKeever



Northern Gateway
Public Schools

Effective Behaviour Supports:

Effective Behaviour Supports (EBS) is a school wide behavioural support program which designates a team of teachers, support staff, and administrators to collaborate together and establish the behavioural expectations for the students in the school. Students are taught respect for self, respect for others and respect for the environment through modelling and discussions within the classroom. Expectations are made clear so that students understand what is expected of them when are in the school and on the playground. Students are rewarded for making good choices and are encouraged to always think carefully about the choices they make. When they falter and make a poor choice, there is a support system in place to help the student realize what went wrong and give them strategies to help them in case a difficult situation arises again.

These common behavioural expectations and consequences for appropriate and inappropriate behaviour provide a structured and predictable learning environment for students and staff. This structure makes it easy for all staff to share responsibility for the behaviour of all students in and around the school.

This EBS system requires the staff to collect data in the form of "write-ups" outlining inappropriate behaviours. This enables the staff to investigate the situation and talk to all parties involved. Many times it is discovered that there is more to a situation than what has been reported by a student. These write-ups are collected and given to the classroom teacher in order to track any other incidents of inappropriate behaviour. Students are allowed three write-ups before more structured supports are required. This enables the student to learn from his/her mistakes and to make better choices in the future. If a student continues to struggle with a specific behaviour, a further step will involve consultations with two team members, called the *Think Tank*. These team members work with the students, usually at recess times, to determine the cause of the misbehaviour, the triggers they are experiencing, and then provide them with the opportunity to create a strategy to help the student monitor choices. These team members also check in with the students on the playground and in the classroom to ensure they are experiencing success, and are always available to the students should they need support.

Whitecourt Central School has been using this EBS system for the past seven years. It is reviewed with staff on a yearly basis. Our "Think Tank" is where students work with the team members to help them identify which behaviour was inappropriate, why it was inappropriate, and strategies to use if they are faced with difficult situations again. It is an opportunity for students to have one-on-one support from a team member. Because communication is important, parents will always be contacted when a child has received a write-up. It is important to understand that all students will make mistakes from time to time, and that is how they learn and grow. We feel it is important to have this system in place to provide a safe learning environment in which to support our students.



Technology Policy:

Electronic devices, such as cell phones, ipods, and game devices are becoming more prominent in the school setting. Although we understand and respect the current trend, we require students to leave these items in their backpacks unless they are being used in the classroom setting under the supervision of the teacher. These devices can cause unnecessary interruptions to our learning environment if not used responsibly.

We will use a three strike system if these devices are found to be used irresponsibly. The first time a device is found being used inappropriately, in the classroom, in the hallway, or outside on the playground, the student will receive a warning and be asked to put the device away. A phone call will also be made to the parents informing them of the concern. The second time a student is caught disobeying this rule, the device will be taken and kept in the office until the end of the day. Again, parents will be contacted. The third time that the device is confiscated, it will be turned into the office and will be returned only when the parents come in for a meeting regarding the misuse of the device.

We know that students use these devices for a number of educational purposes. Due to the movement for inclusion and differentiation, we will allow devices to come to school once the Northern Gateway Public School's Digital Citizenship Agreement has been signed by both parents and students. If one of these devices are brought to school and are being misused, the teacher will contact the parents and the device will be sent home.

Please remember that the school is not responsible for any lost, stolen or broken items.



EDUCATION TIDBITS.....

Forming a Positive Relationship with your child's Teacher:

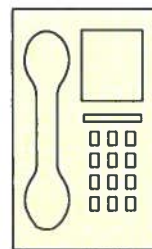
Teachers have valuable insights into how your child functions in a classroom setting, his/her learning style, and, behaviour, just as you have valuable insights from the home perspective. Discussions with the teacher about observations that you have made will assist with relationship building and programming. 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 8:30 a.m. Prior to 8:30 a.m. your child will be unsupervised. Our Breakfast Program also opens to all students at 8:15 a.m. Thank you!

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 hours. Thank you for your patience and understanding as they learn the "ropes!"



School Photo Day:

Our annual School Photo Day will be held on Thursday, October 9/14. Pose forms will be sent home prior to photo day and should be returned on Photo Day. Proof Packages/Order Forms will be sent home with students approximately three weeks following photo day.

Please be aware that School Memory Books must be ordered when you place your photo package order.

A Special Thank You

Thank you to the Town of Whitecourt and the Protective Service Committee for providing our school with a \$1000.00 grant for our School Safety Patrol Program. These funds will allow us to buy new equipment, and provide training to our Safety Patrol team.



Operation Christmas Child

Once again Whitecourt Central will participate in Operation Christmas Child. Shoeboxes will be available for pick up at the school beginning October 20/14, or you may choose to use your own box. Please ensure your shoe box is dropped off at the school no later than November 14/14. Last year Central students and staff provided 130 boxes to Operation Christmas Child—let's try and increase that number

Student Transportation:

The Transportation Department of Northern Gateway Public Schools does not allow students who use buses 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 only IF the parent is there to facilitate the change. If you have any questions about this policy, please contact the school office.



Assembly

Please join us on Friday, October 31st at 1:00 p.m. for our monthly assembly. The theme for this assembly and school day will be Halloween. In addition to student recognition, our Glee Club and school choir will perform followed by a Sock Hop and Haunted House. Students may dress in their Halloween costumes following our lunch break.



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 your name tag and lanyard that we have personalized for you. If you will be working alone with students, or accompanying the class to the swimming pool, and have provided a Criminal Record Check, we have a pink lanyard for you. If you are working in the classroom under the direct supervision of a school employee, and have not completed a Criminal Record Check, we have a teal colored lanyard for your use.

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.

Terry Fox Walk:

Whitecourt Central School participated in the annual Terry Fox School Walk on Friday, September 26th. Thank you so much for supporting this very worth while cause! All funds raised will be forwarded to the Terry Fox Foundation in support of cancer research. The Principal for the Day winner was announced—Kaylee Williams from 4J was the lucky winner!

LEGO Donations:

The Team for Success is seeking donations of LEGO for a new Lego Club beginning at
Whitecourt Central School
If you have any questions please contact Teagan Arnott, Project Coordinator via email at teagan.arnott@ngps.ca

Get the Scoop on School Improvement:

Our School Goal for the 2014/2015 School year is:

"Whitecourt Central School is committed to a focus on literacy and numeracy to provide a greater opportunity for student success within an inclusive setting, using differentiated instruction and a variety of assessment strategies."

Teachers have been busy planning and organizing lessons that will meet the learning needs of all the students with their classroom. Response to Intervention (RTI) is one strategic plan which guides teachers through a process of implementing different programs, strategies and interventions to assist students with their skills. RTI focuses on the learning needs of individual students and how these needs can best be met within the inclusive classroom. Teachers meet with their grade level partners once a month to discuss strategies and activities that have led to success within the classroom. Student success is always celebrated within the classrooms and school!

Team for Success—News for October 2014

The Team for Success is saying good-bye to Mrs. Skipper and wishing her all the best on her upcoming maternity leave. In her place, Miss Arnott will be running the LEGO Club on Mondays from 12:00—12:30 p.m. This club is designed to help build social skills and mental health through play. On Tuesdays, the Grade 3 Checkers Club will run from 12:00—12:30 p.m. This club will assist students new to Whitecourt Central with interaction and building new friendships through friendly competition. On Thursdays from 12:00—12:30 Mrs. Sebo and Mrs. Crebas will run the Crochet Club which enables Grade 5 students to mentor younger grades in the art of crochet. We will be starring G.I.R.L.S. group and Ronald's Readers in October as well. If you have any questions, please contact Teagan Arnott, Project Coordinator at 780-262-0466.

PCSS News for October

Thank you to the parents who made it out to our Annual General Meeting. Positions have been filled with the following individuals:

President:	Nicky Birtles
Vice President	Mae Diesel
Lunch/Soup Coordinator	Joanne Dixon
Breakfast Program Shopper	Cindy Betteridge
School Staff Luncheon	Jacque Turcotte
Treasurer	Rochelle House
Staff Appreciation Week	Petra Kauffman
Secretary	Brandy Humford
Fundraising Chairperson	Natalie Christenson

Thank you to all the volunteers who have been helping out with the Breakfast Program as well!

We have two big volunteer opportunities this year that we will need help with. The World Snowmobile Invasion in February 2015 and the Wolverines Games selling 50/50 tickets. Please give one of the Board Members a call if you would like to volunteer for these events. Our contact information is on the Parent Calendar in the main hallway of the school.

We will hold two extra events this year, starting with a Sock Hop and Haunted House for the students on October 31st after the assembly. This is a fun event for the kids to get to know each other, have some fun, and get a fun fright! In January 2015 we will host an adult only dance to help us forget those winter blahs! More information will be available as we get closer to the dates.

Hot Dog lunch will be held on Friday, October 31st. Order forms are included with this newsletter and must be returned no later than 9:00 a.m. on October 8/14. If you could assist with counting and sorting the orders, that would be appreciated! Additionally, we will require help setting up for the dance and haunted house on the 31st of October.

Your Dieleman Fundraising order is due back on October 17/14. We will be counting all orders at 9:00 a.m. on October 17th, so would appreciate any assistance. This may be the only Book Fundraiser we will hold this year and all proceeds will go to the Playground Fund.

We are still seeking sponsorship for the Playground, so, if you know of any business owners who might be willing to donate, please pick up a letter from the school office or Nicky Birtles.

There is a Free Literacy and Learning Day for parents being held in Edmonton on Saturday, October 25th. Visit www.literacyday.ca for a registration form. If there is enough interest in this event, perhaps car pooling can be arranged.

Regional Collaborative Service Delivery

Aspen Collaborative Services will be providing services to support learning and well-being for children and youth at our school during the year. Members of the Aspen Collaborative Service School Linked Team will be working with the School Based Team (teachers, support staff and administrative staff) during the year. The School Linked Team may visit classrooms and share ideas with the teacher.

Members of the School Linked Team visiting our school includes:

- Occupational Therapist
- Behaviour Consultant
- Speech Language Pathology Assistant

A member of the School Linked Team will contact you as a parent/guardian directly if any follow up is required for your child.

For more information on Regional Collaborative Service Delivery, you can visit the following web site: www.education.alberta.ca/admin/supportingstudent/collaboration/rcsd.aspx

If you have any questions, regarding the services being provided, please contact the school.

Community News

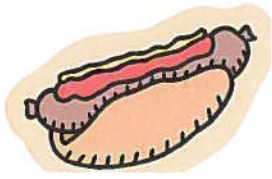
Ticket Sales:

The Whitecourt and Woodlands Performing Arts Society presents Dallas Smith on October 24, 2014. Tickets are on sale at the Allan & Jean Millar Centre for \$49.95. Minors must be accompanied by an adult.



October 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Hot Dog Lunch Orders due	9 School Photo Day	10 Staff Professional Development Day No School for students	11
12	13 Thanksgiving Day Holiday - School Closed	14 Pizza Day	15	16	17 Dieleman Fundraising orders due	18
19	20	21 Pizza Day	22	23	24	25 Free Literacy and Learning Day
26	27	28	29	30	31 Hot Dog Lunch Halloween Assembly—1:00 p.m.	



Whitecourt Central School

Hot Dog Lunch Order Form

Hot Dog Lunch will be held on **Friday, October 31, 2014.**

All orders (with exact payment) must be turned into the school no later than **9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 8, 2014**

Please ensure that all cheques are made payable to the PCSS

Please circle choices:

	Price	Quantity	Amount Owing
Hot Dog (Top Dog – All Beef)	\$1.00	_____	_____
Popcorn <i>(Flavor shakers will be available in each classroom)</i>	\$1.00	_____	_____
Apple Juice	\$1.00	_____	_____
Orange Juice	\$1.00	_____	_____
Ice Cream Sandwich	\$1.00	_____	_____
Dilly Bar	\$1.00	_____	_____
Strawberry Smoothie	\$3.00	_____	_____

Student's Name	Class	Total Owing
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Help is always appreciated with our lunches. Orders will be sorted and tallied on Wednesday, Oct. 8/14 at 9:00 a.m. If you are able to assist with tallying the orders, please meet at the school office. On lunch day, Wednesday, Oct. 31/14, help is needed as well, so please join us in the Community Center kitchen at 10:00 a.m. Thank you!