



**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- School Improvement
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- Assembly
- Whitecourt Christmas Hamper
- PCSS News

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“Get the Scoop”

On Whitecourt Central School

DECEMBER 2014

Principal’s Message

Way to go Eagles!! Congratulations to all of our students on the hard work and determination put forth in Term #1. We honored many of our Eagles on their work habits and citizenship attributes demonstrated in the first months of this school year. The staff are very proud of our students’ accomplishments!

We would like to extend a huge thank you to our Parent Council and the many parents who are working hard to raise money for our new playground. We would also like to acknowledge the Whitecourt businesses that have donated money to our project. It is an exciting venture that will be much appreciated by the students of Whitecourt Central School and the community as a whole.

With the cooler and unpredictable weather of winter, we can anticipate that there will be days when the buses do not run. When this happens, please note that if buses do not run in the morning, they will not run in the afternoon and it will be up to individual families to make arrangements for drop off and pick up of their child(ren.) It is also important that drivers along 53 Avenue do not double park when picking up students—this has the potential for accidents to happen. We do contact local law enforcement to patrol this area.

2014 is quickly coming to a close and we are busy getting ready for the Christmas Season. Christmas concert songs and performances are being organized and props are beginning

to be made. The excitement for the holiday season can be felt throughout the school. Due to the large number of attendees at our evening concert, we are changing the format this year. Parents should have received a letter asking them to indicate if they will be attending the afternoon or evening performance. Once we have this information, we will be able to determine numbers and send tickets out to families. The tickets will be limited, as it is important that we stay within the fire code regulations. We also want our guests to enjoy the concerts, so by seating 450 people, everyone should be able to see and hear the performance. Only individuals with tickets will be granted admission into the concerts.

The staff and students of Whitecourt Central School wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New year!!

Mrs. T. McKeever
Principal



“Get the Scoop” on School Improvement

Our goal for 2014/2015 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.”

Literacy

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

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

There is a five finger rule per page. If there are five or more words on a page that a student doesn't know, then the book is too difficult. 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 challenging book; however, if they do not understand what is going on in the first two pages, then the book is too difficult. This is a good strategy for students to grasp and our students are presently using this strategy as they choose library books and classroom books.



Tidbits:

Treat the parent-teacher relationship as you would any other professional relationship, like that between you and your family doctor, for instance.

- ◆ Learn school and classroom procedures and events
- ◆ Keep the lines of communication open
- ◆ Make contact early in the school year
- ◆ Address issues as they arise
- ◆ Address issues in a positive and constructive way
- ◆ Make an appointment, show up on time, call if you will be late, or need to cancel.
- ◆ Always deal with the teacher first.
- ◆ Know that you and the teacher are working for a common purpose.
- ◆ Know that teachers have many years of training and continuously participate in Professional Development to ensure they are on top of new strategies and techniques for all situations.

**“Always walk
through life as if
you have
something new to
learn and you will.”
Vernon**

Congratulations!!

Congratulations to our Eagles of the Month for November 2014!

Grade 3

Tyrone Gallien-Jardine
Shy-Anne Crossland
Rebekah Erickson
Alan Repas
Nhu Nguyen
Delta Christianson

Grade 4

Logan Carlson
Sean Tapp
Megan Davio
Stephanie Cunningham
Carson Wittmann

Grade 5

Alyssa Edwards
Jorie Johnson
Madison Vonstein
Jesse Day
Kaden Goudreau



Synervoice:

Beginning in December, a new automated message system will be implemented at Whitecourt Central School. Messages can be sent out to individual classes, as well as to the entire school population, by using the information that we have entered in our student data base. These messages will only be used for important events as well as emergencies. This message system will also be used to make our morning attendance calls. Student attendance is taken each day by 9:10 a.m. At 9:30 a.m., an automatic message will be sent to all primary residence phone numbers indicating that your child is absent from school. If parents phone into the school before 9:30 a.m., Mrs. Tarcon will be able to remove the notified absences from the call list. This is a new system for us, so there may be some glitches as we proceed.

On the days that buses are not running, Synervoice will still place a phone call home on all absent students. Please remember to phone the school in the mornings, before 9 a.m. if your child is going to be late or absent. We have an answering machine for your convenience. Thank you in advance for your patience and assistance.

Synervoice is different from Remind in that you must register yourself to receive text messages from Remind. Parents are automatically registered with Synervoice through our student data base.

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Way to Go Central Students!!

We donated 158 shoe boxes to
Operation Christmas Child!!
Thank you to everyone who
participated!!

Congratulations to Ethan House
winner of the Oilers tickets!!!

❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️

Raffle:

Whitecourt Central will support Santa's Anonymous and the Whitecourt Food bank by holding a raffle for an iPad Air, Xbox, Duffel Bag, and, a \$50.00 iTunes gift card. Tickets will be sold for \$2.00 each. A schedule for purchasing tickets will be announced during our morning announcements. !



After School Plans:

Please make certain that your child knows of any changes to after school plans before they leave home each morning. *We cannot* interrupt classes with student messages, unless it is an absolute emergency. Writing alternate after school plans in the agenda will alleviate confusion at the end of the day. Additionally, students will not be allowed to phone home regarding play dates.

Thank you for your kind cooperation in this regard!

Web Site

**Our school web site is a terrific spot to check out important school dates and information. Check it out at Whitecourtcentral.ca
Follow us on Twitter: @ngpswcs**

Bus cancellations:

In the event that buses are cancelled due to inclement weather or impassable roads, announcements will be made on the local radio stations beginning at approximately 6:30 a.m. All cancellations will also be posted on the Northern Gateway Web Site (www.ngps.ca)

Please contact the school to let us know if your child will be staying home due to bus cancellations (*or for any other reason.*) We must account for all students' whereabouts, therefore, if we do not hear from parents, even though buses are cancelled, we will still endeavor to contact home to verify all student absences. Thank you!

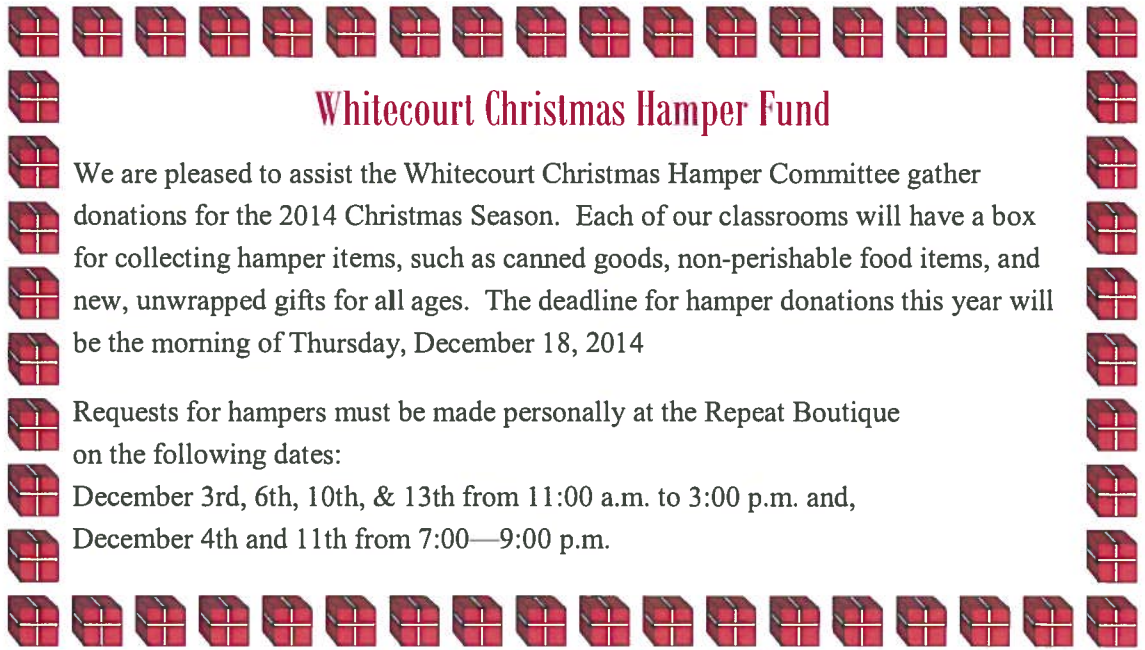
Effective Behavior Supports:

When supervisors are watching the students at recess and during lunch hours, they pack a clipboard. If students are misbehaving, staff will investigate the problem and then record the name of the students involved. If a student receives a warning, then the staff member will explain what the problem is and give suggestions on how to avoid the issue in the future. This will be recorded for information purposes. If the student has already received a warning, then they will be written up for the inappropriate choice that was made. The supervising staff member will complete the form after investigating. These forms indicate the issue of concern, where the inappropriate action took place and what action was taken. Normal consequences include walking with a supervisor, playing in a zoned area, or sitting out for a period of time. The write up is given to the classroom teacher who then communicates with the parents letting them know their child received a write up. If a student receives three write ups in a two week period, then the paperwork goes to the office and the student visits the Think Tank to discuss the issue and create an action plan for the playground. If a student continues to struggle with a particular choice, then a conversation with the parents will occur and Dr. Canniff may be asked to become involved. The student will be given several supports to help them achieve success.

Assembly

Our regular monthly assembly will take place on Friday, December 19, 2014 at 9:15 a.m.

In addition to recognizing outstanding students, this assembly will also include a performance by our Grade Four Glee Club and other fun activities! Our theme for December is Red/Green Day. Students are encouraged to dress in festive red and green for this day!



Whitecourt Christmas Hamper Fund

We are pleased to assist the Whitecourt Christmas Hamper Committee gather donations for the 2014 Christmas Season. Each of our classrooms will have a box for collecting hamper items, such as canned goods, non-perishable food items, and new, unwrapped gifts for all ages. The deadline for hamper donations this year will be the morning of Thursday, December 18, 2014

Requests for hampers must be made personally at the Repeat Boutique on the following dates:

- December 3rd, 6th, 10th, & 13th from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and,
- December 4th and 11th from 7:00—9:00 p.m.



Christmas Concert News

We're very excited to present our 2014 Christmas Concert—*The Twelve Days of Christmas.* Concert performances will take place on Wednesday, December 17, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. We look forward to seeing you there!



A reminder that forms indicating which performance families will be attending are due back no later than December 3rd. Please note that depending on how many people are attending the performances will determine how many tickets each family receives. Younger children are counted in the fire code regulations; therefore, they must count as one of the tickets.



Happy Holidays!

PCSS New for December

- * The **Christmas Gift Shop** will be held on December 3 and 4, 2014, so don't forget to bring your envelopes with money to school on your scheduled shopping day.
- * Breakfast Club will be cancelled on Wednesday and Thursday, December 3 and 4, 2014.
- * Our school wide **Christmas Breakfast** is being planned for December 12 and we could use some help to set up and serve all our students and staff. We will also need help cooking bacon and sausage on Wednesday and Thursday, December 10th and 11th. If you can assist with this, please phone Joanne at 780-396-9994.
- * We will host the School Staff Christmas Luncheon on Thursday, December 18th, so if you can bring a food item or assist with supervision on that day, please contact Jacquie Turcotte at 780-706-6671.
- * Thank you so much to **Alliance Pipeline and Pembina Pipeline** for their generous donations to our Playground project. We appreciate your partnership!
- * Don't forget to mark January 24, 2015 on your calendars as we are hosting an **EPIC Dinner, Dance and Auction night**. Thank you to K&C Graphics for donating the tickets. All proceeds will go to the Playground project. Damn it Jim will be performing to keep the party going! Please refer to the attached letter for further information.
- * Please fill out the attached forms if you would like to get your name in for a chance to win **Prime Seating** at this year's Christmas concert. The gymnasium fills up quickly and all proceeds will go to the Playground project.
- * Our Vice President had to step down, so we will be electing a new person at our December meeting on December 10th at Noon. Please attend if you would like to submit your name for this position.

We hope your Holidays are Merry and Bright!!!

PCSS

Christmas Concert Prime Seating Raffle

Last year we were looking for a fun way to fundraise for the Holiday Season, so we raffled off the first two rows of seating for the Christmas Concert and we raised \$875.00!! We are going ahead with this again for this year's Christmas Concert. If you would like a chance to sit up front and see your child's performance without having to show up extra early, and stand in the cold, here is your chance. For every \$5.00 your name will be entered for a chance to win up to 2 of the best seats in the house. All proceeds will go to the EPIC Society for the new playground equipment. Please return this form by December 10/14 with payment.



_____ Number of entries @\$5.00/entry = _____

Name _____ Phone: _____

Number of seats required _____

Afternoon _____ Evening _____ (choose one)

Learning To Ride – by Dr. Jim Canniff

I recall my brother, who is ten years my senior, deciding one day that I should learn how to really ride a bike...I was six. I remember being quite excited, nervous and wondering how it would work, but I trusted my brother.

I remember the celebration as we took off the training wheels...and some wondering about how I would not tip over. I had grown used to a “lean to the left” strategy on the training wheel on that side. Being a “leftie” this made sense, right? At any rate I also remember sitting on the bike and my brother holding the back of the seat. So far so good! This seemed easy.

At last we took off, my brother running behind me, handle bars wobbling slightly but I knew I was safe in my brother’s care until he let go.

Wobbling increased, bike slowed and I think I went to my patented left lean...you can guess the outcome.

Crying I got up, looked back at my brother and tearfully said, “Why did you let go?” I remember him saying, not so kindly, something about not wanting to run beside me for the rest of my bike riding days.

At any rate, he stood the bike up, told me to get back on it and prepare for the second launch. I said that I wanted the training wheels back on, he said “No, I was going to learn to ride a bike like everyone else.” The extra wheels were gone. I remember some further tears, but my brother wouldn’t budge, so away we went again, this time with my brother also yelling, “Pedal, pedal, pedal” as I started to lean again.

A few crashes later (fence, on the grass, cement sidewalk more times than I wanted), my left side was getting pretty scraped up, but honestly, I had abandoned the thoughts related to quitting...this word was not in my vocabulary any longer. My teacher had made it clear that I would and could ride a bike. With each successive launch, I tried various maneuvers to avoid expected crashes by putting my feet down, turning sharp left or right, letting go of the handlebars, crying harder, pleading for my brother not to let go and refusing to get back on the bike without some type of guarantee or parachute. I did notice that my brother was also running less and panting more.

And then it happened! Peddling rapidly, NOT thinking about the fall and trying to go faster was actually working. Wind in my face, no left lean, brother being left behind, I was riding a bike!

Of course it still didn’t end well as we had not covered stopping and the large prickly Karagana bush at the end of the Johnson’s drive way ended up being my stopping point, but I did it! I could now ride a bike. Triumphant I met my parents as they drove in the driveway and was about to show them my skills. First I had to explain the left side war wounds and of course I blamed my brother for these. But then I took flight and soared to their amazement and clapping.

So what does this have to do with life? Well, lessons like this taught me many important things that stay with me today and seem to come up over and over...some of these include:

- good things happen in life when you stick with it
- it’s about what we can do, not what we can’t
- if you fall down, get up and try again
- wisdom does come with age (thank you brother)

and finally...don’t lean to the left!

Whitecourt Central School
Milk Order Form

Milk will be delivered **twice a week** to the classroom at lunchtime.

January - 8 days February - 8 days March - 8 days

24 days @ \$.75 per day = **\$18.00**

Please return form and payment in full by 9:00 am Monday, December 15, 2014.

Make checks payable to PCSS.

There will be a \$20.00 NSF charge to all returned checks

Please **CIRCLE** choice: if no choice is circled White milk will be given.

White Milk

Chocolate Milk

Students Name: _____ Class: _____

Help is always appreciated

If you are able to help we'll be meeting at the front office to count on
December 15th at 9:15 am

Epic Society
4807 – 53 Avenue
Whitecourt, AB T7S 1N2

November 27, 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Whitecourt Central School Parents are planning an EPIC Night out on January 24, 2015!
We will have a live band – “*Damn It Jim,*” an auctioneer, and, a catered dinner for everyone to enjoy.
We are raising money to purchase new playground equipment for the school and community. With the recent reconfiguration of the schools, and some of the equipment being removed for safety reasons, we are in need of some new play structures at Whitecourt Central. Our goal is to raise \$100,000.00. Over the last year we have raised \$25,651.49!

We are looking for donations for auction items and cash donations to maximize our fundraising potential. We will have live and silent auction items. All donors will be acknowledged at the event.

Come and join us for the event for \$40.00/person, or, \$300.00/table – 8 people per table. All full table purchases will have reserved seating.






If you are able to provide a donation, please contact Cec McDonald at 780-706-6994 or Nicky Birtles at 780-268-3521 to make arrangements for pick up.

Thank you for your consideration to the Central School Playground project!

Sincerely,
Nicky Birtles, Cec McDonald
And the EPIC Society



December 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 	3 Christmas Gift Shop - Breakfast Club Cancelled Concert attendance Letter due	4 Christmas Gift Shop Breakfast Club Cancelled	5	6
7	8	9 Pizza Day 	10 Concert Ticket Raffle Due PCSS Meeting - Soup Day	11	12 School wide Breakfast	13
14	15 Milk Orders Due 	16 Pizza day 	17 Christmas Concert Soup Day 	18	19 Red/Green Day Assembly—9:15 a.m. Last day of classes	20
	22	23	24	25 Merry Christmas!!!	26	27
28	29	30	31			