



**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST**

School

Improvement

January Assembly

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“Get the Scoop”

On Whitecourt Central School

JANUARY 2015

Principal’s Message

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

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the volunteers who have been working at the school prior to Christmas break. Many hours of reading, practicing math facts and sight words, all assist in developing and strengthening student skills. Additionally, we thank our parents for volunteering in the Breakfast Program and our Parent Council for

organizing the school wide breakfast for staff and students as well as the wonderful and delicious Staff Christmas Lunch. If you would like to volunteer in your 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 Two, students will be given new challenges and projects to 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. Mrs. Megan Burgess has completed her time with us and is returning to her hometown of Calgary. We welcome back Mrs. Dawnelle Bills who has resumed teaching Grade Three. Mrs. Cho is also off on maternity leave and Mr. Chris Vasquez will take over for the remainder of this school year. Welcome to Central!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Tammy McKeever
Principal

Some important reminders.....

After a busy day learning and working hard in the classroom, 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 change with your child before they leave for school in the mornings. We often get questions from students about what they are supposed to do after school. Writing a note to the teacher in the agenda is a great way to let us know where the child is going, or who is picking them up.

Our school buses enter the parking lot at 3:00 p.m. each day and finish picking up our students at 3:40 p.m. Vehicles are not permitted to enter or leave the parking lot until all of the buses have left at 3:40 p.m.

At this age, students enjoy having friends over to study or play after school. It is essential that any after school plans are made in the evening at home with the parents and not during the school day. Plans that students attempt to make during the day often lead to miscommunication. We also remind parents that students are not able to ride other buses unless it is an emergency situation. It is up to the school administration to determine whether or not a student is allowed to ride a bus, other than their regular bus route. Please do not contact bus drivers directly, as they do not have the authority to grant permission for students to ride buses, other buses.

“Get the Scoop” on School Improvement

Our 2014/2015 School Improvement Goal 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.”

Last month we shared the strategies that we are using to help students find “good fit” books. We will continue to reinforce this process of choosing books as we move into Term Two. This month we would like to share a good activity to help strengthen a student’s basic facts. Addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division are all important concepts that are found throughout the math curriculum. These skills are strengthened in Grades 3, 4, and 5 and will be used in further math and science classes as students move through the grades. A deck of cards can be used to practice addition and multiplication skills. Each person should have their own deck. Use the cards, Ace through ten. Each person lays down a card and the first person to add the two numbers with the correct answer gets the cards. Continue until the entire deck has been used. This same process can be used to practice multiplication skills. It is a fun activity that not only allows the student to practice math skills but also provides some good quality family time.



Bell Times

9:00 a.m.	Classes Begin
10:35 a.m.	Morning Recess
11:46 a.m.	Lunch Begins
12:29 p.m.	Classes resume
2:00 p.m.	Afternoon recess
3:15 p.m.	Dismissal

Tidbits to Education....

Children learn in many different ways, beginning at home with modelling 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:

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





January Assembly and Theme Day:

Our regular assembly for January will be held on Friday, January 23/15 at 9:15 a.m. Please join us for a rousing good time!

The theme for January is Hippie Day. All students are invited to dress up in their grooviest attire on January 23rd.



CONGRATULATIONS!!

Eagles of the Month: for December!

Grade 3

- Kayleigh Kelly
- Grayden Turcotte
- Charles Ewasiw
- Emma Lopushinsky
- Makenna Barraclough
- Alethia Sikorski

Grade 4

- Gracie Newton-Robichaud
- Taryn Lamb
- Isabel Rennie
- Kaylee Williams
- Koda Sawyer

Grade 5

- Taylor Leidl
- Ally-Ann Romanchuk
- Brody Keyes
- Alyssa Niziol
- Zach Spivak



Effective Behavior Supports

Last month we wrote about the write-up process and communication with parents. This month we describe the different kinds and levels of unsafe behavior that we monitor at the school.

Unsafe Behavior:

Level 1:

- Rough play
- Play fighting
- Throwing sticks, rocks, snow
- Unsafe use of equipment

Level 2:

- Physical aggression
- Continued repetition of Level 1 behavior

Level 3:

- Serious fighting/assault
- Continued repetition of Level 1 and 2 behaviors.

PCSS News

Welcome to 2015! We hope you had a great holiday!

Playground Fundraising:

Don't forget to purchase your tickets for the **Dinner Dance and Auction being held on January 24, 2015** to raise money for our new playground. Tickets are going quickly!

We are still seeking donations for this Epic Event, so please contact Nicky at 780-268-3521, or Cec McDonald at 780-706-6995 and we will arrange for a pick up. If you require a donation letter, we can provide you with one.

We are still looking for volunteers to sell tickets at the IGA on Friday, January 16/15 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Please contact me if you can assist with this.

We did not receive the grant from Alberta Blue Cross so we need more ideas on how we can raise the remaining \$75,000.00 for a new playground. Please feel free to share your ideas with us at our next meeting.

Parent Council Meeting:

The next parent council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 14th at Noon. Please come with your list of donations received and number of tickets sold for the Dinner, Dance and Auction.

Hot Dog Lunch:

Please refer to the attached hot dog lunch order form for details. Lunch orders are due back to the school on Monday, January 12/15.

Sled Invasion:

The Whitecourt Sled Invasion is fast approaching! The Grade 5 students will take part in the ice sculpture show happening on Wednesday, February 11th and we require volunteers to be on site at the Ice Sculpture event from Noon to 3:00 p.m. and from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Hot chocolate and water will be provided for volunteers. We are also cleaning up in the Senior Circle on Saturday, February 14th from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and will receive a donation for our time. The EPIC Society will also receive all recycling from the day's events. We will need vehicles to help us load the bottles at 6:00 p.m.

Thank you to Dynamic for all your advertising and debit machines for our Dance and Auction.

Thank you to all the parents and families for your help with everything this past year from the Christmas Breakfast, soup, hot lunch, fundraising, Christmas Gift Shop, Halloween Dance, breakfast program and all that you do!

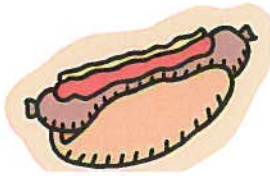
Thank you to the Royal Bank staff and Rotary Club for your help with our breakfast program.

Thank you to the staff for the Christmas goodies!

Nicky Birtles
Parent Council



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Whitecourt Central School

Hot Dog Lunch Order Form

Hot Dog Lunch will be held on **Friday, January 23, 2015.**

All orders (with exact payment) must be delivered to the school no later than **9:00 a.m. on Monday, January 12, 2015**

Please ensure that all cheques are made payable to the PCSS

Please circle choices:

	Price	Quantity	Amount Owning
Hot Dog (Top Dog – All Beef)	\$1.00	_____	_____
Popcorn	\$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 Owning

Help is always appreciated with our lunches. Orders will be sorted and counted on Monday, January 12/15 beginning at 12:30 p.m. If you are able to assist with tallying the orders, please meet at the school office. On lunch day, Friday, January 23/15, help is needed as well, so please join us in the Community Center kitchen at 10:30 a.m. Thank you!

January 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Hot Dog Lunch Orders due	13 Pizza Day	14 Soup Day PCSS Meeting—Noon	15	16 Pink shirt orders due	17
18	19	20 Pizza Day	21 Soup Day Swimming—5CL, 5U	22 Swimming— 5B, 5C, 5L	23 Assembly—9:15 a Hippie Day Hot Dog Lunch Swimming— 3L, 3C, 3B	24 EPIC Dinner/Dance - Doors open at 6 pm
25	26 Swimming— 4J, 4D, 4ML	27 Swimming - 4S/C, 4M Curling— Rocks & Rings	28 Swimming - 3P/R, 3S, 3SP Curling— Rocks & Rings	29 Pizza orders due	30 Professional Development Day - No school for students	31