



**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 2015

### Principal’s Message

Welcome to Fall!! September has come and gone and we are moving right along!

Our new playground has arrived and the students have already been playing on it and enjoying the new physical challenges. Again, we would like to thank our School Council for all the fundraising that they undertook for the playground funds. We would also like to thank the many businesses and families for their generous donations of money, auction items, equipment, and time. Without everyone working together, the playground would not have become a reality so quickly. A final huge thank you goes out to the students who gave up recess times to pick the playground

company provider and the pieces of equipment. We appreciate your time and commitment to this project. You did a fantastic job!!

All of the schools in Northern Gateway Public Schools use a student information system called PowerSchool. This program has many different features and provides us with many reports. Within this system, only legal names of students are used. Preferred names may be used within the classroom; however, any documents generated by PowerSchool, or Alberta Learning documents will use the student’s legal name.

Attendance is taken at 9:05 a.m. each morning. If you know your child will be

away for an appointment, please contact the office, or write a note in the student agenda. If your child is ill, please phone the school office in the morning, so that we can account for the whereabouts of all our students. We do have an answering machine if you need to phone before our school office opens. If the teachers mark a student absent, and we do not know the reason, an automated phone call will be placed home beginning at 9:30 a.m.

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

Regards,

Mrs. Tammy McKeever  
Principal



**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.

### **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.



### **Electronic Devices**

We are noticing that many of our students are bringing electronics such as cell phones, ipods, ipads, etc. to school. Although we agree that technology has a valued place in our 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 electronic devices to be used on the playground where they can be damaged, or used inappropriately. If supervisors see electronics on the playground, they will refer to the steps outlined in our technology policy (below.)

In addition to responsible digital citizenship, it is essential that students are not phoning parents throughout the day to make after school plans. Please make all after school plans at home before the school day begins. Also, if students are phoning parents from their cell phones at the end of the day because they have missed their bus, we ask that parents phone the school to inform us of the pick up arrangements.

### **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.

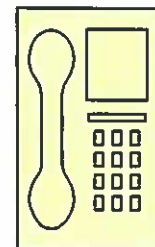
We know that students use these devices for a number of educational purposes. Due to the movement for inclusion and differentiation, we will allow devices to come to school once the Northern Gateway Public School's Digital Citizenship Agreement has been signed by both parents and students. If one of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



### **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 Monday, October 5, 2015. 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.

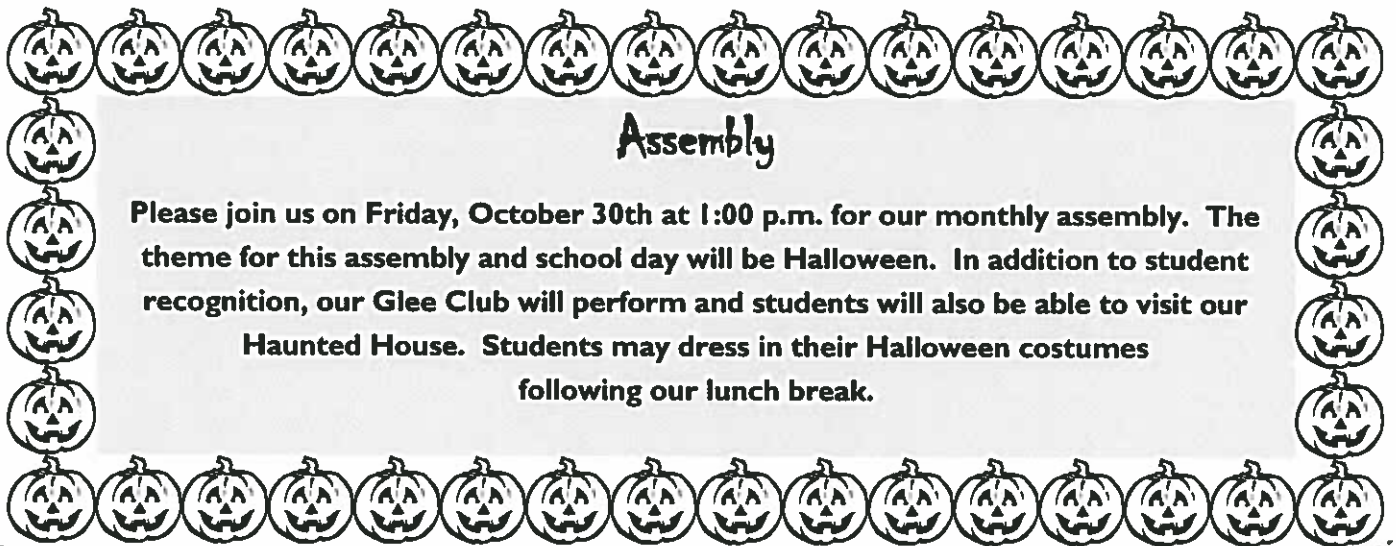
**Cooking Classes**

Our Grade 5 classes will participate in a one hour cooking class on Wednesday afternoons. Students will rotate through the sessions throughout the next several months. This program is made possible through a grant with the Lunch Box Program.



**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 30th 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 will perform and students will also be able to visit our 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.

Please access your name tag and lanyards from the front counter of the school office and return to their spots when you are done volunteering.

Thank you!

**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 Wednesday, September 30th. 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.

**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!

**Student Awards:**

**Congratulations to our Eagles of the Month for September 2015!**

**Grade 3:**

Jaystin Jackson  
 Lauren Davio  
 Mackenzie Boon  
 Sophia Danks  
 Kyla Johnson

**Grade 4:**

Cade Puddicombe  
 Taylor Gower  
 Emma Hallowes  
 Nicolas Braun  
 Nhu Nguyen

**Grade 5:**

Taylor Cartwright  
 Kacy Fairbairn  
 Simon Puddicombe  
 Gracie Tansky  
 Layla Perrin



## School Council News for October

Thank you to everyone who made it to our Annual General Meeting - all positions have now been filled. A Special thank you goes out to our past president Nicky Birtles for the many years she spent dedicated to the Whitecourt Central School Parent Council. Our current executive positions are:

### PCSS School Council

President: Natalie Christianson

Vice President: Joanne Dixon

Treasurer: Rochelle House

Secretary: Petra Kaufmann

### EPIC Society

President: Natalie Christianson

Vice President: Candace Martfeld

Treasurer: Rochelle House

Secretary: Petra Kaufmann

Thank you to our many volunteers for assisting with the school milk program, hot lunch days, soup program, breakfast program, and, the school staff luncheon. Volunteers are needed for the breakfast program for one hour a week from 8:00am- 9:00am (approx.). Any amount of time you can give would be appreciated. We are also seeking coordinators for events such as the holiday gift shop, family fun night and our EPIC night out. If you would like to help coordinate one of these programs please contact Natalie at 780-706-4408 or come to our next school council meeting.

### Playground

The new playground is here! We want to thank everyone for all generous donations, our sponsors, volunteers, staff and students, and everyone who made this possible - we couldn't have done it without you! We will continue to focus our fundraising efforts this year for the playground as our goal is to add lighting, benches, garbage cans, and possibly more playground equipment. Our biggest fundraiser for this year will be our *EPIC Night Out* in January. We did this adult event last year and it was a very successful fundraiser that included a fun night of dining, dancing as well as an auction. Please watch for more details coming soon. Our travel raffle was another successful fundraiser we did last year, thank you to everyone who purchased tickets.

### Halloween

Our first event of the year will be our Halloween Haunted House on October 30, following the assembly. We will need volunteers to help with set up, clean up, and be an interactive part of the haunted house. We will also need decorations and props, so if you have any you would like to donate please call or text Natalie at 780 706 4408.

### LaMontagne Catalogue Fundraiser

Students have now received their LaMontagne fundraiser package. This is our only catalogue fundraiser of the year. Order forms and payment are due October 19 at 9:00am. For online orders please use our school order code C25-CA1260. Orders will be counted on October 19 at 9:00am; therefore, your assistance is appreciated.

### Mabels Labels

Mabels Labels is an ongoing fundraiser throughout the year. Whitecourt Central School receives a 20% profit on all orders. Please go to [mabelslabels.com](http://mabelslabels.com) to order.

### Hot Lunch

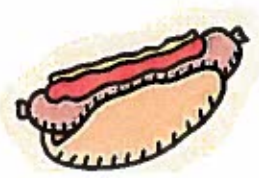
Hot Lunch forms will go out in the first week of each month. This month, order forms are due October 7 at 9:00am. We will count orders on this same day, October 7 at 9:00am, and once again, your help is appreciated.

### School Council Meetings

Our next school council meeting will take place on October 13 at 7:00pm at Central School. In an effort to make our meetings more accessible to those parents who work during the day we will now hold evening meetings. We are looking into the possibility of alternating monthly between afternoon and evening meetings. Your attendance will help us reach a decision. Please join us at our school council meetings, everyone is welcome to attend.

*To sign up for any of our volunteer opportunities, or for additional information, please call or text Natalie Christianson at 780-706-4408 or any of our school council members. Alternatively, you may email [centralschoolcouncils@gmail.com](mailto:centralschoolcouncils@gmail.com) and also find us on Facebook at Whitecourt Central School PCSS and EPIC Society.*

*PCSS/EPIC Society*



# Whitecourt Central School

## Hot Dog Lunch Order Form

Hot Dog Lunch will be held on Friday, October 30, 2015.

All orders (with exact payment) must be delivered to the school no later than 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Please ensure that all cheques are made payable to the PCSS.

There will be an NSF fee of \$25.00 for any cheques returned from the bank.

*Please circle choices:*

	Price	Quantity	Amount Owing
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	_____	_____

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Student's Name	Class	Total Owing
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*Help is always appreciated with our lunches. Orders will be sorted and counted on Wednesday, October 7/15 beginning at 9:00 am. If you are able to assist with tallying the orders, please meet at the school office. On lunch day, Friday, October 30/15, help is needed as well, so please join us in the Community Center kitchen at 10:30 a.m. Thank you!*



## Regional Collaborative Service Delivery

### School Linked Team School Visits

Name of School: Whitecourt Central Elementary School

Date: September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians:

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, supports 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 include:

- Kelsey Wittebolle, Provisional Psychologist
- Katrina O'Donnell, Behavioural Consultant (Provisional Psychologist)
- Heather Alessio, Occupational Therapist
- Cheryl Baranitsky, Speech Language Pathologist

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

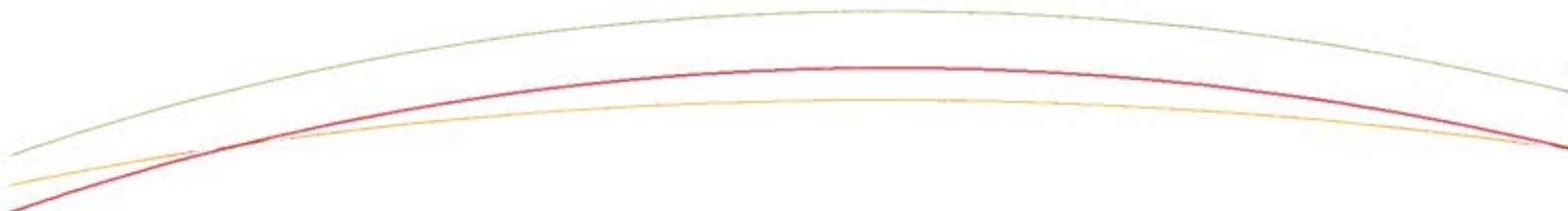
For more information on Regional Collaborative Service Delivery, you can visit the following website:

[www.education.alberta.ca/admin/supportingstudent/collaboration/rcsd.aspx](http://www.education.alberta.ca/admin/supportingstudent/collaboration/rcsd.aspx)

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

Sincerely,




Principal







# October 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 School Photo Day	6	7 Hot Dog Lunch Orders due 	8	9 Staff Professional Development Day No school for students	10
11  Happy Thanksgiving	12 Thanksgiving Holiday—No school	13 Pizza Day Parent Council Mting—7 p.m.	14	15	16	17
18	19 LaMontagne Orders due	20 Pizza Day 	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 Alco Presentation - 9:15 a.m.	30 Hot Dog Lunch School Wide Assembly—1:00 p.m. Haunted House	31