



**SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:**

**Eagles of the  
Month**

**Remembrance  
Day Assembly**

**Book Fair**

**Assembly/  
Theme Day**

**PCSS  
Information**

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# “Get the Scoop”

## On Whitecourt Central School

NOVEMBER 2015

### Principal’s Message

November is here and although we get an extra hour of sleep, the weather is certainly turning cooler. We do encourage students to dress warmly as they are expected to be outside for recess and lunch breaks.

It has been very exciting to visit the classrooms now that everyone is settled in and working hard. Students are busy researching on the Chromebooks, tracking their reading progress on Raz Kids and creating their own pattern stories to share with their peers.

Listening to students talk their way through a problem to find a solution is great evidence that learning is taking place. Our Glee and Choir groups are in full swing and working hard to prepare for their performances. Many students are visiting the office with their business plan that outlines what type of club they would like to start up. We currently have a Chromebook Club and a hockey club running during lunch break. All students are working extremely hard and we encourage them to continue with their best efforts!

We have had many students participating in rough play on the playground, re-enacting scenes from video games such as Call of Duty and Grand Theft Auto as well as WWE Wrestling. Teachers have lead discussions with our students on the inappropriateness of these

games as they are rated Mature. Please take some time and speak with your children about these games and ensure that they do not have access to them.

It is wonderful to see all of the parents at our school helping out in various activities. At the end of the day, if you are picking up your child or children, please wait at the red railing. When students, especially our younger ones, see parents waiting outside the classroom door, they tend to become distracted and have difficulty finishing up their end of the day tasks. We also use the hallway to speak with students who may be struggling in the classroom with decision making, or use it as a space to complete work with individual students. If you need to speak with the teacher, please head into the classroom once the students have been dismissed. Thank you for your cooperation!

Have a wonderful November!

*Mrs. T. McKeever*  
*Principal*



## Remembrance Day Assembly

Our Grade Five students will host our annual Remembrance Day Assembly on Tuesday, November 10th beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Please join us as we pay an important tribute to the individuals whose sacrifices have ensured the freedom we enjoy today!



### After School Plans:

In most cases, we will not be able to pass along student messages throughout the day, so please ensure that your child(ren) know of any changes in their schedules and plans **before** they come to school each day. This will help alleviate confusion for everybody at the end of the school day. We will not interrupt classes for student messages. Thank you!

### Scholastic Book Fair

We will host our first Book Fair of the year on December 2nd and December 3rd, 2015! Classes will be scheduled to tour the Book Fair on those days and the Fair will also be open to the public from 9:00 a.m. —8:00 p.m. both days. Please stop by and check out our great selection of books!

### Christmas Charities

This year Central School will participate in our local Santa's Anonymous Toy Drive and a non-perishable food drive for Tennille's Hope Kommunity Kitchen and the Whitecourt Food Bank.

Please consider donating a new, unwrapped toy and/or non perishable food items. Donations should be at the school no later than December 11/15. Thank you!



### School Fees:

School Fees for all students are now due. If you have not paid the \$60.00 fee, please do so at your earliest convenience. Thank you!

### Assembly & Theme Day

Our November assembly will be held on Thursday, November 26th at 9:30 a.m. Please join us as we recognize our students of the month for all their hard work and accomplishments.

Our Theme for this day will be Inside Out and Backwards Day!



## “Get the Scoop” on School Improvement

Our goals for the 2015/2016 school year are

Goal #1:

*“Whitecourt Central School will focus on strengthening literacy and numeracy skills through creating inclusive activities that are differentiated in order to meet the learning needs of all students within the classroom and school setting.”*

Goal #2:

*“Whitecourt Central School will focus more on communicating volunteer and decision making opportunities with the parent community.”*

So, what does that really mean?.....

When teachers are planning activities and assignments in the classroom, a great deal of research and time is taken to ensure the work is the right fit for everyone in the classroom. An assignment could have visual prompts to assist the visual learners in the class. There could be manipulatives that go with the lesson to offer kinesthetic learners the chance to work with their hands or there could be a video for students to listen to on their Chromebook for those who require an auditory approach. All of these options are taken into account when a teacher plans their lessons. Teachers spend a great deal of time to ensure that all student learning needs are met within a lesson. In addition to providing different ways to demonstrate learning, teachers also provide small group, and one-on-one support when necessary.

We are also very focused on communication with parents. Teachers often write messages in agendas, send out emails, or, use Remind to communicate with parents. We also update our web page and Facebook page on a regular basis. Parents are extremely important to us and we appreciate the time and effort that is put into planning events, hot lunches, fundraisers, etc., but, we also value your perspectives and ideas for the school. We encourage parents to be active within the school and we want to focus our communication on all of the opportunities that are available for your involvement.



### School Council November News:

Thank you to everyone who attended our October School Council Meeting. We have decided to continue holding our monthly meetings in the evenings rather than the day time due to a larger attendance. Our next school council meeting will be held on November 17, 7:00 p.m. at the school—everyone is always welcome to attend!

In an effort to keep parents as informed as possible, we are excited to announce that the PCSS and EPIC Society School Council will be introducing our very own monthly newsletter! This will be separate from the school monthly newsletter and will be available at the beginning of every month on the Whitecourt Central School website.

The PCSS/EPIC newsletter will be a hard copy newsletter given to every student at the beginning of each month. The newsletter will include important dates, upcoming events, and volunteer opportunities available. It will also include additional forms or information. We will also have a fun and interactive section for students that will include games, contests, and classroom features. Please watch for our first newsletter coming out the beginning of November!

**Whitecourt Central School  
Parent Teacher Interview Request Form**

**Teacher(s)**

**Child(ren)**

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Please check your preferred interview day:

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like my interview(s) on Wednesday, December 2/15 between 5:00-8:00 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like my interview(s) on Thursday, December 3/15 between 5:00-8:00 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ Either evening, Wednesday, or Thursday is good for me.

*Please return this form to the school no later than Monday, November 16/15. Thank you!*

**If you prefer, you may complete this form online at <http://tinyurl.com/InterviewsWCS>**

# FIND US ON FACEBOOK!



Facebook page for Northern Gateway Public Schools. The header features the school's logo and the slogan "Learning for life. Together." Below this, the page name "Northern Gateway Public Schools Education" is displayed. The navigation bar includes "Page", "Notifications", "Insights", and "Publishing Tools". A search bar and utility icons for "Northern", "Home", and "Find Friends" are also present.

The main content area shows a post with a status update: "948 likes • 4 this week Dana Blend and 7 other friends 357 post/reach this week." Below the post, there are options to "Invite friends to like this Page" and "More Reach, Less Money." A text-based post reads: "Reach 18,000 people near Northern Gateway Public Schools Get started for \$13.00 [Promote Local Business]".

At the bottom of the post, a dropdown menu is open, showing options: "Like", "Comment", "Share", "Get Notifications", "Unlike", "See First", "Default", and "Unfollow". The "Get Notifications" option is circled in green.

Facebook page for Whitecourt Central School Elementary School. The header features the school's logo and a large photo of a school event. The navigation bar includes "Page", "Notifications", "Insights", and "Publishing Tools". A search bar and utility icons for "Northern", "Home", and "Find Friends" are also present.

The main content area shows a post with a status update: "117 people like this 2 people have been here kmda brand to be a bus Page". Below the post, there are options to "Invite friends to like this Page" and "More Reach, Less Money." A text-based post reads: "Reach 18,000 people near Northern Gateway Public Schools Get started for \$13.00 [Promote Local Business]".

At the bottom of the post, a dropdown menu is open, showing options: "Like", "Comment", "Share", "Get Notifications", "Unlike", "See First", "Default", and "Unfollow". The "Get Notifications" option is circled in green.

## To run or not to run

School bus transportation and winter weather

The decision to run or cancel school bus transportation due to weather concerns or road conditions is made by the Director of Transportation. It is not a decision that is made lightly. There are a number of factors the Transportation Department considers when making the call. In addition to traveling and scouting roads himself, Director of Transportation Rhett Czaban has a number of local contacts in all Northern Gateway communities with whom he is in contact with in the early hours. He is also in contact with NGPS school bus drivers who may already be on the road.

Environment Canada, 511 and cameras located up and down the Highway 43 corridor are consulted throughout the day. The initial determination to run or not to run is made between 6:00 a.m. and 6:30 a.m. and is communicated as follows:

- on our website at [ngps.ca](http://ngps.ca)
- via Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/northerngatewaypublicschools>
- via Twitter <https://twitter.com/ngpschools> (follow @ngpschools)
- announcements on local radio stations; and,
- through phone calls to parents by bus drivers

If you do not see a cancellation message on [ngps.ca](http://ngps.ca), facebook or twitter, buses are running.

Administrative Procedure 131 ([bit.ly/AP131](http://bit.ly/AP131)) refers to -40 degrees Celsius, including wind chill, as one determination factor. This point is based on area data, not specific site information. While individual homes may have thermometers indicating a temperature below the specified -40 degrees Celsius, the data that is collected for each area is the evidence that is used to support the decision made by the Transportation Department.

Questions? Please contact:  
Rhett Czaban  
Director of Transportation  
Northern Gateway Public Schools  
P: 780.778.2800  
[rhett.czaban@ngps.ca](mailto:rhett.czaban@ngps.ca)





The Director of Transportation utilizes his best judgment, based on the combination of temperature, visibility, and road conditions, when making his decision about running buses. The primary consideration in the event of severe weather conditions is whether it is SAFE to be transporting children. The expanse of the Division (375 km along Highway 43) means that running buses is not an all or nothing response as conditions can vary greatly from school area to school area. NGPS is committed to be reasonable, responsible, and attentive to the information that is available throughout the day in all areas.

### **What can parents do?**

During inclement weather, the final decision to send a child to the bus stop or to school rests with parents, even though buses and schools may be operational. Parents are expected to exercise good judgment and care when deciding whether or not to send their child(ren) to school when weather conditions are extreme.

Questions? Please contact:  
Rhett Czaban  
Director of Transportation  
Northern Gateway Public Schools  
P: 780.778.2800  
[rhett.czaban@ngps.ca](mailto:rhett.czaban@ngps.ca)








Remembrance Day



# November 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Daylight Savings Time Ends - Fall Back 1 hour	2	3 Flu Immunization Permission Forms Due	4	5	6 Subway Lunch Orders Due	7
8	9	10 Remembrance Day Assembly—9:30 am Pizza Day	11 Remembrance Day Holiday No school 	12 Day in lieu of Parent Teacher Interviews No School	13 No School	14
15	16 Parent Teacher Interview Forms Due	17 Pizza Day PCSS Meeting— 7:00 p.m.	18 Soup Day 	19 Flu Immunizations	20	21
22	23	24	25 Soup Day 	26 Assembly—9:30 Inside Out/ Backwards Day Subway Lunch Reports Card Day	27 Staff Planning & Development Day No School for students	28
29	30					



### Important Dates

NOV. 6 – HOT LUNCH FORMS DUE 9AM  
 –VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO COUNT 9AM  
 NOV 17 – PARENT COUNCIL MEETING  
 NOV 18- SOUP DAY  
 - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SERVE 10:30AM  
 NOV-TBA -FUNDRAISER ORDERS  
 ARRIVE- VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP  
 SORT ORDERS  
 NOV. 25- SOUP DAY  
 - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SERVE 10:30AM  
 NOV 26- SUBWAY HOT LUNCH  
 - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SERVE 10:30AM  
 DEC. 2 & 3 – HOLIDAY GIFT SHOP  
 - MANY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP SET  
 UP, SHOPPER'S HELPERS, WRAP GIFTS AND  
 CLEAN UP

## NOVEMBER NEWS

Volume 1, Issue 1

### *What's happening with PCSS and EPIC Society this month.....*

Everyone at school council has been working hard for the last couple months organizing the breakfast program, hot lunch, and Halloween haunted house. We are currently planning for a few exciting events coming up in December such as the Holiday Gift Shop, the school wide Christmas breakfast and a teachers' luncheon. We have also started planning our EPIC Night out for January. This fundraiser will help us achieve our goals to finish the final details of the playground project by adding lights, benches and a sponsor recognition display. Special thanks to Pembina Pipelines, Ken Berryman and Orion Environmental Services for donating their services to help us complete the playground installation.

### Soup Days

Wednesday, November 18  
 and Wednesday,  
 November 25.

November's Soup is  
 Chicken Noodle.



### Hot Lunch Day

Thursday, November 26

November's Hot Lunch is  
 Subway! Order forms are  
 due Friday, November 6.



### Travel Raffle

Due to unforeseen circumstances we have had to change travel agencies for our travel raffle. Travel Plus of Whitecourt will be taking over any vacation bookings for all past and future trip winners. Thank you Travel Plus for your support. Should you have any questions please contact Jenny at 780-778-9795

### Lamontagne Fundraiser

*Thank you to everyone who supported our Lamontagne fundraiser. All orders will be arriving in November, exact date TBA. Orders will be sorted on this day. Smaller orders will be sent home individually with students; larger orders will be called for pick up.*

### \* PLAYGROUND TALK \*

We asked Ms. Larson's Grade 3 class what they loved most about their new playground and here is what they had to say:

- "The spinny thing goes fast!"
- "Love the slides!"
- "Monkey bars are weird and challenging!"
- "I love the rope bridge!"
- "I love the rock wall because you can climb!"
- "I like the playground because there are so many fun things!"



Thank you 3L for letting us interview you, we are so happy to hear you are all enjoying the playground!

### Holiday Gift Shop

The school wide holiday gift shop is back by popular demand and will take place on December 2 and 3. This is a fun and exciting event for students to have the opportunity to shop for inexpensive gifts for their loved ones for the holiday season. Wishlist forms will be sent home in early November giving students time to earn and save a few extra dollars. Each class will have a designated time to shop, these times will be announced closer to the date. Each student will bring their wishlist and money at that designated time. Students will have volunteer shoppers helpers and all gifts will be wrapped.



### VOLUNTEERS

Our programs and events would not run without the help of many dedicated volunteers. We always welcome new volunteers; any amount of commitment is greatly appreciated. Please check out the "important date's" section for this month's volunteer opportunities. We typically meet in the front lobby or room 5 for counting and sorting and in the kitchen for any meal preparations. To volunteer please see contacts. Thank you Volunteers!

### Next Meeting

Our next school council meeting will be held November 17 at 7:00pm at Central School. Everyone welcome!

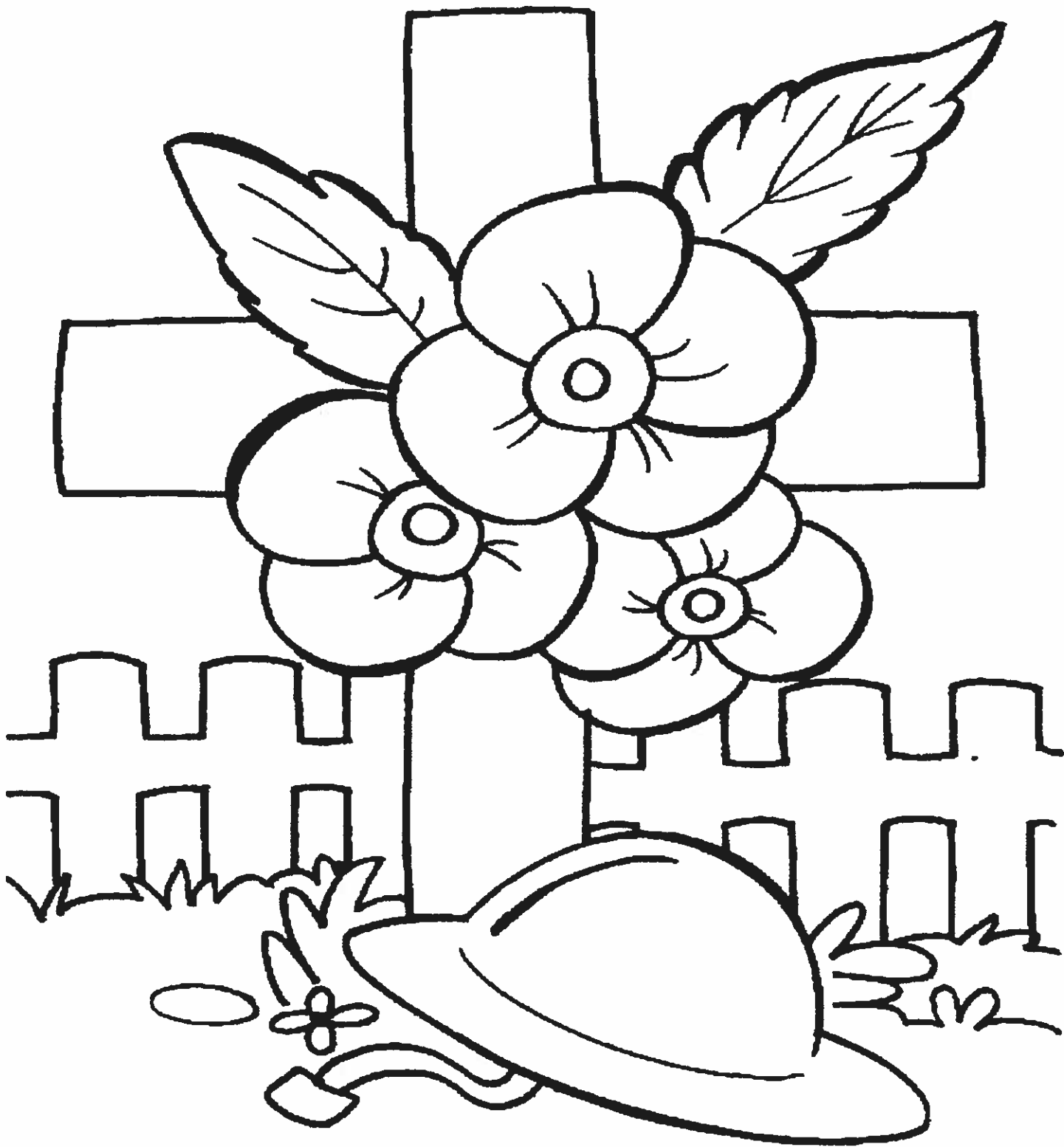
### Contact for more Information:

Natalie Christianson text: 7807064408  
 Email [centralschoolcouncils@gmail.com](mailto:centralschoolcouncils@gmail.com)  
 And find us on Facebook at Whitecourt Central School PCSS and EPIC Society

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

### PCSS and EPIC Society Coloring Contest

Please return your colored picture to the drop off box at the front office by Monday, Nov. 16. Don't forget to include your name, grade and teacher at the top of the page. Winners will be randomly drawn at our next school council meeting and announced in our December newsletter. A winner will be chosen for each grade and given a small prize.  
Good Luck and Have Fun!



**Central School November Subway Hot lunch order**  
**Hot lunch will be held on November 26 2015**  
**All orders (with exact payment) must be turned into the school**  
**No later than 9:00 am on Wednesday November 6 2015**

**Please CIRCLE choices**

	Price	Quantity	Amount owing
Ham and Cheese Sub	\$ 3.00	_____	_____
Pizza Sub	\$ 3.00	_____	_____
Turkey Sub	\$ 4.50	_____	_____
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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Students name	Class	Total Owing
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Help is always appreciated

We count orders on the day they are due at 9:00 am. We meet at the front office.

We fill orders on the day of Hot Lunch and HELP is always needed, so please join us at 10:30am in the Community Centre. Please make all cheques payable to PCSS.

There is a \$40.00 NSF Fee on ALL RETURNED CHEQUES

Everyone's Welcome