



# “Get the Scoop”

## On Whitecourt Central School

DECEMBER 2015

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Effective Behavior Supports**
- **Eagles of the Month**
- **Bus Cancellations**
- **PCSS Notes**

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### Principal’s Message

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!

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 due to incimate weather, 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.

2015 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 being made. The excitement for the holiday season can be felt throughout the school. Thank you to everyone who returned the Christmas Concert forms. Tickets will be sent home this week. Tickets are limited, as it is important that we stay within the fire code regulations.

We also want all of our guests to enjoy the concerts, so by seating 450 people, everyone will have a great seat to enjoy the children’s performances. 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*



### 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.

### 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.

Merry  
Christmas



## Christmas Concert News

We're very excited to present our 2015 Christmas Concert -

*"Elfis and the Elves Are All Shook Up."*

Concert performances will take place on Wednesday, December 9, 2015  
at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Please be sure to bring the concert tickets to present at the door.

We look forward to seeing you there!



# CONGRATULATIONS!!

Congratulations to our Eagles of the Month for November 2015!

### Grade 3

- London Peever
- Fallon Styba
- Olivia Peters
- Brenden Baxter
- Nancy Harms

### Grade 4

- Marlie Kennedy
- Lucien McCaffery
- Roan Ramstead
- Tyrone Gallien-Jardine
- Alia Dikken

### Grade 5

- Trey Edmundson
- Emma Romanchuk
- Stephanie Cunningham
- Megan Davio
- Tayla Dixon



## WHITECOURT CHRISTMAS HAMPER FUND

We are pleased to assist the Whitecourt Christmas Hamper Committee gather donations for the 2015 Christmas Season. We are assisting with collecting new un-wrapped gifts for all ages. The deadline for hamper donations this year will be Friday, December 11, 2015.

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

- December 2nd, 5th, 9th and 12th from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- December 3rd and 10th from 7:00—9:00 p.m.



## Fire Safety Contest Winners:

- Winners of the Whitecourt Fire Department's Contest for writing letters about Fire Safety are:
- 1st—Grace Sanderson
- 2nd—Kayla Spivak
- 3rd—Jordis Petrovic
- 4th—McKenna Dickson
- Class 4ML won the pizza party from Domino's Pizza.
- Congratulations to all our winners!



## 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, or to ride on non-assigned buses.

### Web Site

Our school web site is a terrific spot to check out important school dates and information. Check it out at [Whitecourtcentral.ca](http://Whitecourtcentral.ca)  
Follow us on Twitter: [@ngpswcs](https://twitter.com/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](http://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!



### Assembly

Our regular monthly assembly will take place on Friday, December 18th at 9:30 a.m.

Our theme for December is Red/Green Day. Students are encouraged to dress in festive red and green for this day!



## PCSS News for December

Thank you to everyone who attended our November School Council meeting. Our next school council meeting will be held on December 15/15 at 7:00 p.m. at the school and everyone is always welcome to attend!

Thank you and Congratulations to all the students who participated in our November Coloring Contest. We were so excited to see so many beautiful pictures entered. The winners for the Remembrance Day Coloring contest are:

Grade 3: Nancy Harms—3SP

Grade 4: Alyia Dibben—4D

Grade 5: Zenna Wright—5B



Please watch for our PCSS/EPIC School Council Newsletter for December for up to date information from our school council, important dates, as well as hot lunch and milk order forms. Our December newsletter will also include another exciting coloring contest!

Thank you to all our volunteers who are helping to keep our programs such as breakfast and hot lunch running smoothly. Your help is greatly appreciated.

**Save the Date:** Our Second Annual EPIC Night Out will be held on Saturday, January 23, 2016

All proceeds will go towards the completion of the playground project. More details will be published in future newsletters.

### Helpful Hint from the Family Community Liaison Program (FCLP)

Negotiating with your child can be exhausting. Some people believe that a parent should never have to negotiate with their child to begin with; however, negotiating in order to problem solve is an essential skill that we use as adults, so it is a great skill that can be taught early on. Parents do not want to raise children who do not stand up for themselves and mindlessly take orders from others.

You also do not want your child to feel powerless. When children feel powerless, they often attempt to gain power by acting out and refusing to respect rules and boundaries. Should children get what they want by whining? Absolutely not. Should children learn that they can get their way by rationalizing good arguments and making them in a reasonable, humorous and charming way that meets your needs as well as theirs? Absolutely!

Teaching your children these skills doesn't mean you simply let them constantly nag at you and then you give in. It means you say "NO" as soon as that's your answer, and you mean it and stick to it. It means that if they want to petition you for a different answer, you set up a discussion time to listen to their arguments and state your objections and concerns. If they manage to make a valid argument discussing how they can overcome your objections and concerns, you can allow yourself to be sold, and tell them why. In most cases, you will have to brainstorm and problem solve together for a solution that works for everyone. This teaches your children that having a calm and rational discussion can allow them to change certain circumstances. Having a child who learns problem solving and negotiating early on means less arguments for you and your child in the future.







The Family Community Liaison Program (FCLP) provides individual counselling and family support. For more information about the program or the referral process, feel free to contact Kyria or Kateryna at the FCLP office at 780-778-8755.

**GET THE SCOOP**



# December 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Holiday Gift Shop Book Fair Parent/Teacher Inter-views	3 Holiday Gift Shop Book Fair Parent/Teacher Inter-views	4	5
6	7	8 Pizza Day 	9 Christmas Concert 1:00 and 7:00 p.m. Soup Day	10	11	12
13	14	15 Pizza Day PCSS Mtg—7 p.m. 	16 Soup Day 	17	18 Red & Green Day Assembly Christmas vacation Begins.....	19
20	21	22	23	24 	25 	26
27	28	29	30	31		Classes resume Jan 4/16