



**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST**

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On Whitecourt Central School

JANUARY 2016

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, sight words, and preparing breakfast all assist in developing and strengthening student skills.

Additionally, we thank our School Council for organizing the wonderful and

delicious Staff Christmas Lunch- it was deeply appreciated by our staff! 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. Buha’s time with us is coming to a close as Mrs. Cho returns this week from maternity leave. We thank Mrs. Buha for a wonderful first term and wish her all the best in her next endeavors!

We hope everyone has a prosperous and rewarding 2016.

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. If a family emergency arises during the day, please phone the school and we will gladly give your child a message.

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.

Regular attendance is essential for students to stay caught up on school work and class discussions that occur. We monitor student absences and late arrivals on a regular basis. Excessive lates, in addition to absences, also jeopardize your child’s success.

“Get the Scoop” on School Improvement

Our 2015/2016 School Improvement Goals 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.

Literacy:

All teachers, Grades 3 to 5, encourage students to pick “Good Fit” Books. At the beginning of the year, students are taught a strategy to assist them to pick books that fit their reading and comprehension level which makes reading much 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 5 finger rule per page. If there are 5 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 difficult 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 learn and our students are presently using this strategy as they choose library books and classroom books to read.



January Assembly and Theme Day:

Our regular assembly for January will be held on Thursday, January 28/16 at 9:30 a.m. Please join us for a rousing good time!

The theme for January is Super Hero Day. All students are invited to dress up as their favorite super hero!



CONGRATULATIONS!!

Eagles of the Month for December 2015!

Grade 3

- Trinity Cairns
- Kayden Highmoor
- Ryann Van Der Meer
- Preston Key
- Kael Detert

Grade 4

- Julie Bisson
- Delta Christianson
- Noe Champagne
- Emma Layton
- Ava Spink

Grade 5

- Renee Gray
- Alexandra Tremblay
- Jaelyn Shuck
- Denver Johns
- Sidney Bizeau

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

School Fees

School Fees of \$60.00 are now past due. These fees must be paid in full before students will have access to our school swimming program. Please contact the school office if you require payment options. Thank you!



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.

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.



School Cash On-Line:

Schools within Northern Gateway Public Schools will soon begin to accept on-line payments for any fees or items available to purchase from the school. This is a safe and efficient way to pay for student items. Stay tuned for further information.

PCSS January News

Thank you to everyone who attended our December School Council meeting. Our next school council meeting will be held on January 12, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the school. Please plan on attending!

Thank you to all students who participated in our December coloring contest. Congratulations to our three winners!

Grade 3: Rylan Ophus—3SP
 Grade 4: Sarah Wesenberg—4ML
 Grade 5: Kacy Fairbairn—5B

Tickets are now available for:

The Second Annual Epic Night Out
Saturday, January 23, 2016
Doors open at 5:30 p.m.—Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Auction and Dance to follow
Whitecourt Community Centre
Adults Only

This Epic Night Out is sure to entertain you with the live band, *Damn It Jim*, an auction, and, a delicious dinner catered by Abbie's Catering. Tickets are \$40.00 per person or \$320.00 for a table of eight, and are now available! Our fundraising goal is to "*Light It Up*." We are raising funds to beautify the playground and school yard by adding lighting and making it a comfortable and safe place for everyone to enjoy. We also hope to include benches for seating and a sponsor recognition wall.


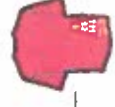


We are seeking cash donations, along with auction items to maximize our fundraising potential. If you or your business would like to donate, purchase tickets or volunteer, please contact Nicky Birtles at 780-268-3521 or Candace Martfeld at 780-779-7268, or, Jammie Rollheiser at 780-396-9742. Tickets will also be available to purchase at the school office. Donations for the auction are required by January 15/16. Thank you for your continued support with our playground project!

Please watch for our January edition of the PCSS/EPIC newsletter for up to date information from our school council, important dates, and hot lunch/milk order forms. Thank you to all our volunteers—your help is greatly appreciated!



January 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3	4 First day back Following Christmas Break	5 Jump Rope for Heart Kick off Assembly— 1:30 p.m.	6	7	8	9
10	11 Hot Dog Lunch Orders due Swimming 4S/C, 4M, 4ML	12 Pizza Day Swimming— 5C, 5B, 5L PCSS/EPIC meeting	13 Soup Day Swimming - 3P/R 3S 	14 Swimming - 3L, 3B, 3SP	15 Swimming—4D, 4J	16
17	18 Swimming— 5U, 5V Pink Shirt Order Forms Due 	19 Pizza Day 	20 Soup Day 	21	22	23 EPIC Night Out
24	25	26	27	28 Hot Dog Lunch Super Hero Day Assembly—9:30 a.m. Pizza Orders due	29 Staff Planning & Development Day No school	30
31						

Dr. Jim's Top Ten Ways That Parents/Guardians Can Really Support Their Child's School and Education!

10. **Promote** respect for others...teachers, parents and fellow students...everyone cares for all of the children. Model what you preach! Complaining does little to promote growth. Studies show that positive people live longer and happier, have more to give to others and experience warmer and happier relationships...let's give this to our children!
9. **Attend** any/all functions that you can...be visible in your support for your school. How can you help in some small way in your **community** school? Do you volunteer? Brought something for the whole class? Let your child "show off" your talents and abilities?
8. **Read** at home...take a break from electronic games and show that you read too! After all, reading opens up the world for students and parents alike to learn! Enjoy a trip to the library, visit your school library, give a gift of a magazine, newspaper or book to your class...your child's teacher will have a suggestion.
7. **Practice** with your children with money...add, subtract, multiply and divide...put away the credit cards and teach using math and money in the real world! Help your child to understand banking, comparison shopping and give them an allowance...the world operates on the the currency of money.
6. **Teach** keyboarding on the computer...typing will soon replace cursive writing (in my humble opinion) and there are lots of free programs on the Internet.
5. **Resolve** issues directly with individuals...show your kids that problem solving is a skill that we can all practice. Complaining, public gossiping, making assumptions, models what for our children? Social media will never replace face-to-face, healthy and productive problem-solving.
4. **Ask** your child what they studied today and to tell you about their learning...use what questions and ask about specific subjects or topics...avoid yes/no questions or "How was school today?" Be specific! Share some things you learned today.
3. **Meet** your child's teacher often...they are helping raise your child and are with them more awake hours than you are...visit the class, help in the classroom, look up the Alberta Education curriculum and get to know it, bring them some learning from home that relates to the curriculum...we are all teachers, regardless of our age!
2. **Model** healthy communication with others around you. Managing your emotions through self-regulation are demonstrated daily in healthy families. Plan ahead for this to happen-meal times are great for this (but no electronics including TV or computers, sit down together and enjoy each other's company!)
1. **Remember** that Dr. Jim likes chocolate! ☺