



“Get the Scoop”

On Whitecourt Central School

PCSS NEWS

MARCH 2016

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Student Awards for February

Bullying Defined

Report Cards

School Council Tidbits

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Principal’s Message

As the months fly by, we are often found asking ourselves, “where has the time gone?” The weather has been beautiful and the students have been enjoying their time outside. Hopefully, it continues, but we are not holding our breath.

March is proving to be a very busy month. Check out our on-line calendar as it is updated daily.

Our Grade 4 and 5 students recently completed the OURSchool (Tell Them from Me) Survey. They did a great job and the results of the survey will be discussed with them in the upcoming weeks. Two areas that we focused on from last year’s survey results were the topics of feeling safe on the way to and from school, and bullying. Students were asked to identify whether they walked home or rode the bus and if they

felt safe or not. If they felt safe, the questioning on this topic ended. If they responded that they didn’t feel safe, then there were further questions to help identify the reasons. In the area of bullying, we wanted to identify any patterns. What we found was that students do not necessarily have the correct definition and understanding of bullying. As a result of this information, we are going to be working with all students to ensure that they understand what bullying is, how to identify it, and, what steps can be taken to help. We will also be sharing this information with parents.

We have been noticing that more and more students are coming to school with phones and Ipads, so we wanted to share some information with parents regarding digital citizenship. This information can be found

further on in this newsletter.

We thank all the many volunteers who are helping out in the school. We appreciate the time and energy that you contribute to every task. The staff and students appreciate all that you do!

*Tammy McKeever
Principal*



Student Awards:

Congratulations to our Eagles of the Month for February 2016

Grade 3:

- Seth Hay
- Makayla Beaner
- Janessa Underwood
- Carly Lai
- Dominik Stewart

Grade 4:

- Muskaan Summan
- Madison Richards
- Emma Lopushinsky
- Brianna Beatty
- Kayla Spivak

Grade 5:

- Maddox Seguin
- Susannah Purcka
- Zach Merrifield
- Logan Crease
- Maggi Coffee



Bullying:

We will begin by defining "bullying" and identifying two key points.

Bullying is defined in the new School Act as "repeated and hostile or demeaning behaviour by an individual in the school community where the behaviour is intended to cause harm, fear or distress to one or more other individuals in the school community, including psychological harm or harm to an individual's reputation."

- * There is usually an imbalance of power, meaning an individual tries to control another.
- * Behaviour happens repeatedly, more than once.

Book Fair:

We will once again host a Scholastic Book Fair in our library this month.

Book Fair hours are:

March 21st- 9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

And 5:00—7:00 p.m.

March 22nd—9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

And 5:00 –7:00 p.m.

March 23rd —9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon

All classes will visit the book fair.

Please stop by and check out the new and exciting titles available.

If you are planning on visiting the Book Fair on the evening of Monday, March 21st, please use the library door located on 52nd Avenue.

After School Arrangements

Please ensure that your child knows of any different after school plans **BEFORE** they come to school each day, as it is disruptive to instructional time to interrupt for student messages.

Classes are often participating in outdoor activities and it can be difficult to connect with individual students to pass along messages.

Thank you!

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

As parents are aware, social media is starting to influence children at a younger and younger age. There are a variety of apps and social networking sites available and the popular ones change constantly; therefore; it is important that parents and teachers stay current with this social world and understand the age restrictions on each.

Parents are encouraged to check their children's accounts, review their devices, and examine their social media connections. This will ensure that our children are not victims of bullying, being targeted by predators, or, that they are behaving inappropriately on social media.

As adults, we benefit from years of social interactions and life experiences to help us navigate our social media connections. Our children may have amazing digital skills, but they do not have the social maturity to always make the best decisions. Andrea Tomkins has written an article (see the link below) about the implications for parents as they raise children in an era of zero privacy.

Schools and teachers are often subjects of social media commentary. Facebook "Whitecourt Rant and Rave" is a good example of how social media can be positive but also negative. Negative messages can be damaging to the reputation of the school, but also harmful to individuals within the school. A good rule of thumb to follow is to keep negative messages to personal communication only and preferably a phone call or face to face meeting. As educators, we would ask that parents or community members call us as soon as possible when there are concerns or questions. We also ask that parents model this good social media practice by not using student names on social media. This is an important practice for all of us. Working together, we can raise children who are media savvy and able to navigate their social world. Below are a number of links to help you with this on-going challenge.

<http://mediasmarts.ca/blog/what-it-raise-children-age-zero-privacy>

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/>

Staying Safe in a Wired World, A Parent's Guide to Internet Safety, by Rob Nickel.
(worked for the Ontario Provincial Police Internet Crimes Unit.)

Report Cards:

Report Cards will be sent home with all students on Friday, March 18/16. Interviews for this reporting period will be held on the evening of Tuesday, March 22/16 from 5:00—8:00 p.m. Interviews for this reporting period are by teacher or parent request. If your child's teacher has requested an interview, the scheduled time will be written on the front of the report card. If you would like to have an interview with your child's teacher, please contact the school office at 780-778-2136 and we will be happy to schedule a time for you!



Assembly/Theme Day:

Our March assembly will be held on Wednesday, March 23/16 at 9:30 a.m.

**Please join us as we celebrate
Whitecourt Central!**

In conjunction with our assembly this month we will celebrate with Western Day. We encourage all students to dress western this day!



ALBERTA OPERA

Members of the Alberta Opera Company will visit our school on Friday, March 11/16 to present "*The Steadfast Soldier.*" The Opera will begin at 9:30 a.m.



School Council March News:

Thank you to everyone who attended our February School Council Meeting. A special thank you to Mr. Landry, for your informative presentation on Google Classrooms. Our next major event will be our Family Fun Night in April. We will need many volunteers for this popular event, so please stay tuned for further details! Watch for our March edition of the PCSS/EPIC School Council Newsletter for up to date information from our school council as well as important dates and order forms. This month we have included a word search for our fun student activity of the month. Thank you to all the students who have been participating in our monthly activities—we look forward to seeing your entries and presenting small prizes. Our next school council meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 15th at 7:00 p.m. at the school. Everyone is welcome! Thank you to our dedicated volunteers—your help is greatly appreciated!

For more information contact:




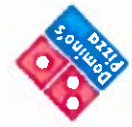






Natalie Christianson: Text: 780-706-4408

Email: centralschoolcouncils@gmail.com

And, find us on Facebook at Whitecourt Central School PCSS and EPIC Society

March 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
					Staff Development Day—no school for students	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		Pizza Day 	Soup Day  Hot Lunch Orders due		Alberta Opera 9:30 a.m.	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Daylight Savings Time Resumes—Spring ahead one hour! 		Pizza day  PCSS Meeting 7:00 p.m.	Soup Day 		Milk Orders due  Report Card day	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Book Fair Term 2 Awards - 9:30 a.m. 	Book Fair Parent Teacher Interviews 5-8 p.m.	Book Fair Western Day Assembly - 9:30 a.m. Hot Dog Lunch Day 	First day of Easter Vacation—No School 	Good Friday Holiday No School	
27	28	29	30	31		
Easter Sunday 						

March

Team for Success is now on Facebook! Please like and share our page for regular updates and fun pictures! Follow @Team4SuccessWct on Twitter as well!



Team
for
Success

Summer Camps

Keep an eye out for our summer camp brochures! They will be sent home in May!

How to Contact the Team for Success:

Project Coordinator:
E-mail: teagan.arnott@ngps.ca or
Call: (780)262-0466.

Corinne (Pat Hardy):
Call: (780)778-6266 ask for Corinne

Maren (Whitecourt Central):
Call: (780)778-2136 ask for Maren

Stacey (Percy Baxter):
Call: (780)778-3898 ask for Stacey

BREAKFAST PROGRAM!

Please join us from 8-9 am to help serve our students breakfast. Thank you to everyone who is volunteering and if you wish to join our team for this program please contact the school for further contact information.

March Mental Health Tip

Three ways to help your child value honesty:

- 1. Encourage each family member to make a personal commitment to tell the truth. Honestly acknowledge feelings. Honestly admit to successes and mistakes.*
- 2. Don't overreact when your child lies to you. Children will lie if they fear your reaction.*
- 3. Work together to come up with family rules about honesty and the consequences for dishonesty.*

Helpful Hint from the Family Community Liaison Program (FCLP)

Confidence makes our children believe in themselves which allows them to take on new challenges and try new things. Confident kids are more likely to get better grades, stand up to a bully, or try a new sport.

Confidence is developed when children achieve new skills; whether it's as simple as brushing their teeth or making their bed. As a parent, we can help our children develop confidence by giving them the opportunity to practice and master their skills, letting kids make mistakes and being there to boost their spirits so they keep trying.

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.



**Boys & Girls Club of
Whitecourt & District**



WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE SPRING BREAK

- OPEN FROM 7:30am TO 6:00pm

WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE ADVENTURES				
Monday March 28	Tuesday March 29	Wednesday March 30	Thursday March 31	Friday April 1
Park "Monkey Around" and picnic snack 2-5	AJMC "Off-Shore Explore" Swimming 2-4	Edmonton Valley Zoo "Livin' the Life" All day	AJMC "On the Loose!" Fieldhouse Fun! 10-12	Pyjama Party! "Wild and Free!" Movie and Popcorn

Adventures are subject to change.

Call 780-778-6696 to register for a fun-filled
Spring Break with the Boys & Girls Club of Whitecourt!

Fees: Members \$200/child for the week
Non-Members \$210/child for the week

Minimum 20 Children for the program to run, maximum 35.



NBC CAMPS

SPRING BREAK BASKETBALL CAMP HILLTOP HIGH SCHOOL MARCH 30 - APRIL 1, 2016

NBC BASKETBALL CLINICS FOCUS ON HELPING ATHLETES IMPROVE THE FUNDAMENTAL SKILLS OF THE GAME. WE TEACH AND DRILL IMPORTANT SKILL WORK AND PROGRESS TO LIVE ACTION COMPETITION. WE STRIVE TO CHALLENGE PLAYERS IN A FUN AND ENCOURAGING ENVIRONMENT. COME AND IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS AT OUR GREAT CLINICS.



Coaches and Master Teachers from NBC Summer Camps will be providing the supervision and instruction at this basketball clinic.

TEACHING FOCUS

- * Shooting Drills and Competition
- * Ball Handling
- * Attacking the Basket & Finishing
- * Defense
- * Rebounding
- * Fast Breaks
- * Live Action, Competitive Play

DETAILS

Hilltop High School
71 Sunset Blvd Whitecourt, AB
March 30-April 1, 2016 (3 day camp)
9am-3pm each day
Boys & Girls 9-16 Years Old
Cost: \$100 USD Early Bird Price
(Early Bird Deadline January 29, 2016)
\$125 USD Regular Price

BRING

*Basketball & Basketball Gear
*Bag Lunch Each Day
*Water Bottle for Breaks
*Medical Release Form
To speed up check-in,
download med release at:
nbccamps.com/pdfs/Med_waiver1.pdf

REGISTER

phone: 1.800.406.3926
online: www.nbccamps.com
mail: print registration form
off website and send to:
NBC CAMPS (CLINIC REG.)
10003 N. Division Ste. 100
Spokane, WA 99218

