

“Get the Scoop”

On Whitecourt Central School

SEPTEMBER 2016

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

School Security

Thank you to
Dynamic
Developments!

Student
Messages

Parent
Handbook

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Principal’s Message:

Welcome back for another fantastic school year at Whitecourt Central School!!

It has been a very busy summer in our school with the renovation of one of our classrooms, the installation of new flooring in the entrance to the school, and security doors were added to our main hallways. Thank you to the Northern Gateway Maintenance Crew for ensuring that everything was ready for the start of our new school year!

Our Central School staff has changed slightly from last year. Ms. Larson is on a maternity leave while she is home caring for her new bundle of joy! Mrs. Carlson has changed grades to teach Grade 3 full time this year, and Ms. Perry, Mrs. Bills, and Mrs. Clarke continue maternity leaves and will be returning throughout the year. We are fortunate to have Ms. Barrass, Ms. Buha, and Mr. Vasquez with us to cover these classrooms.

Whitecourt Central School made the change to a paperless newsletter last year. Our monthly newsletters will be posted on our website. If you are unable to access the website, please let Mrs. Tarcon in the office know and she will ensure that a hard copy of our newsletter is sent home with your child.

The calendar is quickly filling up with a number of events. The Google calendar is available on our web site and is updated regularly. We also send emergent messages out through Remind. Please sign up for Remind by texting @CentralSch to (587)409-2946.

On behalf of the staff, we welcome our new families to Whitecourt Central and extend a huge welcome back to those who are returning. It will be a fantastic year and we look forward to seeing you!

Mrs. Tammy McKeever
Principal



Northern Gateway
Public Schools

Thank you!

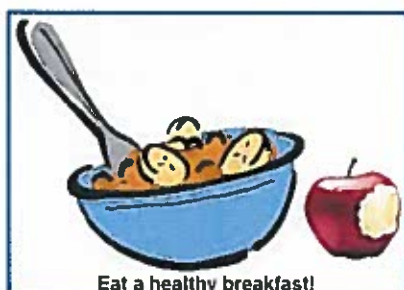
A big thank you goes out to Mr. Jim Rennie of Dynamic Developments for providing the Ice Cream for our annual Get The Scoop Night held on August 30, 2016

We were glad to get acquainted with so many of our school families and look forward to working with you this school year!



Breakfast Program:

Our Breakfast Program will begin on Monday, September 12, 2016. All Students are welcome to access breakfast in the community center beginning at 8:30 a.m. each morning.



Student Names

Northern Gateway Public Schools will use the students' legal names on all legal documents including report cards and student files.

Students may use their preferred names in the classrooms.

Student Phone Messages:

Unless it is an absolute emergency, we will not interrupt classes to deliver student messages, so please ensure that your child is aware of any after school plans before leaving home in the mornings. If after school plans are different than the normal routine, please include a note in your child's school agenda. If you are picking your child up early in the school day, please check in at the office and sign them out. Thank you!

School Security:

Whitecourt Central School and Northern Gateway Schools' Occupational Health and Safety Department have teamed up to increase the security of the school. The doors leading to the hallways will now require a security card to unlock them. This means that these doors will remain locked at all times unless scanned by a Fob. If parents are dropping off lunch, clothes, supplies, etc. they may be left at the office and the students will be called to the office at break times. If you need to go down to see your child, the door release will need to be switched off by the office staff. When our volunteers arrive at the school, they will be required to sign in, take a Volunteer Identification tag and then Mrs. Tarcon will release the hallway door for your entry. This new system will enable us to know who is in our school at any given time in case of a lock down or fire drill.

STUDENT FORMS:

Over the next several days we will send home a *Student Registration Form* and *In-Town Field Trip Form* for each student. Alberta Education requires that we have completed registration forms on file for all students each year as this is one way that our funding is verified. Please take the time to complete these forms and return to your child's classroom teacher. If your family is new to Whitecourt and you have recently completed our registration package at the school office, it is not necessary for you to complete these forms again

Please return all forms to the classroom teachers by Monday, September 12/16. Thank you!

Student Absences/Lates

Please be sure to notify the school in the mornings **before** 9:00 a.m. if your child is going to be late or absent. We must account for all of our students' whereabouts. Our phone system is equipped with an answering machine for your convenience. If we are unaware of why a student is absent, our automated phone system will place a phone call home. Thank you!

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School Fees:

Our school fees for the 2016/2017 year are set at \$60.00 for all students. Payments may be made through our on-line payment program: SchoolCashOnLine. All students attending our school have been uploaded into the SchoolCash site. Please visit <https://ngps.schoolcashionline.com> to register for this on-line payment system. School fees collected are used to cover the cost of the student agendas, school related consumables, bussing to and from the swimming pool. Items such as recorders for Music and field trip costs will be additionally charged throughout the year. Due to the rise in transportation and rental fees, all school fees must be paid in order for students to attend grade level swimming sessions, or field trips.

Parent Handbook

Our parent handbook is available on our web site—
<http://whitecourtcentral.ca>
Please take some time to familiarize yourself with the information included in our school handbook.



Website/Remind :

Please take a few minutes to check out our web site at:
<http://whitecourtcentral.ca>

We're also on Twitter: @ngpswcs

Sign up to receive important messages through Remind:
Remind: Text @centralsch to (587)409-2946

Facebook: www.facebook.com/WhitecourtCentral



ASSEMBLY

Our first school wide assembly will take place on Friday,

September 30th beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Please join us as we celebrate the start of a new school year!

Peanut Allergies:

Whitecourt Central School is a peanut aware school. If your child has any severe allergies, please contact the classroom teacher.



The Staff of Whitecourt Central School

Teaching Staff:

NAME	GRADE/CLASS	ROOM NO.	EMAIL ADDRESS
Mrs. T. McKeever	Principal		tammy.mckeever@ngps.ca
Mr. T. Bowman	Assistant Principal		tim.bowman@ngps.ca
Mrs. M. Buha	3B/R and 4S/B	7 and 12	melanie.buha@ngps.ca
Mrs. W. Cho	3C	4	wendy.cho@ngps.ca
Mrs. D. Carlson	3D/C	8	darlene.carlson@ngps.ca
Ms. T. Barrass	3B	3	tessa.barras@ngps.ca
Mrs. S. Rennie	3B/R	7	sarah.rennie@ngps.ca
Mrs. G. St. Louis	3S	6	gaylene.stlouis@ngps.ca
Mrs. T. Doepker	4D	16	tania.doepker@ngps.ca
Mrs. S. Jensen	4J	17	sandra.jensen@ngps.ca
Mrs. K. Mytrunec	4M	15	kerry.mytrunec@ngps.ca
Mrs. S. Martell	4ML	13	sylvia.martell@ngps.ca
Mrs. J. Saulit	4S/B—Music	12	june.saulit@ngps.ca
Ms. L. Burzinski	5B	21	lani.burzinski@ngps.ca
Mrs. H. Czenczek	5C	19	heather.czenczek@ngps.ca
Mr. C. Landry	5L	23	chris.landry@ngps.ca
Mr. C. Vasquez	5V	20	christopher.vasquez@ngps.ca
Mrs. M. Uttley	5U	18	melissa.uttley@ngps.ca
Mrs. K. Johnson	Inclusive Education	1	kristine.johnson@ngrd.ab.ca

Support Staff:

Mrs. D. Beck Educational Assistant
 Mrs. R. Hunter Educational Assistant
 Mrs. T. Law Educational Assistant
 Mrs. M. Lee Educational Assistant
 Mrs. K. Marin Educational Assistant
 Mrs. E. Newhook Educational Assistant
 Mrs. C. Titanich Educational Assistant
 Mrs. C. Sebo Learning Commons
 Mrs. M. Tarcon School Secretary
 Mrs. A. Underwood Educational Assistant

Miss T. Arnott—Mental Health Coordinator
 Mrs. M. Skipper—Success Coach
 Mrs. H. Ajayi—Network Technician
 Dr. Jim Canniff—Psychologist





September 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 <i>Labour Day Holiday—School Closed</i>	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 <i>Breakfast Program begins</i>	13	14	15	16 <i>Staff Professional Development Day - No school for students</i>	17
18	19	20 <i>Trent Arterberry Performance—2 p.m. School Council—7 pm</i>	21	22	23	24
25	26 <i>Grade 5 Immunization</i>	27	28	29	30 <i>Pizza Orders due Assembly—9:30 a.m. Terry Fox Walk - 1 p.m.</i>	

The Resiliency Wheel



"Resilient people immediately look at the problem and say, "What's the solution to that? What is this trying to teach me?"

"In the context of exposure to significant adversity, resilience is both the capacity of individuals to navigate their way to the psychological, social, cultural, and physical resources that sustain their well-being, and their capacity individually and collectively to negotiate for these resources to be provided in culturally meaningful ways." (See also [Ungar, 2008](#) and [Ungar, 2011](#))

*In short...a good elastic band!
Dr. Jim, 2016*

Dr. Canniff, our school psychologist, has been working with the school staff on the idea of building resiliency in children and of being resilient. With the changing dynamics of society and some of the challenges that children are now facing, these skills will be beneficial. Throughout the year, the staff will be introducing themes around the idea of resiliency and participating in activities that enable students to build on their knowledge and skill set. We will also be providing sessions on resiliency for parents and community members/agencies. Information will be shared through our newsletters.



Northern Gateway
Public Schools

Northern Gateway Public Schools' Learning Services will be in our community to present information on the topic of Alberta Education's Competencies and how they are a part of learning in our schools. Please join us for this presentation.

Thursday, September 22, 2016
7:00 p.m.
Hilltop Jr./Sr. High School

Please contact the school should you have any questions.

Competencies Overview:

<https://education.alberta.ca/media/3115408/competencies-overview-may-17.pdf>

Competencies FAQs for Parents:

<https://education.alberta.ca/media/3115409/competencies-faqs-for-parents-may-17.pdf>

Hillside Jr./Sr. High School	September 22, 2016 - 6:30 p.m.
Hilltop High School	September 22, 2016 - 7:00 p.m.
Mayerthorpe Jr./Sr. High School	September 22, 2016 - 7:00 p.m.
Onoway Jr./Sr. High School	September 22, 2016 - 7:00 p.m.
Fox Creek School	September 29, 2016 - 6:00 p.m.



WHITECOURT CENTRAL SCHOOL

4807 – 53 Avenue
Whitecourt, AB T7S 1N2
Phone: (780)778-2136



The information requested on this form is being collected pursuant to the School Act, Section 18, A.R. 213/88 & A.R. 175/93 and the FOIPP Act, Sections 32(c), 37(b) & 38(c). Information acquired through this form is kept secure and access is restricted.

2016/2017 REGISTRATION INFORMATION UPDATE

STUDENT INFORMATION

Student's Legal Name _____ Gender: M / F
Last First Middle

Home Phone # _____ Cell Phone# _____

Physical Address (land location or street) _____

Mailing Address (if different from above): _____ Postal Code: _____

MOTHER/FATHER/GUARDIAN:

Mother()/Guardian():

_____ Last Name First Name Work/Cell Phone #.

Father()/Guardian():

_____ Last Name First Name Work/Cell Phone #.

Student lives with: Father() Mother() Guardian() Other() Specify _____

(Collected to enable schools to direct communications to an appropriate address)

EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

In case of an emergency – school closure, illness, or injury, and the parent/guardian is unavailable, please provide us with the names and phone numbers of local individuals who we can phone.

Contacts	Name	Phone Number	Alternate Phone Number
Emergency Contact #1			
Emergency Contact #2			

CUSTODY:

In some instance a child is designated as "Protected" if a court has issued an order under the Child Welfare Act, the Domestic Relations Act, the Divorce Act, or the Young Offenders Act. Please indicate if the school administration should be aware of any Court Order for the protection of your child.

___ Yes ___ No

If "yes", please discuss this situation with the school administration. A copy of the Court Order or any other legal document shall be supplied.

MEDICAL INFORMATION:

Are there any particular medical problems your child may be experiencing or which his/her teacher should be aware? ___ Physical Disabilities ___ Allergies ___ Serious Illness

Family Circumstances

Are there family circumstances you wish to share with the school? Yes No If yes, please make an appointment with the principal

Independent Student Status

The **School Act** defines an **Independent student** as someone who is (i) 18 years of age or older, or (ii) 16 years of age or older and (a) who is living independently, or (b) who is party to an agreement under Section 57.2 of the Child, Youth, and Family Enhancement Act

Are you claiming status as an **Independent Student** under the definition of the **School Act**? Yes No

Francophone Rights

According to Section 10 of the **School Act** and Section 23 of the **Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms**, a parent or legal guardian who is a Canadian citizen has the right to have his/her children receive school instruction in French. This applies if the parent/guardian is a resident of Alberta and French was the first language learned, and is still understood, by at least one parent or one or more of the parents or one or more of their children have received/are receiving instruction in a French First Language Program or school in Canada (this does not include a French Immersion program)

Do you claim entitlement to a **Francophone Education** under the terms of the **School Act**? Yes No

If you have answered yes, the Student Record Regulation requires Northern Gateway Public Schools to release demographic information about the student and parent to the local Francophone Education Board upon written request from the school jurisdiction.

If **yes**, do you wish to exercise your right to have your child educated in French? Yes No

In Alberta, parents can only exercise this right by enrolling their child in a French First Language (Francophone) Program offered by a Francophone Regional Authority.

Aboriginal Self-Declaration

If you wish to identify that your child has an Aboriginal ancestry, please specify:

Status Indian/First Nations Non-Status Indian/First Nations Métis Inuit

Alberta Education is collecting this personal information pursuant to Section 33(c) of the **FOIPP Act** as the information relates directly to and is necessary to meet its mandate and responsibilities to measure system effectiveness over time and develop policies, programs, and services to improve Aboriginal learner success. Alberta school boards are also collecting this information pursuant to the same section in conjunction with Section 21(1)(t) of the **Student Record Regulation** and for the same purposes. This information will also be used to determine the provincial First Nations, Métis and Inuit Funding Allocation provided to school authorities.

For further information or if you have questions regarding the collection activity, please contact the office of the Director, Aboriginal Policy, Strategic Services Division Alberta Education, 10155 – 102 Street, Edmonton AB T5J 4L5, 780-427-8501.

If you have questions regarding the collection activity by Northern Gateway Public Schools, please contact the Superintendent, 780-778-2800 or 800-262-8674.

Does this student have treaty status? Yes No Does this student reside on reserve? Yes No

Name of Reserve	Treaty No	Band No	Family No	Child Position No
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Complete Address on Reserve

Digital Citizenship and Technology Use

As a condition of using Northern Gateway Public Schools network resources, I understand that access to division information resources, including access to internet and cloud-based resources, is a privilege and agree to abide by **Administrative Procedure 140 - Digital Citizenship** and the regulations identified in the **Northern Gateway Digital Citizenship - Technology Use Agreement**.

Please initial to indicate that you have read and understood the policies and regulations identified above

Initial

Using and Disclosing Personal Information

Northern Gateway Public Schools recognizes that all procedures for the collection and storing of information by Division staff in the course of affairs and procedure regulating the release of information to other parties must follow provisions of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). Access to information is guided by **Administrative Procedure 180 - Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy**. Further details can be found in our **FOIP and Media Consent** document.

Please initial to indicate that you have read and understood the policies and regulations identified above

Initials

Media Participation

While under the supervision of Northern Gateway Public Schools, I hereby give Northern Gateway Public Schools and outside organizations permission to photograph, video tape, audio tape and/or interview my child. I understand that this means that a photograph(s), video(s), and/or tape(s), interview(s) or likeness of my child may be collected, used, reproduced and broadcast within NGPS and by the outside organization for displays, publication, including yearbooks, websites, social media, the electronic media, and advertising or promotional materials.

I hereby give Northern Gateway Public Schools permission to use, publish, display and copyright any work, written material, or creative work created or authored by my child through school activities. I understand that artwork, written material, or creative work may be used by Northern Gateway Public Schools in division or school displays, publications (including yearbooks), websites, social media, other electronic media, and advertising or promotional materials. I understand that Northern Gateway Public Schools may make minor edits as deemed appropriate.

I understand that consent can be revoked at any time by written notification provided to my child's school. Further details can be found in our **FOIP and Media Consent** document.

Please initial to indicate that you have read and understood the guidelines explained above

Initials

Consent to Post Personal Information

Northern Gateway Public Schools requests consent to post personal information (including but not limited to first name, last name, grade, photographs, video, audio, award recognition, and school related activities) to external websites, social media, media publications (including yearbooks), and promotional materials. **I understand that my signature below indicates your consent.**

I understand that once provided, consent, in whole or in part (e.g. last name or photo, etc.), can be revoked at any time by **written notification** provided to my child's school, acknowledging that although photos/videos will be removed from websites and social media accounts, it may not be possible to remove all traces of personal information from the Internet.

Further details can be found in our [FOIP and Media Consent](#) document.

Policies and Regulations

If the hyperlinked documents are unavailable for any reason, information related to the sections above is available at your school in paper format. Please ask your school secretary or principal.

Collection and Use of Personal Information Disclaimer

The information requested on this form is being collected pursuant to the **School Act**, Section 23 A.R. 71/99 and the **FOIPP Act**, Sections 33(c), 39(1)(b) and 40(1)(c). Information acquired through this form is kept secure and access is restricted. In accordance with the Student Record Regulation, this form will be placed in the student's record file.

If you have any questions regarding this request for individual student information and about our use or disclosure of student information, please contact the school or the Northern Gateway Public Schools FOIPP Coordinator at Box 840, 4315 - 49 Avenue, Whitecourt AB T7S 1N9, 780-778-2600 or 1-800-262-8674, fax 780-778-6719.

DECLARATION

I am the legal guardian or the independent student referred to in this registration form. I have read and understand the information regarding guardianship and I have identified all guardians for this student. I hereby certify the foregoing information to be true, correct, and complete.

First Parent/Guardian Print Name	Signature	Date
Second Parent/Guardian Print Name	Signature	Date

Whitecourt Central School
Informed Consent/Permission Form
For
In Town Field Trips and Excursions

Whitecourt Central School staff arranges field trips and excursions for our students from time to time throughout the school year.

Types of Activities: neighborhood walks, swimming, skating, visiting business and playgrounds and parks within the Town of Whitecourt. These trips will take place within regular school hours. Parents will be informed of dates and times prior to the activity.

Please read and sign one Permission Form for each student

Educational activity programs require attention to safety. Injuries may occur while participating in these activities. The following list includes, but is not limited to, examples of safety concerns related to trips noted above.

Unintentional injury or mishap while walking to and from the school, or being bussed to and from the school, and while engaged in the activity as listed above.

Such concerns result from the nature of the activity and can occur without fault of either the student, or the school board, its' employees/agents or the facility where the activity is taking place. By choosing to take part in this activity, you are accepting the risk that your child may be injured.

Note: the chance of an injury occurring can be greatly reduced by carefully following instructions at all times during the activity.

Acknowledgement:

I have read the information above, and by signing below, acknowledge that by participating in the activities described, we are assuming the risks associated with doing so.

In Town Field Trip and Excursion Permission:

I give my child, _____ permission to participate in the above described activities.
(Student Name)

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date: _____



September

Donations Accepted

Any donations of shoes, clothes, or school supplies are welcomed at any of our schools! Last year we handed out around 10 pairs of shoes to students who desperately needed them!

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 Tanya

CANADIAN TIRE JUMPSTART

1 in 3 families cannot afford to enroll their children in organized sports. That's almost 750,000 kids every year who want to play, but just can't. Team for Success can connect you with the support to enroll your child in an organized sport without a credit check. Physical activity helps keep your mind and body healthy and we are strong supporters of maintaining mental health.

Team for Success

Staff:

Project Coordinator
Teagan Arnott

Success Coaches

Pat Hardy
Corinne Millington

Central School
Maren Skipper

Percy Baxter School
Stacey Wright



Back to School

September is one of the busiest times of the year. Team for Success is excited to start this year on a positive note that will carry-on for the 2016-2017 school year!

Follow
@Team4SuccessWct on
Twitter and Facebook
for more updates!

Programming

The Team for Success is shifting our focus from targeted groups (anxiety and anger management) to universal programming where we will provide programming to ALL students in our schools! If you want to know more about your child's learning please ask!

What is the Team for Success?

The Team for Success is a Mental Health Capacity Building (MHCB) in Schools Initiative that works to promote positive mental health in children, youth, families and support individuals in the community who interact with children and youth. The MHCB initiative is based on research and best practice literature that demonstrates that mental and emotional wellbeing can be developed, nurtured and supported through