



“Get the Scoop”

On Whitecourt Central School

OCTOBER 2016

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Effective Behavior Supports**
- **Attendance**
- **Photo Day**
- **Relay for Life**
- **Student Awards**

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Principal’s Message

Welcome to Fall!!

September has come and gone and we are moving right along!

Thank you to all of the families who joined us on our “Get the Scoop” night in August. We were glad to be able to meet with parents, give families the opportunity to drop off school supplies, and of course, enjoy some ice cream! A huge thank you goes out to Dynamic Enterprises for donating the ice cream that we all enjoyed! We appreciate your support!

All of the schools in Northern Gateway use a student information system called Powerschool. This program has many different features and provides us with a wide array of reports. Within this system,

only legal names of students are used. Preferred names can be used within the classroom, however, any documents generated by Powerschool, or legal documents required by Alberta Education will always use student legal names.

In addition to using Powerschool for attendance, we will soon be incorporating the use of Teacher Gradebook. This program will enable teachers to enter student marks and parents will be able to monitor their child’s progress daily. This will mean a change in our reporting system. There will no longer be any report cards send home. Parents will be able to access a progress report in Teacher Gradebook. If you are unable to access the internet, a progress report can be printed for you. Teachers will communicate regularly with parents regarding student progress.

We are noticing that several of our students are bringing electronics (cell phones, ipods, ipads, etc.) to school. Although we agree that technology has a valued place in education, we also know that a sense of responsible digital citizenship is necessary. Students who have their teacher’s permission to use their electronics in class, or on the bus to entertain themselves are demonstrating responsible use. We do not want electronics to be used on the playground where they may get damaged and used inappropriately. If supervisors see electronics on the playground, steps outlined in our technology policy will be implemented. I have included the Technology Policy with this newsletter.

Our students are having a great start to the year and we are seeing many smiles in the hallways! Students are busy completing challenges and we look forward to many adventures throughout the month!

Regards,

Mrs. Tammy McKeever
Principal



Effective Behaviour Supports:

Effective Behaviour Supports (EBS) is a school wide behavioural support program which designates a team of teachers, support staff, and administrators to collaborate together and establish the behavioural expectations for the students in the school. Students are taught respect for self, respect for others and respect for the environment through modelling and discussions within the classroom. Expectations are made clear so that students understand what is expected of them when are in the school and on the playground. Students are rewarded for making good choices and are encouraged to always think carefully about the choices they make. When they falter and make a poor choice, there is a support system in place to help the student realize what went wrong and give them strategies to help them in case a difficult situation arises again.

These common behavioural expectations and consequences for appropriate and inappropriate behaviour provide a structured and predictable learning environment for students and staff. This structure makes it easy for all staff to share responsibility for the behaviour of all students in and around the school. school staff to collect data in the form of "write-ups" outlining inappropriate behaviours. This enables the staff to investigate the situation and talk to all parties involved. Many times it is discovered that there is more to a situation than what has been reported by a student. These write-ups are collected and given to the classroom teacher in order to track any other incidents of inappropriate behaviour. Students are allowed three write-ups before more structured supports are required. This enables the student to learn from his/her mistakes and to make better choices in the future. If a student continues to struggle with a specific behaviour, a further step will involve consultations with two team members, called the *Think Tank*. These team members work with the students, usually at recess times, to determine the cause of the misbehaviour, the triggers they are experiencing, and then provide them with the opportunity to create a strategy to help the student monitor choices. These team members also check in with the students on the playground and in the classroom to ensure they are experiencing success, and are always available to the students should they need support.

Whitecourt Central School has been using this EBS system for the past seven years. It is reviewed with staff on a yearly basis. Our "Think Tank" is where students work with the team members to help them identify which behaviour was inappropriate, why it was inappropriate, and strategies to use if they are faced with difficult situations again. It is an opportunity for students to have one-on-one support from a team member. Because communication is important, parents will always be contacted when a child has received a write-up. It is important to understand that all students will make mistakes from time to time, and that is how they learn and grow. We feel it is important to have this system in place to provide a safe learning environment in which to support our students.

EDUCATION TIDBITS.....

Forming a Positive Relationship with your child's Teacher:

Teachers have valuable insights into how your child functions in a classroom setting, his/her learning style, and, behaviour, just as you have valuable insights from the home perspective. Discussions with the teacher about observations that you have made will assist with relationship building and programming. Never hesitate to ask questions about your child's development and progress in school. When everyone works together as a team, sharing information, and responsibility, the whole child is best served.



Attendance:

Attendance is taken at 9:05 a.m. each day. If you know your child will be away for an activity or appointment, please write a note in the agenda to the classroom teacher. If your child is ill, please phone the office in the morning, prior to 9:00a.m. Our phone system is equipped with an answering machine should you wish to phone before 8:00 a.m. This will enable us to account for the whereabouts of all students. If a teacher marks a student absent and we have not been informed, our Synervoice phone system will place a call home at 9:30 a.m. The automated phone system contacts the primary home number when students have an un-declared absence.

Mornings at Central...

When dropping your child(ren) off at school each day, please be aware that supervision on our playground begins at 8:30 a.m. Prior to 8:30 a.m. your child will be unsupervised. Our Breakfast Program also opens to all students at 8:30 a.m. Thank you!



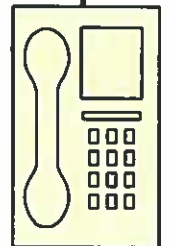
Volunteers:

Calling all Volunteers!

When you visit our school to assist in the classroom or with field trips, please sign in at the office in the binder provided on the front counter. Once you have signed in, please help yourself to a volunteer lanyard to wear while you are in the school and then return to it's spot when you are finished. Thank you!

Office Helpers

Over the next several weeks, we will begin training some of our Grade 5 students to answer phones and greet visitors over the lunch hour. Thank you for your patience and understanding as they learn the "ropes!"



Student Messages:

We receive numerous calls each day asking that we deliver messages to students. In cases of absolute emergencies we are happy to deliver these last minute messages. However; we ask that all students are aware of their appointments, family commitments and changes to after school routines **before** coming to school each day. Student messages disrupt class time and interrupt the learning of all students within the classroom. We appreciate your consideration in this regard.

School Photo Day:

Our annual School Photo Day will be held on Monday, October 3, 2016. Pose forms have been sent home with each student. When the Proof Packages/Order Forms Arrive, we will send them home with your child. It will take approximately three weeks from the time of the photos to receive the proof packages.

If your child would like a school memory book, please be aware that they must be ordered when you place your photo package order.

Jeans For Charity

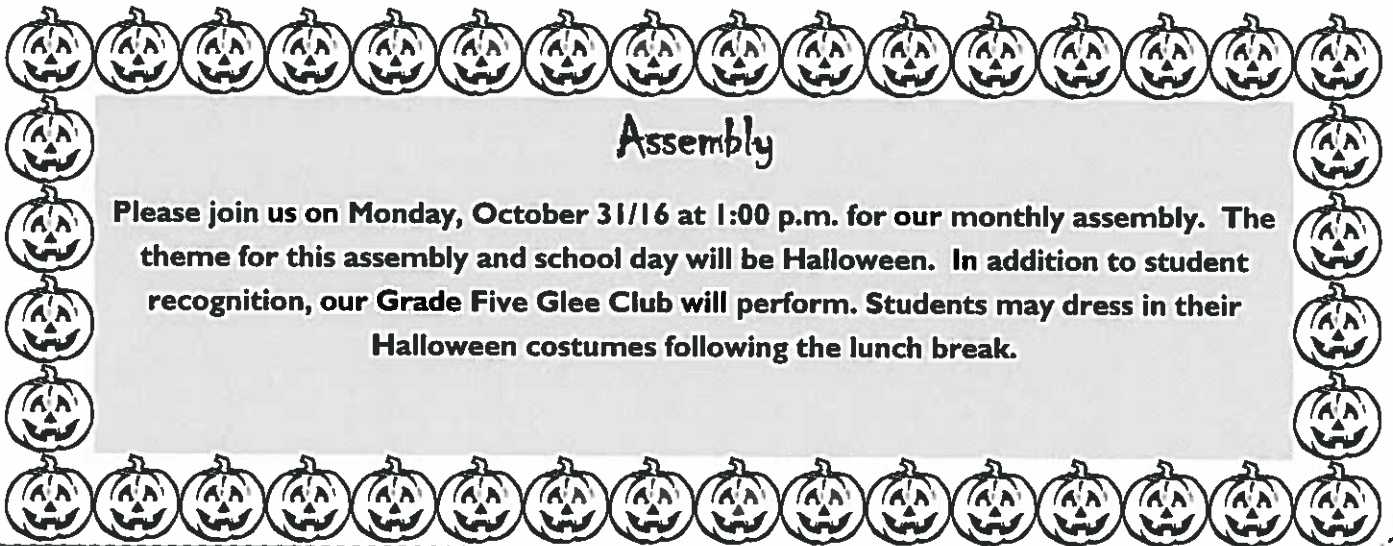
You may notice that on Fridays our school staff wears jeans. Staff members make a donation at the beginning of each year to wear jeans on Fridays and the funds are forwarded to local charities.

Relay for Life Fundraising:

Our school staff puts a team into the annual Whitecourt Relay for Life Event held in June each year. One way we hope to raise funds for this charity is by having gum days, hat days and other special event days through out the school year. Students will have the option to participate and bring a Loonie for the privilege of participating in the various events. Student participation is entirely optional. Event days will be placed in the monthly school calendar included with our newsletter.

Student Transportation:

The Transportation Department of Northern Gateway Public Schools does not allow students to ride on a bus route other than their own. Students are also not allowed to get off at a stop that is different than the one assigned to them. Transportation is only provided from home to school and from school to home. A student may get off at another stop **IF** the parent is there to facilitate the change. If you have any questions about this policy, please contact the school office.



Assembly

Please join us on Monday, October 31/16 at 1:00 p.m. for our monthly assembly. The theme for this assembly and school day will be Halloween. In addition to student recognition, our Grade Five Glee Club will perform. Students may dress in their Halloween costumes following the lunch break.

Student Awards:

Congratulations to our Eagles of the Month for September 2016!

Grade 3:

Melena Bowman
Nathan Weed
Kyle Merrifield
Rebecca Thompson
Hayden Robertson

Grade 4:

Victoria Ferguson
Olivia Peters
Abbygail Wilson
Sophia Danks
Kyla Johnson

Grade 5:

Avery Plamondon
Bailey Huggard
Nhu Nguyen
Brianna Beatty
Conner Naslund



PCSS NEWS:

We are excited to introduce our 2016/2017 Council members:

President:	Grant Tuts
Vice President:	Joanne Dixon
Treasurer:	Rochelle House
Secretary:	Petra Kaufmann

Our next council meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 18, 2016 at the School. Please join us!

Volunteers are needed in the following areas:

- ♦ Hot Lunch Orders—Help is required with processing the orders on October 14 at 9:00 a.m.
- ♦ Haunted House—Help is needed with setting up the Haunted House on the evening of October 27/16 and “in costume” during school hours on Friday, October 28/16. Please contact Joanne Dixon at 780-396-9994 for more information.

The soup program is returning! Order forms for soup will be sent home with students mid October.

Our first Hot Dog Lunch of the year will be held on Monday, October 31/16. Please refer to the order form included with this newsletter. Order due date is: Late orders will not be accepted after 9:00 a.m. on October 14th.

Technology Policy
Whitecourt Central School

Electronic devices, such as cell phones, ipods, and game devices are becoming more prominent in the school setting. Although we understand and respect the current trend, we require students to leave these items in their back packs unless they are being used in the classroom setting under the supervision of the teacher. These devices can cause unnecessary interruptions to our learning environment if not used responsibly.

We will use a three strike system if electronic devices are found to be used inappropriately. The first time a device is found being used inappropriately in the classroom, in the hallway, or, outside on the playground, the student will receive a warning and be asked to put the device away. A phone call will also be made to the parents to inform them of the concern. The second time a student is caught disobeying this rule, the device will be taken away and kept in the office until the end of the day. Again, parents will be contacted. The third time that the device is confiscated, it will be turned into the office and will be returned only when the parents come in for a meeting regarding the mis-use of the device.









We understand that students use these devices for a number of educational purposes. Due to the movement for inclusion and differentiation, we will allow devices to come to school once the Northern Gateway Public School's Digital Citizenship Agreement has been signed by both parents and students.

Please remember that the school is not responsible for any lost, stolen, or broken items.



**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING!**

October 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Photo Day	4	5	6 Hat Day for a Loonie 	7 Staff Development Day—No school for students.	8
9 	10 Thanksgiving Holiday—School Closed	11 Pizza Day 4M & 4S/B to Huestis 	12 4J and 4ML to Huestis 	13 4D to Huestis 	14 Hot Dog Lunch Orders due—9:00 a.m.	15
16	17	18 Pizza Day PCSS Meeting—7 p.m. 	19	20	21 Avalanche Safety - 1:00 p.m.	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 Haunted House Gum Day for a Loonie 	29
30 Hot Dog Lunch 	31 Assembly—1:00 p.m.					

October

Team for Success

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

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

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.

Staff:

Project Coordinator
Teagan Arnott

Success Coaches

Pat Hardy
Corinne Millington

Central School
Maren Skipper

Percy Baxter School
Stacey Wright



Follow Us!

Follow the Team for Success on Twitter: @Team4SuccessWct or on 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! At Whitecourt Central we will be giving programs called Superflex and Zones of Regulation. We also facilitate music/art mental health!

Simple Ideas to Promote Positive Mental Health in Your Child

1. Have a weekly family game night. Take turns choosing games.
2. Spend one hour a week alone with each child. Take a walk, listen to music, or just hang out.
3. Find out one area where your child is struggling. Listen to your child's concerns. Help your child think of ways to address the issue.

Helpful Hint from the Family Community Liaison Program (FCLP)

As parents, we often believe that our children have very little to stress about. But kids have worries too! Sometimes it can be peer related, concerns from hearing parents discuss financial issues at home, or worries about their own academic levels. As a parent you cannot prevent your child from ever feeling stress, but you can help them cope with their feelings and help them solve their problems.

Parents can't solve every problem as kids go through life, but by teaching healthy coping strategies, you'll prepare your kids to manage the stresses that come in the future. Here are some ways you can help your child if you sense they are feeling stressed:

- Notice out loud. Tell your child when you notice that something is bothering him or her.
- Listen to your child. Ask your child to tell you what's wrong. Listen attentively and calmly — with interest, patience, openness, and caring.
- Put a label on it. Help your child identify what they are feeling name that emotion accordingly. Example: I am feeling angry.
- Help your child think of things to do. If there's a specific problem that's causing stress, talk together about what to do.
- Listen and move on. Sometimes talking, listening and feeling understood is all that is needed to help a child's frustrations begin to melt away.
- Limit stress where possible. If certain situations are causing stress, see if there are ways to change things.
- Just be there. Kids don't always feel like talking about what's bothering them, and sometimes that's fine. Let your kids know you'll be there when they are ready to talk.

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.