



“Get the Scoop”

On Whitecourt Central School

DECEMBER 2016

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Effective Behavior Supports

Educational Tidbits

Kommunity Kitchen Donations

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Principal’s Message

Congratulations to all of our students on the hard work and determination put forth in Term #1. 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 inclement 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.

2016 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 ticket request forms, or completed the request online. Tickets will be sent home the week before the concert. Tickets are limited, as it is important that we stay within the fire code regulations. We also want our guests to enjoy the concerts, so by seating 450 people, everyone should be able to see the performance.

Only individuals with tickets will be granted admission into the concerts. We will also

post a link for a livestream of the concert on our website.

The staff and students of Whitecourt Central School wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

Mrs. T. McKeever
Principal

Attendance:

In order for students to be successful, regular attendance and punctual arrival is essential. The administrative team of Central will monitor student attendance. Messages on progress reports were the first step to let parents know how much school their child has missed. If the absences continue, parents will be contacted by school administration and then the Attendance Board.



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 2016 Christmas Concert -

"Old Man Winter's Icicle Follies"

Concert performances will take place on Wednesday, December 21, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

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

We look forward to seeing you there!

Christmas concert afternoon and evening are very busy around the school. We ask that all guests remain in the gym and not in the hallways, or front entry.

Please do not park in the parking lot of the Public Library during our Christmas Concert.

We will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Whitecourt Food Bank at both concert performances. Thank you!

CONGRATULATIONS!!

We present our Eagles of the Month for November 2016!

Grade 3

Paige Bennett
 Rylan Collins
 Abby Puddicombe
 Zannab Myshak
 Makayla Lloyd

Grade 4

Lauren Davio
 Seth Hay
 Nancy Harms
 London Peever
 Felicity Anderson

Grade 5

Connor Fibke
 Rebekah Erickson
 Justin Epp
 Hunter Krog
 Serena Abraham



Tennille's Hope Kommunity Kitchen Donations:

This Christmas Season, Whitecourt Central will give our students and their families the opportunity to support Tennille's Hope Kommunity Kitchen by collecting grocery items. Each classroom has been designated to bring in specific food items as listed below. Please ensure that all items are at the school prior to Tuesday, December 20/16. Thank you for your generosity!!

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Mrs. Carlson | Canned Tomatoes—diced or whole |
| Mrs. Buha/Mrs. Rennie | Canned Milk |
| Mrs. St. Louis | Canned Cream of Mushroom Soup |
| Mrs. Cho | Canned Beans of any kind |
| Miss Barrass | Onion Soup Mix |
| Mrs. Saulit/Mrs. Buha | Spaghetti Sauce |
| Mrs. Martell | Canned mushrooms |
| Mrs. Mytrunec | Instant Rice |
| Mrs. Doepker | Speciality items as per classroom newsletter |
| Mrs. Jensen | Canned Fruit |
| Mr. Landry | Canned Meat or Fish |
| Mrs. Czenczek/Mr. Vasquez | Broths—Chicken, Beef, or vegetable |
| Miss Burzinski | Sidekicks |
| Mrs. Uttley | Ready made icing |

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
Follow us on Twitter: @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)

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 23 at 9:30 a.m.

Our theme for December 23/16 is Red and Green Day. Students are encouraged to dress in festive red and green to celebrate the Season

Some Important Reminders:

- * Christmas concert seating is limited. Two evening tickets or three afternoon tickets per family. If there are extras, a draw will be made. Live streaming is available for other family members who would like to watch the concert. Our first priority is parents.
- * We have been experiencing an increasing amount of garbage and spilled coffee in the gymnasium following our assemblies. This requires extra clean up before our classes can resume using the gym. We ask that if our guests are bringing in snacks and coffee, that they also take all garbage and clean up any messes before leaving the building.
- * An increasing number of our students are referencing "Call of Duty" and "Grand Theft Auto" content and vocabulary on the playground. Teachers have talked with the students about the inappropriateness of these games for this age group as they are rated for Teens. Please take some time and speak with your children about these games and what is appropriate.
- * Each classroom has a small supply of plastic cutlery for emergency use only; therefore, please ensure that you send all appropriate "tools" for your child's lunch.
- * Please do not park in the Public Library parking lot during any of our school assemblies.

Helpful Hint from the Family Community Liaison Program (FCLP)

Generally, the first 2-3 years following a divorce is the hardest for your child. Although every family and divorce is different, there are a few ways that as a parent, you can make your divorce easier on your child. Here are some helpful tips:

- Encourage your children to openly discuss their feelings—positive or negative, about what's happening.
- Keep adult conflict and arguments away from the children.
- Try not to use children as messengers or go-betweens, especially when you're feuding.
- Figure out how to reduce stress in your life to help your family. Extended family, friends, or a counselor can help alleviate some of the stress that you or your children carry during this time.

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.

Whitecourt Christmas Hamper Fund:

Once again, the Whitecourt Christmas Hamper fund is being organized for the 2016 Season. Requests for hampers must be made personally at the Repeat Boutique on the following dates: December 3rd, December 7th and December 10th., from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., as well as December 1 and December 8 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

The Whitecourt Christmas Hamper fund is also seeking donations of cash, non perishable food items and new, unwrapped gifts for all ages. All donations are greatly appreciated!



PowerSchool Gradebook

Whitecourt Central School is currently participating in a pilot to improve the way we report student progress to parents and guardians. Traditionally, we have issued a report card three times a year with grade information and comments. We believe the technology now exists for us to provide more detailed information, more frequently, on your child's progress.

What does the Pilot entail?

We have explored our options and have found PowerSchool Gradebook can give parents online access to their child's progress, 24/7. Teachers are now entering progress information into a secure online website that parents and guardians can login to. To access the parent portal, direct your browser to: <http://ps.ngps.ca>

After creating a parent/guardian account, you can enter a code provided by the school to connect your children to your account. (Contact the school office if you require this code.) Once you are logged in, you can review current information about your child's attendance and academic progress.

Will the School still issue Report Cards?

As part of the pilot, we are making the transition away from printed report cards issued at the end of the term, and giving parents current, regular, online access. The parent portal currently provides attendance information. We plan to open the Gradebook side of the Parent Portal **December 5, 2016**.

In addition to online access, we believe we can also offer parents more communication contacts with the teacher through face-to-face meetings, e-mail, telephone, and agenda messages. We have made a commitment as a school to have at least three personal contacts about your child's progress each term.

As a transitional measure, we issued a paper Progress Report on **November 25, 2016**.

Is the Progress Report a Report Card?

No. The Progress Report will look different from Report Cards we have sent in the past. The Progress Report is shorter and does not include teacher comments. It provides a quick snapshot of your child's progress and is intended to serve as a conversation starter that will lead to more detailed information being accessed through the online parent portal and through direct communication with the teacher.

A printed progress report can be requested at any time of the year.

I don't have internet to access the Parent Portal. How will I know how my child is doing?

We would be happy to provide internet access. Parents and Guardians can connect to our School Internet while in the school. We also have a laptop available for parents and guardians to use.

Teachers are committed to providing three personal contacts each term about your child's progress through face-to-face meetings, e-mail, telephone, or agenda messages.

Parent / Teacher interviews will still occur at the end of each term. Our next interviews are 5-8pm on Nov 30 and Dec 1. Teachers will also schedule a face-to-face meeting at anytime of the year, if it is requested.

We can also print a paper Progress Report, if requested.

I have more questions or would like to provide feedback.

We would love to talk to you! Please contact your child's teacher or the school administration.

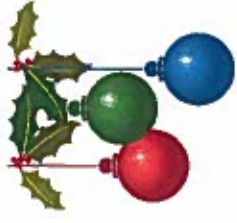
We decided we would like to participate in this pilot process because we want to help create the most valuable reporting tool for our parents and guardians. We understand that there could be bugs and glitches during the pilot and we appreciate your patience as we work to iron them out. Please do provide frequent feedback during the pilot year to help us develop the reporting tool that fits your needs.









The way we report your child's progress is changing. We are hoping to leverage the capabilities of PowerSchool Gradebook to give you more frequent and detailed information about your child's progress. What isn't changing is our commitment to give your child a rich and supportive learning environment.

Whitecourt Central School
"We Believe Students are Central"



December 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Parent Teacher Interviews 5-8 p.m.	2 Staff Development Day— no school for students	3
4	5	6 Term 1 Awards – 9:30 a.m.. 	7 Milk orders due and counted 	8	9 Grade 3 classes to Eastlink Park	10
11	12	13 Pizza Day 	14 Soup Day 	15	16 Grade 5 classes to Eastlink Park	17
18	19	20 Pizza Day 	21 Soup Day Christmas Concerts - 1:00 and 7:00 p.m. 	22	23 Assembly 9:30 a.m. Red & Green Day School Wide Movie Last day of classes....	24
25 Merry Christmas! 	26 Christmas Vacation See you on January 9, 2017!	27	28	29	30	31 Happy New Year! 

December

Team for Success

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

Staff:

Project Coordinator
Teagan Arnott

Success Coaches

Pat Hardy
Corinne Millington

Central School
Maren Skipper

Percy Baxter School
Stacey Wright

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!

Follow Us!

Follow the Team for Success on Twitter: @Team4SuccessWct or on Facebook for more updates!

How to Beat the Holiday Blues

1. Plan unstructured, low-cost fun holiday activities: window-shop and look at the holiday decorations. Look at people's Christmas lighting on their homes, take a trip to the countryside, etc.--the opportunities are endless.
2. Be reasonable with your schedule. Do not overbook yourself into a state of exhaustion--this makes people cranky, irritable, and depressed.
3. Take a social media fast and instead, connect only in real time and in person.
4. Pop a feel-good DVD in the player and have a popcorn night with your children.
5. Do some chores. Purge your closet of unwanted things and donate a bag of clothes and shoes to the Repeat Boutique or Twice is Nice. Or, de-clutter your home and clear your mind in the process.

