



Westmount Elementary School

745 Walkem Road,
Kamloops, B C
V2B 7X8
Principal: Ms. Susie Mabee

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NOVEMBER 2017

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:

I can hardly believe that November is here already and that Christmas is just around the corner. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents who took time out of their busy lives to come to parent-teacher conferences. Taking an active role in your child's education is a surefire way to success. If you were unable to make it in to the school to meet with your child's teacher, please connect with him or her in order to make an appointment. Getting to know your child's interests, strengths, and challenges are crucial for the teachers to make sound decisions around your child's educational programming.

This upcoming month, Westmount staff and students will be working hard to show the virtue of the month, COOPERATION. Conversations at home with you about how they can cooperate will help them to learn cooperation in different settings. November is an essential month for teachers to assess what their students have learned during the first term of school, and classes will also begin to rehearse their songs for the Christmas concert in December, so it is very important for your child to attend every day.

Thank you, for your support,

Susie Mabee

LUNCH HOUR

With 323 students now attending Westmount, it has become quite crowded outside on the playground and field at recess and at lunch. To counter this issue, we are trying a new system at lunch, starting **Monday November 6th**.

- 11:50 – 12:10 **Primary** students inside eating
 Intermediate students outside playing
- 12:10 – 12:30 **All students** outside playing
- 12:30 – 12:50 **Intermediate** students inside eating
 Primary students outside playing

HALLOWEEN CANDY

Since Halloween is on a Tuesday this year, students will be tempted to bring their "loot" to school on Wednesday. This is just a friendly reminder to please limit the amount of Halloween Candy coming to school in your child's lunch. *Too much sugar is not conducive to a successful day at school.*

RE- TAKES PHOTO DAY

LIFETOUCH will be back at our school on **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1st** to take RETAKES for any students/parents who were unsatisfied with their first portrait or who were absent on our October 4th picture day.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Just a reminder that the school is closed for the Remembrance Day Holiday, Monday, November 13th. Enjoy this extra special day with family. We will have our Remembrance Day assembly on Friday, November 10th at 11:00 am. All parents are welcome.

ACTION PLANS

As I am settling into the "groove" of things here at Westmount, I am quickly becoming aware of the stigma attached to students receiving "Action Plans". There are several purposes behind these forms. The first is to provide a venue for students to share, in their own words, what transpired. The second purpose is to be a means of communication between school and home - a way to inform you of the conversation that we had with your child at school about the incident. We also use the "Action Plan" to help us come up with strategies if/when the situation arises again. Finally, we use the forms to help track behavior to see if any trends appear so that we can address them as a school.

While apparently in the past there has been a belief that after 3 "Action Plans" the student will have an in-school suspension, this is not the case. I believe that every case is different and any hard and fast rule that is applied without the consideration of the facts and extenuating circumstances is not useful when trying to teach students expected behavior.

If your child comes home with an "Action Plan", please see it as an opportunity to have a discussion with your child, rather than a punitive action. Your support in this regard is immeasurable.

DOORS

Students are reminded that they are to enter and exit the school using their assigned door. The reason that we are such sticklers about this rule is that it keeps everyone safe by easing congestion. Thanks for your cooperation with this matter.

COLD AND FLU SEASON

Cold and flu season is here. Please encourage your child to wash his/her hands frequently, especially, before and after every meal so that we can try to keep illness to a minimum.

If your child is away from school due to a gastro-intestinal infection (ie vomiting or diarrhea) or a respiratory infection, please phone Mrs. Connolly at the office to let her know, in addition to connecting with safe arrival. We need to keep track of why students are away from school and notify the public health department if a significant number of our students are away due to the above-mentioned illnesses. Thanks for your cooperation in this manner.

FIELD TRIPS

Parents joining classes on field trips as chaperones, please take note that younger siblings are not permitted on our trips. The purpose of parents joining the class and our students is so that your full attention can be given to the supervision of your group or of your Westmount child. Also, because younger siblings are not covered under School District Consent forms, this creates legal issues should someone get hurt on a school-sanctioned outing. Thank you for organizing childcare for your preschooler or toddler when you join your child's class on an outing.

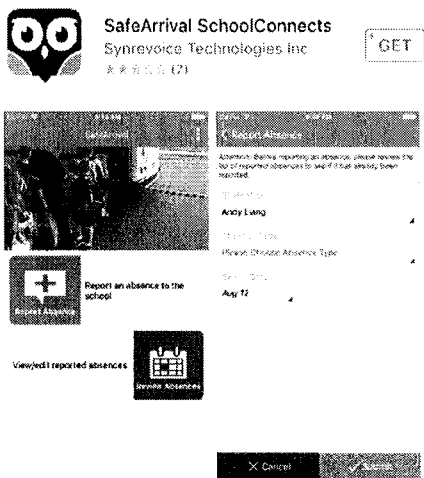
SAFE ARRIVAL

Westmount continues to use an automated SAFE ARRIVAL SYSTEM. If, for any reason, your child is going to be absent from school, please use the methods below to report the absence before 8:30am:

Toll-free number to call: [1-844-350-2647](tel:1-844-350-2647)

Website for parent access: <http://ktsd.schoolconnects.com/>

App for smart phones:



STAFF AT WESTMOUNT 2017-2017

Please welcome Stephanie Read, Justine Kerluck, Madeline Skerritt, and Mariah Gotro, who are TRU students in the Teacher Education Program. They will be with us at Westmount until November 29th. These teacher candidates will be working in Mrs. Primus' and Mrs. Hansen's classes each Wednesday.

COME READ WITH ME – Grade One Parents

Invitations for this program went out a couple of weeks ago and RSVPs are due back to your child's classroom teacher by Friday November 10th so that we can plan accordingly for child minding and refreshments on Thursday, November 16th @ 8:30 .

YOU CAN COUNT ON ME: Kindergarten Parents

Retired teacher, Doffy Bourbonnais, will give an interactive and informative workshop for parents of Kindergarten students on Thursday, November 30th at 8:30 am in the GYM. This will last until approximately 10 am. Kindergarten students will join their parents for part of the morning as well. Light refreshments will be served. An invitation and a "Letter to Employer" will be sent home on Wednesday, November 1st. Please RSVP as soon as possible and let us know if child minding is needed for younger siblings.

DROP OFF PARKING ZONE and CROSSWALK

Many thanks go out to the dedicated parents who each morning put on their orange vests and line up to greet your children in our drop off zone. It has made the morning congestion in the parking lot much better. Each and every one of you are appreciated for your time and efficiency with the traffic flow in the morning. We know these are thankless positions so we want to make sure we thank all the volunteer parents!

We are still having a bit of an issue with parents and kids cutting through the parking lot. The children know to "hug the wall" if they need to get from one side of the parking lot to the other, and we ask that you respect this safety rule as well. You put your child in a difficult spot if you ask them to go against a school rule that they have been practicing.

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

We are fortunate to have an enthusiastic and dedicated group of parents who make up our Parent Advisory Council. The PAC has monthly meetings. Babysitting is provided and all parents are invited to attend. The next PAC meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 6th at 6:15 pm. **ALL PARENTS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE MEETINGS** each month.

PAC HOT LUNCHESES for the month of December are due on Nov. 20th.

PAC MOVIE NIGHT is Friday, November 24th! Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Movie at 7:00. This is a free family admission event! Wear your jammies and bring your blankets. There is a concession where families can purchase special treats!

PAC is also hosting a **CHRISTMAS BAZAAR** on Saturday, November 4th from 9:00am – 2:00pm. There will be child minding available for you to shop to your heart's content.

LOST AND FOUND

As the weather changes, dressing for the weather is becoming more challenging. Dressing in layers seems to be one of the best ways to conquer this; however, as the day heats up during the lunch hour, many coats and sweaters are left outside on the playground. Please make sure to label your child's belongings, especially hats, coats, and hoodies so that we can do our best to get them back to whom they belong. Our lost and found box is getting quite full. The next time you are in the school, please make sure to take a look in the Lost and Found boxes located outside Mrs. Zirnhelt's and Mrs. Regan's rooms.

MEDIA RELEASE and SOCIAL MEDIA

As classes are beginning to present their learning to parents, and go on field trips, we'd like to remind you that not all parents at the school would like to have their child's photo posted to social media. If you would like to take a photo of your child, please make sure that there are no other students in the background, or ask permission of the parents of that child, before posting it to social media sites, such as Facebook, Snapchat, or Instagram. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

DRESSING APPROPRIATELY FOR THE WEATHER

The weather is getting colder, which means your child's clothing needs to change along with it. We continue to see students arriving at school unprepared to go outside in inclement weather. We ask that your child has a sweater in their bag, cubbie, or backpack in cases where the weather is colder than expected. Students are expected to go outside at recess and lunch, even when it is cold or raining.

IMPORTANT NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER DATES

Mon. Oct. 30	Blazers Visit
Tues. Oct. 31	Halloween Primary Costume Parade for Primary Students Crazy Hat Day for Intermediate Students
Wed. Nov. 1	LIFETOUCH PHOTO RETAKES - 1:00 pm BC Fruit and Veggie Program: Milk and Apples
Thurs. Nov. 2	Tier 1 Girls Volleyball @ RAFT RIVER/ Tier 2 Girls Volleyball @ HOME
Sat. Nov. 4	PAC CRAFT FAIR 9 am -2 pm
Nov. 6-9	Scholastic Book Fair
Mon. Nov. 6	New Lunch Hour Schedule Begins (As noted in the newsletter) PAC Meeting 6:15
Thurs. Nov. 9	Tier 1 Girls Volleyball @ PACIFIC WAY/ Tier 2 Girls Volleyball @ HOME
Fri. Nov. 10	Remembrance Day Assembly 11 am
Mon. Nov. 13	Remembrance Day Holiday - school closed
Thurs. Nov. 16	Tier 1 Girls Volleyball @ BEATTIE/ Tier 2 Girls Volleyball @DALLAS Come Read with Me for Grade 1 students and parents Mrs. MacDonald's class to Fire Hall - 11:00 – 12:00
Fri. Nov. 17	EDGE program for Grade 6 students
Tues. Nov. 21	Michael Bortolotto Presentations
Wed. Nov. 22	BC Fruit and Veggie Program: Milk and Anjou Pears
Fri. Nov. 24	Presentation Assembly @ 8:45am PAC MOVIE NIGHT! Doors open at 6:30/ Movie at 7:00
Tues. Nov. 28	PAC Poinsettia pick-up Day
Wed. Nov. 29	Art Starts presents TRIBAL VISION @ 8:45am
Thurs. Nov. 30	You Can Count on Me for Kindergarten Parents 8:20-10 (GYM)
Mon. Dec. 4	District Non-Instructional Day
Wed. Dec. 6	PRIMARY CONCERT DRESS REHEARSAL BC Fruit and Veggie Program: Milk and Mandarine Oranges Intermediate Classes to WCT production of "A Christmas Carol"
Thurs. Dec. 7	PRIMARY CONCERTS -Afternoon @ 1:30 pm – Evening @ 6:30 pm
Mon. Dec. 11	PAC MEETING 6:15 pm
Wed Dec. 13	INTERMEDIATE CONCERT DRESS REHEARSAL 1:00
Thurs. Dec. 14	INTERMEDIATE CONCERT PERFORMANCE – Afternoon @ 1:00 pm – Evening @ 6:30 pm
Dec. 23- Jan. 7	TERM 1 REPORT CARDS HOME WINTER BREAK

SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

Domino's Pizza has partnered with us to fundraise for our school! As part of the Westmount family, we are asking for your participation in helping us raise funds! The money raised will go directly a variety of materials, equipment, events and programs around the school.

Domino's has a fabulous program where raising money is easy! They have supplied us with Pizza cards to sell. The cards sell for \$10 each, but are worth over \$110, so the savings are enormous!

Cards are available from Mrs. Connelly in the office.

Our goal is to sell as many as possible before the winter break, so as an incentive we will be awarding the **FIRST CLASS TO SELL 50 CARDS WITH A PIZZA PARTY!**

The Christmas season is just around the corner, and these cards make fabulous stocking stuffers or just a little addition to a holiday card. They are also a great idea for thank-you gifts, housewarming gifts, meals for parents of new-born babies, or even for that bachelor in your life!

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 73 (KAMLOOPS/THOMPSON)

POLICY 413.1

Effective Date, August 29, 2011

TECHNOLOGY: SOCIAL NETWORKING

The Board of Education recognizes that part of learning is adapting to the changing methods of communication. It is important that teachers, students and parents engage, collaborate, learn and share in these digital environments.

REGULATIONS

Blogs, Wikis, Podcasts, Digital Images and Video and other Social Media Technologies

1. Personal Responsibility
 - a) All users are personally responsible for the content/information they publish on-line.
 - b) On-line behaviour should reflect the same standards of honesty, respect and consideration used when meeting face-to-face.
 - c) Posted information must identify that the information is representative of your views and opinions and not necessarily the views and opinions of the District.
 - d) Social media is an extension of the classroom. What is inappropriate in the classroom should be deemed inappropriate on-line.
 - e) Employees should ensure that posted content is consistent with the work performed for the District.
 - f) Posting of confidential student information is prohibited.
 - g) Employees are responsible for moderating all content published on all social media technologies.
2. Copyright and Fair Use
 - a) All users must respect copyright and fair use guidelines.
 - b) Hyperlink content must be appropriate and be educationally beneficial or adhere to Policy 1121.1 Corporate Sponsorship. External hyperlinks must be identified.
 - c) Plagiarism is an academic offence. Credit must be given where credit is due.
3. Profiles and Identity
 - a) Last names, school names, addresses or phone numbers should not appear on blogs or wikis.
 - b) Pictures and images must be appropriate and tasteful.

Policy 413.1

Technology: Social Networking

4. Personal Use of Social Media such as Facebook, Myspace and Twitter
 - a) All users are personally responsible for all comments/information they publish on-line.
 - b) On-line behaviour should reflect the same standards of honesty, respect and consideration used when meeting face-to-face.
 - c) Posted comments should be within the bounds of professional discretion. Employees should act on the assumption that all postings are in the public domain.
 - d) Permission should be sought and granted prior to posting photographs and videos of others.
 - e) Photographs relating to alcohol or tobacco use may be deemed inappropriate.
 - f) Employees should refrain from posting any comment that could be deemed unprofessional.

5. Social Bookmarking
 - a) Sites that are bookmarked are in the public domain. The content of the bookmarked site should be within the bounds of professional discretion.



CONNECTING STUDENTS
TO THEIR FUTURE



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 73
(KAMLOOPS-THOMPSON)
1383 9th Avenue
Kamloops, BC
V2C 3X7

NOTES FROM THE PUBLIC MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

October 23, 2017

CONSENT AGENDA

- o Remembrance Day assignments.

Details of the consent agenda can be found on the public agenda.

EDUCATION TOPIC

The Board congratulated the successful participants of this year's Leadership Development Program. The two-year program, which started in Kamloops nearly 50 years ago, is designed to develop the District's future leaders from within the ranks of current employees. This year, 10 teachers completed the two-year program. The LDP integrates courses, TRU-based instruction, senior leader mentorship and in-school practicums to develop leadership and enhanced pedagogical skills.

PUBLIC INQUIRIES

City Coun. Arjun Singh introduced the Board to seven secondary students from schools across the city who are the inaugural members of a newly formed student city council. The students - will address, debate and provide insight into City issues and the decisions made by council, particularly those issues that are important to youth. The group asked to the Board about the possibility of forming a similar student school board. Trustees agreed the initiative would provide interesting opportunities to engage students while providing the Board with valuable insights from young people.

REPORTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

DISTRICT LEARNING PLAN – The Board heard a presentation from senior staff regarding the district learning plan, which is the high-level document that sets the educational direction District staff will follow. The plan identifies trends based on student success rates, and offers new directions for education stemming from the B.C. government's revised curriculum, the District's new five-year strategic plan and the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement. The Board was told the implementation of the plan will lead to better strategies and structures to improve outcomes and benefit all of the District's students.



250.374.0679



250.372.1183



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Where do
you want
to go? (We'll
get you
there!



CONNECTING STUDENTS
TO THEIR FUTURE



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V2C 3X7

ENROLMENT INCREASE ANALYSIS – The District’s data shows the net number of students coming to School District No. 73 has increased this year. The majority of those new students came from other districts in B.C. but significant numbers of new students also came from other provinces as well as from independent schools. The number of international students is also up significantly.

ENROLMENT COMPARISON BY SCHOOL – The Board was provided a school-by-school breakdown of enrolment numbers across the district. Twenty-seven schools have more students than last year, with the largest increases being seen at Sa-Hali and Valleyview secondary schools, as well as Aberdeen, Kay Bingham, McGowan Park and Westmount elementary schools.

OUT-OF-PROVINCE FIELD TRIP – The Board unanimously approved an out-of-province field trip for NorKam Secondary Grade 11 and 12 biology school students, who intend to travel to Hawaii for a number of biology-oriented activities, including the Hawaii Marine Institute, the Honolulu Zoo, the Foster Botanical Gardens and a tropical rain forest. The trip is planned from March 29 to April, 5, 2018. The cost of the trip will be covered by participants, although no student will be denied the opportunity to attend the trip because of financial hardship.

CHAIR’S REPORT

Chair Wade reported she attended the official community opening of the new BCAA playground at Marion Schilling Elementary on October 14. Despite the poor weather, the event was well attended.

Chair Wade, along with Superintendent Sidow and Trustee Sim attended the 100th anniversary celebrations of Raft River Elementary on October 19. Many former students and staff joined community members, current students and staff to celebrate the event.

The next public board meeting will take place at Logan Lake Secondary November 6th at 7 p.m.

 250.374.0679

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*Where do
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to go?* **(** *We'll
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