



# Westmount Elementary School

745 Walkem Road,  
Kamloops, B C  
V2B 7X8

Principal: Ms. Susie Mabee  
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September 2017

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:

Welcome back to another school year at Westmount Elementary. I hope everyone had a wonderful summer, despite the wildfires and the smoke, and that you are all ready to start a great year of learning. I cannot tell you how excited I am to be Principal of Westmount Elementary. I have spent the past 5 years as Vice-Principal at AE Perry and Kay Bingham Elementary Schools, and before that, I taught Grade 7 and Grade 3/4 in the French Immersion program at Lloyd George Elementary and Marion Schilling Elementary Schools.

Being new to a school always has a steep learning curve, and I will do my best to learn all needs of our school as quickly as possible. One of my favourite tasks is meeting and learning the names of all the students, and I look for your guidance and patience while I do this.

The school's website (<http://westmount.sd73.bc.ca>) will be a key area for you to go to for information about the school. I will do my best to keep the site updated with all the events occurring at our school and will post our newsletter there monthly.

My door is always open, and I look forward to meeting you all in person this fall. Please pop your head in to say "Hello."

I'm looking forward to a great year ahead.

Susie Mabee



## WESTMOUNT WOLFPACK NEW STAFF

Ms. Susie Mabee - Principal

Mrs. Terri Hansen - Intermediate

Mr. Mike Caputo - Intermediate

Mr. Jeff Berezowski - Intermediate

Ms. Jasmine Gobelle - LART

Ms. Lori Schill - Primary

Ms. Suzanne Lloyd - C.E.A.

Ms. Sylvia Kuch - Custodian



## NEWSLETTERS

To start the year we will send home a paper copy of our September newsletter because of the various forms we need to include. After the first one, the rest will be posted on-line just like we have the last few years. The school's website is: <http://westmount.sd73.bc.ca>

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

The school calendar for the 2017-2018 school year is included with this newsletter and will be updated with each newsletter as the school year progresses. Please find an appropriate place to store the calendar for future reference. Upcoming calendar dates are also listed on our school website. In the newsletter you will find dates that are important for September and October, but also a year long school calendar with Non-Instructional dates listed.

## **SAFE ARRIVAL**

SD 73 uses an automated SAFE ARRIVAL SYSTEM. The system handles parent contact (including phone calls) when a student absence is unexpected, and will allow parents to interact directly with the system in a variety of ways:

- by phone either when the system calls, or when a parent initiates a call to notify of upcoming absence
- by internet through login controlled webpage interface
- by smartphone app (iOS and Android versions available for free)

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

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

Parents use the above methods to report student absences rather than phoning the school at Westmount. **We ask that parents please report student absences before 8:30 am on the day of the absence**, although the system also allows for reporting of student absences long in advance for holidays, trips, etc. We encourage you to download the iOS or Android apps for free from their respective app stores. To find the app, search for "SafeArrival SchoolConnects" (without the quotes) and install the free app by Synvoice Technologies Inc.

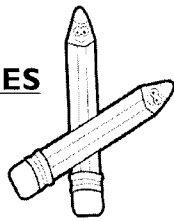
Please always be sure to inform the teacher of your child's absence as well so that they are aware of any sickness or trips planned and to plan for instruction missed. This system uses your phone number to contact you if or when your child is absent, it is crucial that your contact information is correct.

## **ABORIGINAL EDUCATION**

We will have our Aboriginal Education Worker, Rae Bennett, at our school again this year. We will share our worker with Arthur Stevenson. Families of students with Aboriginal ancestry can expect a phone call or a consent form to arrive home soon after school opens regarding aboriginal services. If you have any questions regarding this letter and its' importance please give us a call at the school.

## **IMPORTANT SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER DATES**

- Sept. 5 - September Newsletter will come home
- Sept. 15 - Dufferin Billy Goat Run at Dufferin
- Sept. 18 - 6:15 PAC Meeting
- Sept. 19 - Cross Country Run at O.L.P.H.
- Sept. 21 - Aboriginal Letters of Consent due back
- Sept. 22 - District Non Instructional Day-NO SCHOOL
- Sept. 26 - Raise a Reader Campaign
- Sept. 27 - Cross Country Run at R. L. Clemitson
- Sept. 29 - 1:45 Terry Fox Run
- Sept. 29 - School Supply Money and Forms due to Office
- Oct. 4 - Photo Day
- Oct. 5 - Cross Country Run at Arthur Stevenson
- Oct. 9 - Thanksgiving- NO SCHOOL
- Oct. 19 - Early Closure 12:30
- Oct. 19 - Parent Teacher Interviews
- Oct. 20 - District Non Instructional Day- NO SCHOOL
- Oct. 31 - Primary Costume Parade
- Nov. 1 - Photo Retake Day



## **CLASSROOM PLACEMENTS**

Placing students in their respective classes is one of the most complex tasks that we educators have to do. We are very tight with space at our school, making this job even more difficult. The addition of just a few students to our school population can mean the difference between the addition of a new division or re-organizing the divisions we have in order to accommodate everyone. It is imperative that students attend school every day, and if they cannot, they need to contact Mrs. Connelly in the office to let her know so that we have the most precise count of students. As in past years, we ask for your patience while we work through this.

The teachers and Mrs. Defehr spent a great deal of time and consideration in June placing children in a class that will best suit their needs and meet the demands of the Collective Agreement with regards to class size and composition. The staff did their best to honour the pink request forms that were returned to the office when/where feasible; however it was not possible to accommodate every request.

We hope to have students into classes by the end of the first week, but it is possible that we may need additional time to re-organize classes. We do not want to start classes and then have to re-organize after the fact. We will have your child in classes as quickly as possible.

## **STUDENT VERIFICATION FORMS**

Student verification forms will be sent home shortly in the forms package. Please return them to the school as soon as possible. It is very important for all information to be checked carefully so that we have current emergency contact phone numbers and other contact information readily available. This information ensures that your child will have appropriate care in the event of injury or illness. We also need your email address to connect with you as well, so please ensure it is accurate.

## **SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

School supplies are available through the school as part of a district-wide service. Your child's classroom teacher will distribute them as needed. Parents do have the option of supplying their child's own supplies, however, in the interest of convenience, economy and consistency, we encourage parents to use our school supply program. Please see the attached school supplies form for the cost of those supplies which includes student agenda books.

## **DROPOFF / PICK UP / CROSSING GUARD SUPERVISORS**

We are looking for parents who would be interested in becoming volunteers for the 2017-2018 school year on a regular or on-call basis. If you are interested please visit us at the office and fill out a volunteer application form. We really need parental support in order to keep our children safe in the parking lot and crossing Westsyde Road.

## **MEDICAL ALERT FORMS**

This year we do have students who have peanut allergies and/or medical concerns. Therefore, please be respectful of their needs. Also, any student with medical alert status or in need of medication while at school will need to have all forms updated through our office. Please contact Mrs. Connolly at the office for further information. Your child's classroom teacher will also enforce what is needed for food requirements in the classrooms. We are going to try extremely hard to be a NUT SENSITIVE SCHOOL. Therefore, I am asking all families to refrain from sending any products with nuts (peanuts, tree nuts, etc.) to avoid any type of scare for our allergic children. Parents of children who have epipens should know that it is my request to have your child carry their epipens on them with the intent that the second pen to administer is safely secured in our office.

## **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. Our first PAC meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 pm. This is the PAC's AGM Meeting whereby those wanting to run for positions on the Executive are encouraged to attend for nomination and to assist with voting.

## **FIREDRILLS AND LOCKDOWN PRACTICES**

All schools in SD#73 must have 6 fire drills a year and two lockdown practices. Should your child talk about these drills when they get home, please reassure them that we practice these so that in the event of an emergency we all know what is expected.

## **KIDS PLUS ACCIDENT INSURANCE**

For your convenience, we have made arrangements for families to voluntarily purchase student accident insurance through the Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance program, underwritten by Industrial Alliance Insurance and Financial Services Inc.

Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance offers protection against the unexpected costs of injury from accidents, and is especially valuable for families who:

- do not have medical or dental plans,
- have limited plans, as it may help supplement health and dental benefits, or
- have active children who enjoy sports and outdoor activities.

For complete plan details, please visit [kidsplus.ca](http://kidsplus.ca). Watch for the Insurance packages coming home soon.

## **ART STARTS 2017-2018**

Westmount is again pleased to offer the ART STARTS PROGRAM for our students as an enhancement to our Arts Education curriculum.

Parents will be charged \$15.00 to have their children participate. Three concerts will be held at our school throughout the year. This is a real treat to have such wonderful performances come right to our school without the lost time of travelling by bus to another venue. More information on the ART STARTS PROGRAM will be coming home in the coming weeks.

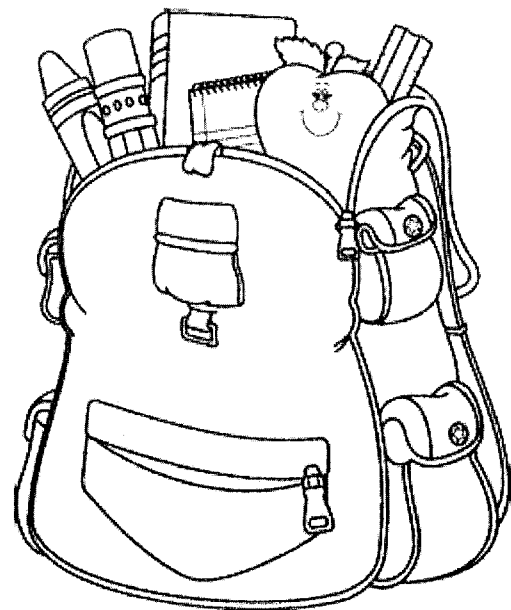
## **TRAFFIC AND PARKING**

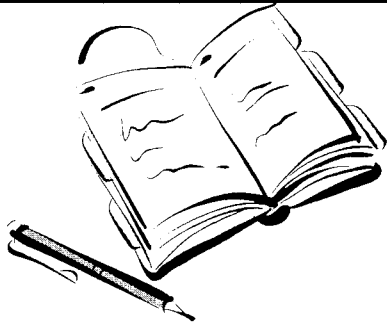
With the addition of a new portable in parking lot, traffic and parking continues to be a challenge here at Westmount. We will have an increased number of students in and around the parking lot area to access their classroom, in addition to students arriving on public transportation. The parking lot in front of the office is for School Staff only and **parents and daycare providers will not be permitted to park there at any time**. We ask for your cooperation in this matter by using the loop area by the playground. There will be volunteers there waiting to greet your children and get them safely onto the school grounds.

Dropping your child off on Collingwood and having your child walk the short distance along the dyke, carpooling, and using public transportation are all great options.

## **TERRY FOX RUN**

This year our Terry Fox Run will take place on Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 1:45. We will be asking students to bring in a Toonie for Terry in order to raise money for cancer research. Parents are welcome to attend and run with their child.





## Westmount Elementary School Calendar – 2017-2018

Sept. 5	- Tuesday	- Schools Open @ 10:30 - Dismiss at 12:00
Sept. 18	- Monday	- 6:15 p.m. – P.A.C. AGM
Sept. 22	- Friday	- <b>N.I.D. #1</b> – Professional Development – <b>No classes</b>
Sept. 26	- Tuesday	- Raise a Reader Campaign
Sept. 29	- Friday	- Terry Rox Run
Oct. 4	- Wednesday	- Lifetouch School Photos
Oct. 9	- Monday	- <b>School Holiday:</b> Thanksgiving Day
Oct. 18	- Wednesday	- 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. – Parent/Teacher Interviews
Oct. 19	- Thursday	- <b>Early Closure 12:30 Dismissal</b> – Parent/Teacher Interviews
Oct. 20	- Friday	- <b>N.I.D. #2</b> – Professional Development – <b>No classes</b>
Nov. 1	- Wednesday	- Lifetouch Photo Retakes (a.m.)
Nov. 10	- Friday	- Remembrance Day Assembly – 11:00
Nov. 13	- Monday	- <b>School Holiday: Remembrance Day</b>
Dec. 4	- Monday	- <b>N.I.D. #3</b> – Professional Development – <b>No classes</b>
Dec. 22	- Friday	- Last day of classes before Winter Vacation
<b>Dec. 25 – Jan. 5</b>		- <b>School Holiday: Winter Break</b>
Jan. 8	- Monday	- Schools re-open
Jan. 19	- Friday	- <b>N.I.D. #4</b> – Professional Development – <b>No classes</b>
Feb. 12	- Monday	- <b>School Holiday:</b> Family Day
Feb. 22	- Thursday	- <b>N.I.D. #5</b> – Professional Development – <b>No classes</b>
Feb. 23	- Friday	- <b>N.I.D. #6</b> – Professional Development – <b>No classes</b>
Mar. 16	- Friday	- Last day of classes before Spring Vacation
<b>Mar. 19 – Mar. 23</b>		- <b>School Holiday: Spring Break</b>
Mar. 26	- Monday	- School re-opens
Mar. 30	- Friday	- <b>School Holiday:</b> Good Friday
Apr. 2	- Monday	- <b>School Holiday:</b> Easter Monday
Apr. 23	- Monday	- <b>N.I.D. #7</b> – Professional Development – <b>No classes</b>
May 18	- Friday	- <b>N.I.D. #8</b> – Professional Development – <b>No classes</b>
May 21	- Monday	- <b>School Holiday:</b> Victoria Day
June 29	- Thursday	- Last day for students
June 30	- Friday	- Administration Day – Schools closed

# WESTMOUNT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## SCHOOL SUPPLIES 2017-2018

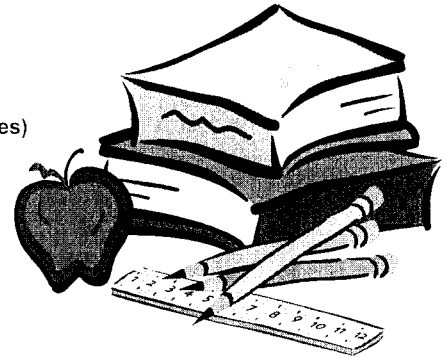
School Supplies may be purchased at the school. This ensures that the school will supply all pens, paper, etc. for the school year as the child needs them.

We encourage parents to use this system as it is economical and provides consistency of materials throughout the classroom.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS YEAR SCHOOL SUPPLIES WILL BE ISSUED THROUGH THE SCHOOL ONLY TO STUDENTS WHO HAVE PAID FOR THIS YEAR'S SUPPLIES.**

The cost for this year is:

Kindergarten .....	\$ 30.00
Grades 1 – 3 .....	\$ 36.00 (includes agenda book)
Grades 4 – 7 .....	\$ 55.00 (includes agenda book and headphones)



### PLEASE NOTE:

1. Complete one form for each child.
2. Return form(s) with payment.
3. Forms will be stamped, returned, and will serve as your official receipt.



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## WESTMOUNT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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### PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN WITH PAYMENT:

Kindergarten .....	\$ 30.00
Grades 1 – 3 .....	\$ 36.00 (includes agenda book)
Grades 4 – 7 .....	\$ 55.00 (includes agenda book and headphones)

NAME OF STUDENT: \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF TEACHER: \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT OF PAYMENT ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I do not wish to participate in the school supplies program and will be providing my own supplies that I purchase myself. I understand I must still purchase a school agenda and pay an ART FEE for a total of \$15.00 and that the school will not be providing my child with school supplies for the 2016-2017 school year. The ART STARTS Fee will be another \$15.00 to be paid at a later date.

# ONE FORM PER CHILD