

Thursday, October 5, 2023

Westcot Weekly Bulletin

School Website

District Website



Daily Health Check It is important that parents **continue** to do a thorough **DAILY HEALTH CHECK**. At school we have always followed the same procedures regarding student illnesses - when children are sick and not well enough to be at school and participate **fully in all aspects of the day**, for any reason, parents will be contacted and asked to pick up their child. The purpose of this has always been to ensure the child receives the care they need and that the illness is not spread at the school.

Student Absent from School? Please Call the Callback Line 604-981-1276. (Not the Office) before 8:00 am

As part of the Westcot safety program all students are accounted for each day as either absent or present. A Call Back program is in place to check on students who are absent if no contact with the school has been made. We will continue to carefully monitor all absences and ask that you use this central communication rather than or as well as emailing individual classroom teachers. Parents can help with the overall efficiency of this process by informing the school if your child is going to be absent. Simply call the callback line at **604-981-1276**.

Happy Thanksgiving Schools will be closed Monday, October 9th for the Thanksgiving Day Holiday.

World Teachers Day Thursday October 5th is World Teachers' Day, an opportunity celebrate the profession and a chance to acknowledge the influence teachers have in the lives of their students. Thank you to our incredible staff at Westcot. You are valued. You are appreciated. Today and each day we are grateful for your work.

Thank you to our Westcot Parent Advisory Committee for bringing in a delicious lunch for our staff!



Our WPAC **Westcot Parent Advisory Committee** depends on the kindness of many volunteers to run the various events and programs offered to enhance learning and opportunities. Thank you to the parents who have volunteered to make our Hot Lunch Program roll out so smoothly! WPAC will be putting out calls for volunteers as the need arises. There are big jobs and small jobs; ongoing or one-time; day and evening. There is no obligation to add your name to the Volunteer Form. This list will be used as events and opportunities arise. Would you like to get involved in some of the exciting events at Westcot? We'd love to have you. Please sign up [HERE](#).



Foundational Skills Assessment Foundational Skills Assessments (FSAs) are for Grade 4 and 7 students. From October 2 to November 10 students across the province in Grades 4 and 7 will be completing the FSA in their respective schools. This set of assessments measures how well students are progressing in the areas of literacy (understanding and communicating with language) and numeracy (understanding and working with numbers). The FSA provides the Ministry of Education, school districts and schools with information for continuous academic growth and insight into student achievement. These assessments are similar to activities students do on a daily basis in the classroom. The link to practice materials and more information for families can be found [HERE](#). If you have any questions or concerns about the FSAs, please contact Mrs. Ratz

Toonies for Tremors and The Great British Columbia Shakeout: Thursday, October 19th

Westcot will participate in the province wide "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" drill called **The Great British Columbia ShakeOut**. All classes will review their Drop, Cover and Hold techniques. In addition, we will take an inventory of our classroom Emergency Bags with resources generously provided for each student by our Westcot Parent Advisory Council (WPAC). Thank you to our office team for updating each classroom bag. In order to continue to fund and replenish Emergency stores, all students are asked to contribute a **toonie for tremors** using School Cash Online (SCO).



Dress for the Fall Rainy Weather Fall is here and so is the rain (sometimes)! All recess periods will be outside regardless of the weather unless extreme conditions make outdoor play unsafe. Please ensure you send your children to school equipped for outdoor play. With the amazing playgrounds and outdoor spaces we have at Westcot, embracing the natural world is an expectation. Outdoor recreation periods are an important part of a child's physical activity and social time. Please send your children to school equipped with raincoats, hats and boots for rainy days.

Reporting Updates from the Ministry As communicated last Spring, the Ministry of Education and Child Care has implemented a new Learning Update Policy which defines and provides direction for the ways our school will be communicating your child's learning. The goal of the Learning Updates is to provide personalized, descriptive feedback to effectively communicate with students, parents, and caregivers about where students are in their learning, next steps, and how families and teachers can work together to support student growth.

The provincial Reporting Policy mandates that students in Kindergarten through Grade 9 will be assessed using the four-point proficiency scale and students in Grade 10 through Grade 12 courses will be assessed using letter grades and percentages. Each term, students at all levels will be sharing self-reflections and making goals around British Columbia's Core Competencies – Communication Skills, Thinking Skills, and Personal and Social Skills.

Teachers will be communicating and reporting throughout the year in the following formats:

- 3 Formal Written Learning Updates (2 Mid-year Learning Updates, and 1 Summary of Learning)
- 2 Informal Learning Updates (ex. Parent-Teacher Conferences, Student-Family-Teacher Conference, Interim Report)

The Ministry of Education and Child Care, responsible for creating reporting requirements, has provided [reporting information for parents and caregivers](#) in the following languages: [English](#), [French](#), [Chinese \(Simplified and Traditional\)](#), [Tagalog](#), [Farsi](#), [Urdu](#), [Punjabi Gurmukhi](#) Should you have any further questions, please reach out to our school Principal, Cathie Ratz at cratz@wvschools.ca.

Fun Lunch Fun Lunch ordering at Westcot is now open for hot lunch orders that will be delivered to school every Monday ~ Thursday with a rotating menu in each week. To order, click [HERE](#) After making your selections please go the very last menu > click 'Finished' > Next > Submit. Then follow the steps to make your online payment. **Please note that only paid orders will be processed.** Please only create an order if you are prepared to pay at the same time. Please note there is a 10 day window between an order and when lunch will begin at school.



If you have any questions, please email westcotlunch@gmail.com Please remember to send all necessary cutlery with your child. Cutlery will not be provided. Thank-you for supporting Westcot PAC!

Bringing Your Own Cutlery Please make sure your child is bringing their own cutlery. We also want to remind you that the "pack-it-in/pack-it-out" policy is in effect which means that students are expected to pack out their lunch waste, such as leftover food and lunch containers. Students must bring their own food and drink at the start of the school day; this includes snacks, lunch, and water bottles. There will be no sharing of food or drink and there will be no mid-day drop offs and deliveries of food items (or any other items). **We are a Nut Aware school. Please do not send nut based foods in students snacks or lunches.**

District Events

Do You Have A Child Or Know Someone With A Child Entering Kindergarten In September 2024?

Parents/Guardians of children entering Kindergarten in September 2024 (born in 2019) are invited to join a District K info session.

When: October 5th from 6:30-7:30pm

Where: Kay Meek Studio Theatre (1700 Mathers Ave, WV)

Please Register ahead of time [HERE](#).

Kindergarten and In-Catchment Gr 1-7 Registration For 2024-25 School Year Opens October 16th

If you, or anyone you know, has a child born in 2019, please note that registration for Kindergarten 2024/25 opens at 8:00am, Monday October 16th. Registration also opens at this time for any in-catchment families with children going into Grades 1-7. The online registration application can be found [HERE](#) after 8:00 am on October 16th. Please note out of catchment Grade 1-7 registrations and out of district applications for secondary schools are not accepted until January 15, 2024.

Community Connections



The WVML September / October 2023 e-newsletter for kids, families and educators is here!

[September/October 2023 Update from WVML \(patronpoint.com\)](#)

October	2	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Schools Closed)
	4	Parent Teacher Interviews 11:30 Dismissal
	5	Parent Teacher Interviews 11:30 Dismissal
	9	Thanksgiving Day Holiday (Schools Closed)
	19	Shake Out BC Earthquake Drill
	20	Provincial Professional Development Day (No school for students)
	23- 27	Bollywood Workshops
	25	WPAC Meeting 9:30 am (Virtual)
	27	Photo Retakes
	31	Halloween
November	6-10	Scholastic Book Fair
	10	Remembrance Day Assembly 11:00
	13	Remembrance Day Holiday (Schools Closed)
	14	Reading Break (Schools Closed)



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