



West Haven Public School Newsletter - October 2020

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



September is always a month of change. The trees are changing colours as quickly as others are dropping their leaves. The return to any school year usually means changes in morning and bedtime routines. Change IS the constant in September. I was no stranger to this as I prepared for the new school year. Having spent almost every day in August preparing the school for bringing the kids back, I always had a bit of the back to school nerves in the back of my mind as I thought about all the changes. Turns out I really didn't need to be as nervous as I was. Everything went incredibly well. Students, parents, and staff have all been very positive while we all learn how to make this work. Thank you for your on-going support! On the same note of change, I imagine that many of you are in the same boat that I'm in, figuring out how to change from at-home lunches to at-school lunches without microwaves, kettles, etc while still providing varied lunches. I hope you're able to find more creative ideas than I've had so far.

Here are a few things I've quickly learned about masks over the last month:

- Wearing a mask after drinking a coffee really highlights the true impact of "coffee breath."
- Adding gum or mints for bad breath is great.
- Avoid peppermint gum or Dentyne Ice as it stings the eyes while wearing a mask!
- The feeling of removing a mask at the end of the day has had many comparisons. In my case, I feel that it's like putting on my favourite pair of sweats when I get home from work.
- Just because I wear a mask doesn't mean that everyone wants to hear my Batman or Darth Vader voice.
- Wearing a mask and being the principal has the added benefit of not being able to smell the various messes as much as usual. It's a great reminder that there is no job too big or too small for a principal with gloves to tackle...

September 21 marks the start of Gender Equality Week. It's a good time to reflect upon and celebrate the contributions of all genders which have improved our world. Promoting gender equality is something we can promote year-round. I'm proud to recognize and support my wife who has promoted Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) for girls in years past within the school system. She has inspired many young women who may one day pursue their passions in what is currently a male-dominated environment. The more we are inclusive as a society and truly embrace diversity, the stronger we will all be.



325 West Haven Drive, Leduc, Alberta T9E1B6

Phone: (780) 986-5991 Fax: (780) 986-5661 Email: whps@gshare.blackgold.ca

Principal: Mr. Raymond Cable Assistant Principal: Mr. Rob Froland

Wolverine Dates to Remember

OCTOBER:

October 7, 2020 - Early Dismissal (2:30pm) / No Kinder Classes

October 12, 2020 - Thanksgiving Day - No School

October 13, 2020 - PD Day - No School

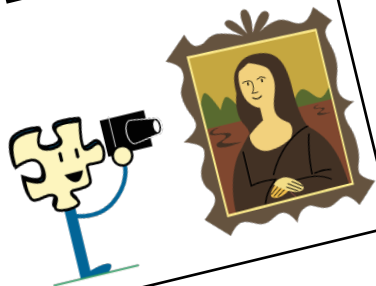
Early Dismissal

Just a reminder that early dismissal is the first Wednesday of each month (except September). Classes dismiss at 2:30 PM.

Picture Day!

Mark your calendars!!!

November 30



SHOUT OUT!!!

A huge thank you to Old Navy (Outlet location) for their generous donation of school supplies to WHPS!

COVID-19 INFORMATION

WEAR A MASK

Follow the rules for masks in your school



alberta.ca/returntoschool

Alberta

Staff Planning & Development Days

BGSD's staff planning & development program and the Alberta Teachers' Association's Institute days for all staff will continue again this year. These include:

October 13

December 4

January 29

February 4-5 (Teachers' Convention)

March 12

April 30

May 20-21

Students do **not attend** classes on the above dates.

Bus Loop Safety/Use of the Crosswalks

WHPS has a loop for buses only. Parents have a kiss'n'go area on the street. To prevent injury to members of our school family, vehicle traffic will not be permitted in the bus loop between 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. This time represents the highest potential risk to students.



Thank you for your continued cooperation in this very important matter.

Supervision

The safety and well-being of our students is one of our greatest concerns. In order to assist us in ensuring that we maintain adequate supervision of students, please note the following supervision times and related requests

Supervision AM (before school)– Our entry bell is at 8:30 AM. Beginning at 8:15 AM, we have staff on supervision. If your child attends a daycare or day home that transports your child to our school, please confirm that they are not dropping him/her off prior to this time. We do not want children unsupervised.

Recesses – These times are fully supervised by our own dedicated staff.

After School Supervision– Staff members are outside from 3:15 PM until 3:30 PM.

Please note there will be **NO ACCESS** to the playground before or after school.

Parents, please assist us with ensuring optimal supervision in doing the following:

- If you are riding your bike to school to pick up your child, we would ask that you model appropriate safety rules by walking your bike on school property and walking across marked crosswalks.
- If you have your dog with you when you pick up your child, we would ask that you wait by the fence which follows the street with your pet. Sometimes we have children afraid of animals or we have children who tend to excite the pet and we would hate for an injury to occur or an animal to be placed in a situation where they are over excited.

Reminders:

Grade 1 - 9 School Hours: 8:35 am - 3:15 pm

Entry Bell:	8:30 am
Classes Start:	8:40 am
Recess & Lunch	Staggered
Dismissal:	3:15 pm



****Supervisors are outside at 8:15 am***

ECS School Hours:

AM Class	8:30 am - 11:28 am
PM Class	12:22 pm - 3:15 pm

Student Absences

For the safety of our students, it is extremely important to notify the school if your child will be late or absent. If the school is not notified, we are obligated to phone your home or office, or, if needed, your emergency contacts to confirm the absence.

For your convenience, you may leave a message concerning absences outside of school hours on the voicemail system from 4:00 pm to 8:00 am, or you can send an e-mail to

tobey.morris@blackgold.ca and/or

sandy.musteca@blackgold.ca

Visitors to our School

At this time, visitors/volunteers are not permitted in the school. We will inform you if/when this changes.

Early Dismissal (1st Wednesday of each month)

October 7th, 2020 @ 2:30 pm

November 4th, 2020 @ 2:30 pm

*****No kindergarten on Early Dismissal days*****

Student Pick-Up

We are unable to release students to anyone besides their parents or legal guardians. If someone other than yourselves will be picking up a student, we need notification from you by either a phone call or a note to the classroom teacher or the office. Thank you for your help in this matter.

*****If there is a legal custody order that pertains to your child, please be advised that in order to enforce this, we must have a copy at the school.***

2020- 2021 SCHOOL FEES

Kindergarten: For Sep 8 /20 - Jan 31/21 - \$50.00 payable September
For Feb 1/21 - Jun 21/21 - \$50.00 payable February

Technology Fee: Grade 1 - 3 - \$10.00

Technology Fee: Grade 4 - 6 - \$20.00

Replacement Agenda: \$7.50

Junior High Option Classes: fees vary, please check our website for detailed information

Method of Payment: We are now asking that all fees are paid on-line. Payment can be made on your Parent PowerSchool account. If you have any questions please contact the office.

Division Technology Fee

The BGSD technology access fee will cover a variety of new software tools for students. The first such tool is assistive technology software, this will help students by reading text on the screen from websites they visit and documents they create, listening to your work read back to you helps catch writing errors and having text read from other content helps with understanding. The program also provides word prediction for struggling writers, standard and visual dictionaries, highlighting and organization tools and speech to text abilities. A second new software application will be a self assessment tool that uses machine learning to provide writing feedback for the student to help improve spelling, grammar, sentence structure and provide suggestions for improvement. Lastly we will be providing creative publishing and charting tool to enable students to increase creativity and capability beyond a standard document or drawing.

Another use of the technology fee is for internet access. Our internet costs are increasing and a new contract by Alberta Infrastructure is greatly increasing the cost to school divisions. The funds will help manage that access, provide increased bandwidth for BYOED and improve protection for students accessing the internet.

Bus Reminders

- If your child rides the BGSD yellow school bus, they must have their bus pass with them. The pass needs to be scanned daily. Please encourage your child to be on time for the bus pick up and departure time to and from the school.
- Parents of students who are riding the bus this year are reminded that items such as hockey sticks, curling brooms, skateboards, etc. are not be allowed on buses. Articles cannot be transported that are more than 13" x 13" x 23". This applies to buses that regularly transport students, as well as buses that take students on field trips, once field trips resume.

At this time, the following programs will not be running at WHPS:

- ▶ Microwave Program
- ▶ Milk Program
- ▶ Hot Lunch Program
- ▶ Bake Sale

We apologize for the inconvenience and will let you know as soon as we can resume these activities.

Lost and Found

It is very discouraging each year when we see the amount of clothing and other articles that are lost and never reclaimed. The main reason is that most of the articles are not labeled, and we have no way of knowing to whom they belong. We are asking parents to go on a HUGE labeling blitz. **Please....take the time to mark all of your child's MASKS / clothing / articles / belongings.**

WHPS School Council & Fundraising Society News

As the 2020/2021 school year commences, we have a few changes to our School Council and Fundraising Society. The positions of President and Vice President are open for new members. If you wish to become a volunteer to either of these positions please email whpsfs@gmail.com or contact the school office.

With these changes, we say farewell to Lisa Mochon who has volunteered as the Treasure for both the School Council and Fundraising Society. Thank you for your commitment over the past 4 years. Please contact the school office if you wish to have your name assigned to a class to assist the teacher or if you have any questions.

The first West Haven Public School Council and Fundraising Society Meeting of the 2020/2021 school year will take place on Thursday, October 1, 2020 at 6:30pm.

We have the following classes who require a Classroom Representative:

ECS- am (Mrs. Stewart) **ECS- pm** (Mrs. Stewart)

1C (Mrs. Carberry) **1Y** (Ms. Yanitski)

3P (Ms. Pedersen) **4M** (Ms. Maver)

5E (Mrs. Edginton) **5J** (Mr. Johnson)

6L (Mrs. Loose)

Charlene Little
Secretary for WHPSFS & WHPSC

School Newsletter/Updated Webpage

Our newsletters and school webpage are two of the best ways of communicating all pertinent information about the school. We are continuing to be **GREEN**! All newsletters will be posted to the school webpage. Generally, this will occur on the last day of the month. Access these at whps.blackgold.ca

Jr High Students - Leaving School Grounds at Lunchtime

In order for junior high students to leave the school grounds at lunchtime, parents/guardians must fill out the permission form on the Parent PowerSchool account. This form along with more details can be found under Fees/Forms.

Fundraising Society

You can support the Fundraising Society by eating at Boston Pizza (in Leduc). Send your BP receipts to the school office so the fundraising society can receive 5% back. Thanks for your support!

Leduc Coop—Whenever people get gas, liquor or groceries, or supplies from the building centre they can give our Coop number and the school will get a small portion back every year. Every little bit helps! Our Coop number is 34666.

Safety Drills

BGSD has a comprehensive emergency response plan. The safety of our students and staff is important to us. WHPS will be practicing various safety drills. These include fire drills and school lock down procedures. Discussions with students will precede our drills to increase the awareness of safety procedures and decrease possible anxiety.

In the event of an **actual** school lock down, parents will be advised by text or email (after the event) of the necessity for the lock down. If alternate arrangements for pick up are necessary, we will contact parents.



Ongoing Communication

We encourage and value parent's involvement in education. Please maintain regular communication with your child's teacher by reading agendas nightly, providing your email address and contact information to the teacher and via email. Emails are found on the website at whps.blackgold.ca under the '**About**' -'**Staff Contacts**' You may also call the school at 780-986-5991 to speak to staff members.

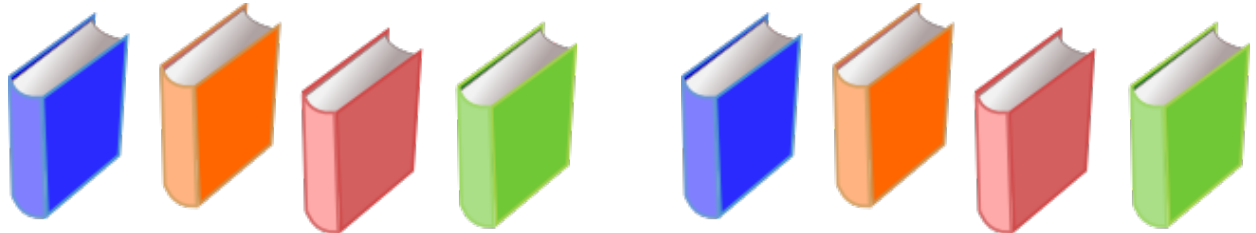


Need to Reach Us?

Our school office is open daily between 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM if parents wish to call a staff member. If the staff member is unavailable to take your call, you may ask to leave a voice message and the staff member will return your call. It is often difficult for a teacher to take a call immediately preceding the warning bell in the morning or right after school in the afternoon, so we would ask parents to call at times other than these very busy times.

To ensure effective and timely communication, if you have an e-mail address, please provide it to your child's teacher. This will enable staff to communicate with you electronically. Staff may be emailed at the school by the following format: **first name.last name@blackgold.ca**

From time to time it may be necessary for the school to relay a message from you to your child. Again, the times immediately preceding dismissal are extremely busy in the office. We would ask that parents use the student agendas to remind their children of plans for after school and only ask the school to relay a message if it is of an emergent nature. We are sometimes asked to remind students to go for a haircut or to walk with someone. These types of messages should be passed on to your child verbally and if necessary, placed in the agenda. Students are not allowed to use the office phone to make play dates with other students. These arrangements need to be made before the student arrives at school.



RETURNING LIBRARY & TEXT BOOKS

If there are any textbooks, library books or any other school property that you may still have at home (ie sports apparel, classroom books etc.), please have your children bring them to the bin outside the library doors.

Should you have any questions, please contact your child's teachers or call the office at 780-986-5991.



LUNCH HOUR PROTOCOL:

With the start of a new school year, we would like to take the opportunity to review the lunch hour protocol for the students who stay at school for lunch. Students are welcome to stay for lunch but they must abide by the rules that have been established. We ask for parents' support in reviewing these expectations with their child. A copy of these expectations are printed below.

At West Haven Public School, elementary students will have staggered recess with grade level cohorts. We **do not** utilize parent supervisors during the lunch hour. Our students are supervised by teachers during eating periods. Students go outside, weather permitting and there is always a staff member 'on call' in the office to deal with issues/injuries which may occur. Each grade level cohort will be assigned a designated area and be supervised by a staff member. For the most part, our students are well behaved during the lunch hour. In the event of problems during the lunch hour, the teacher on duty will deal with the issue. In the event of repeated issues with a particular student, we will contact the parents to advise them and to seek a resolution. We appreciate your support.



	Recess	Eating Period
Grades 1 & 4	11:30-11:55am	11:55am-12:22pm
Grades 2 & 5	12:00-12:25pm	12:25-12:52pm
Grade 6	12:30-12:55pm	12:03-12:30pm
Grade 3	1:00-1:25pm	12:33-1:00pm

Lunch Hour Rules

Students are responsible for their behavior and if on-going issues occur and a resolution cannot be reached, the school reserves the right to withdraw the privilege of eating in the class for a period of time or indefinitely.

- All students are expected to be seated while eating lunch. There should be no throwing of food or utensils.
- Students are expected to be in their own classroom during the lunch hour.
- If students need to leave their classroom, for any reason (e.g. bathroom, office, to put things in lockers, etc.) they are to check with the teacher before doing so.
- Students are expected to clean up after themselves. Each classroom has paper towel and cleaning solution.
- When the lunch hour bell rings to go outside for recess, students are to go outside promptly. Supervisors are asked to ensure all students are out of the classroom, turn off lights and close the door.
- If students are to remain inside for any reason, they must be in the class supervised or in the office.
- If a teacher has to speak to a student for misbehavior during the lunch hour, they will monitor the number of times the problem(s) is/are occurring and may contact the parent.



Hygiene Protective Measures

Students will be required to sanitize their hands upon entry and exit from the school. This procedure is mandated and will include recesses and coming to and departing the school.

All grades 4-9 students will be mandated to wear a mask (surgical style or other form of face covering that covers both the mouth and the nose). K-3 has the choice of wearing a mask but it is still highly recommended. Those wearing masks will wear them at all times unless outside, sitting in rows, or when social distancing is otherwise possible.

****Please note that students will not be able to bring in birthday treats or pass around cards to share until further notice.***

Maintaining 2m Spacing

Inside the school, we have directional arrows and 'Stand Here' stickers on the ground helping everyone maintain the required two meters distance. Classes will be arranged in rows as per guidelines based upon the need for 2m spacing.

Please remember that parents picking up and dropping off their child should maintain 2m spacing outside the school, if not waiting in a vehicle.

Limited Contact

To minimize exposure, the school is required to limit the number of people coming into the building. We will gladly welcome parents once the guidelines permit us to do so. This will impact the following until further notice:

Volunteering at WHPS

For the 2020-2021 there will be NO VOLUNTEERING. This, unfortunately, means no Hot Lunch, microwave days, bake sales, parents coming in to read, and parents coming into the school with their children.

No deliveries can be accepted at the school.

Plan ahead!

Please send your child to school with his/her lunch. Items sometimes delivered at the school that should be avoided include lunches, snacks, school work, Skip the Dishes, etc.

Students won't be using hallway lockers until further notice. Please plan to limit the number of items brought to school in the backpack. That's where they will be asked to store their lunch and any belongings that won't stay in their desk.

COVID-19 Symptom Flowchart

Do you have **ANY** of the symptoms in the left-hand column?

- Fever
- Cough (new cough or worsening chronic cough)
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing (new or worsening)
- Runny nose
- Sore throat

- Chills
- Painful swallowing
- Stuffy nose
- Headache
- Muscle or joint aches
- Feeling unwell, fatigue or severe exhaustion
- Gastrointestinal symptoms (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or unexplained loss of appetite)
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Conjunctivitis, commonly known as pink eye

YES

NO

You must go/stay home

Is the symptom highlighted in red?

YES

NO

Book a testing appointment online or Call 811. Stay home until test result is negative and the symptoms resolve – whichever is longer.

Stay home until symptoms resolve so you do not infect others

(COVID-19 testing recommended)

I received my test results, now what?

Positive

Negative

Follow AHS guidelines for mandatory isolation

Stay home until symptoms resolve

Attend/Return to school



Counsellor's Corner

Mrs. Christou

October, 2020

We've made it through the first month of a brand new school year! We are learning how to live with new protocols and return to old routines after being home for six months.

I've been doing a lot of reading about how to best help our students and families in the community. There is A LOT of research out there about resilience. These are a couple of

thoughts that have caught my attention:

"Kids are not attention-seeking, they are connection-seeking."

— Jody Carrington, Kids These Days: A Game Plan For (Re)Connecting With Those We Teach, Lead, & Love

When we see a child acting out, we need to step back and think about what it is that child is needing from us. Often, it is a connection, letting them know that we are here for them.

- "You are imperfect, you are wired for struggle, but you are worthy of love and belonging." — Brene Brown

We are made to do hard things. This one keeps coming up. When we let our kiddos figure things out, dress themselves, and do their own homework, we ARE helping them. When we take away the struggle, we are taking away resiliency.

For some, things are going smoothly, and for others, we are needing some help. There is a saying that "We are not in the same boat, but we are all in the same storm." If you would like to reach out, please contact me at cindy.christou@blackgold.ca. I would be happy to lend a listening ear, and point you in the right direction for further supports.



Take care,

Mrs. Christou



MINDFUL PARENTING FOR HIGH NEEDS KIDS

OCTOBER 5-9

Free Online Conference

JOIN US! [CONFERENCE.HAPPILYFAMILY.COM](https://conference.happilyfamily.com)

Boys and Girls Club of Leduc 2020/2021 Youth Programs

Keystone

A leadership program that focuses on teamwork, citizenship and provides youth with opportunities around the community and activities each session.

Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30

The Boys & Girls Club of Leduc in
The Leduc Recreation Centre

Sports Night

Drop-in program where there are different organized sport activities that are played each week!

Wednesdays from 4:00-5:30

Leduc Recreation Centre
Field house

Girls Night

This drop-in program is a evening where we do fun activities together.

This includes paint nights, yoga, movie nights, crafts, baking , swimming and more!

Thursdays from 3:30-5:30

The Leduc Recreation Centre-
Kosmos Kitchen

Drop-in

An After-school hang out with video games , foosball , board games, movies, activities , game challenges , swimming and more!

Friday's from 3:30-5:30

The Leduc Recreation
Centre - MNP Room

**Follow @bgcleducyouth on Instagram or Email:
summercoordinator@bgcleduc.ca for more info!**

Free Entry



Boys & Girls Club of Leduc

Ages 13-17



Kids get a nature boost for free this fall

(Devon, Alberta)

The University of Alberta Botanic Garden is opening its gates to children for free this fall, to offer a respite from the challenges of a pandemic year.

"Kids and their families, students and teachers are all going through a lot, especially this fall," said Carl Charest, interim executive director at the Garden. "Their schools are different. Their sports and clubs have been cancelled. They haven't seen many of their friends all summer. Kids and families are stressed. They need a chance to relax and be outside and forget their cares for a little while. Getting kids connected to nature is something so necessary to wellbeing, and that's a remedy the Garden can provide."

The decision to let kids in for free this fall is just the beginning of a bigger dream, said Charest. "We want to extend this initiative into the future so that children will always have free admission to the Garden, and for that, we need involvement from the community."

The Garden is looking for community partners to help make free admission for kids an ongoing reality. But, said Charest, the dream doesn't stop there - the ultimate goal is that all the Garden's award-winning children's programs, like school field trips, will be free and accessible to all kids.

"We know that the natural world and our connections to each other are what sustains us, grown ups and children alike. It's so important. We can make sure that children from all walks of life have a chance to be restored by nature and learn to see the trees in the forest."

In addition to free admission, the Garden is also developing safely distanced, fun activities to engage kids when they visit.

Children ages 0-17 and students get free admission to the UA Botanic Garden until the last day of the open season on October 12, 2020. Admissions must be reserved in advance [online](#).





Calling all aspiring ballers! The Leduc Community Basketball Association is looking for kids born from 2015 to 2012 to participate in our fall basketball U7 and U9 programs. Programs are being run out of Gone Strong Athletics on Monday evenings. Registration is currently open at: <http://www.leduclightning.com/content/2020-fall-registration>



OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Day 5 6:30pm - WHPS SC & FC Meetings (Virtual)	2 Day 1	3
4	5 Day 2	6 Day 3	7 Day 4 2:30pm Early Dismissal No Kinder Classes	8 Day 5	9 Day 1	10
11	12 Thanksgiving No School Happy Thanksgiving	13 PD Day	14 Day 2	15 Day 3	16 Day 4	17
18	19 Day 5	20 Day 1	21 Day 2	22 Day 3	23 Day 4	24
25	26 Day 5	27 Day 1	28 Day 2	29 Day 3	30 Day 4 School Halloween Wear your best costume to school! (No Assembly)	31 Happy Halloween

NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Daylight Savings Time Ends - Clocks go back 1 hour 	2 Day 5	3 Day 1	4 Day 2 2:30pm Early Dismissal No Kinder Classes	5 Day 3	6 Day 4	7
8	9 Day 5	10 Day 1 Remembrance Day Ceremony (In-Class)	11 Remembrance Day - No School 	12 Mid-Term Break - No School	13 Mid-Term Break - No School	14
15	16 Day 2	17 Day 3	18 Day 4	19 Day 5	20 Day 1	21
22	23 Day 2	24 Day 3	25 Day 4 Term 1 Ends	26 Day 5 Term 2 Starts	27 Day 1	28
29	30 Day 2 Picture Day 