



West Haven Public School Newsletter - January 2021

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

All parents of Black Gold School Division students are being asked to consider what schooling choice they want for their children in the second semester, February 1 - June 25. This is a big decision for many families and one that you may have been contemplating for a while. With news of a vaccine on the way, there is hope that the COVID virus will be put behind us more quickly.

There can be many factors in making your decision between sending your child to the school or keeping your child at home for the Distance Learning program. I suggest that anyone who may be on the fence should take a look at what Distance Learning (DL) entails by visiting www.blackgold.ca/schools/distance-learning-program/. Below, I will share some questions to consider that I got from Dr. Sean Reynolds, who is a psychologist we've come to trust and appreciate over the years. He poses 7 questions and asks you to weigh them according to what's important to you.

Think about the following questions with 1 being not at all and 10 as extremely.

- How worried are you about your child getting COVID?
- How worried are you about your child giving COVID to a family member?
- How well do you think your child can manage online learning expectations?
- How much can you help your child manage online learning expectations?

If you had a low score, you may be better suited to be at school. However, if you scored higher, you may be better suited to online learning.

There are other considerations as well that don't score as easily as the above questions and are worth consideration:

- Which approach will work best for your child's mental health?
- Which approach will work best for the parents' mental health?
- Are there any safety risks for your child in doing online learning?

None of these questions is meant to provide a definitive answer as to what is best, but I hope it provides some opportunity for reflection. In the end, this becomes a very personal choice that your family alone can make.

Black Gold does require a firm decision for **all** students no later than January 6th.

On behalf of the West Haven Public School Wolverine family, both in and out of the building, we wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year!



Wolverine Dates to Remember

- Jan 4-8:** At-home learning - Kindergarten-Grade 9
Jan 6: Declaration - Choice of Learning-Closes at NOON
Early Dismissal
No Kinder Classes
Jan 11: In-person classes resume. Welcome Back!!!
Jan 15: Jersey Day - Wear your favourite jersey! Any team!
Jan 27: International Family Literacy Day
Jan 28: Character Ed - COURAGE
Jan 29: PD Day - No School
Feb 3: Early Dismissal
No Kinder Classes
Throwback Retro Day - Get Funky!
Feb 4-5: Teachers' Convention - No School
Feb 12: School Picture Day
Feb 15: Family Day - No School

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. **Students do not attend classes on these dates.**

January 29

February 4-5

March 12

April 30

May 20-21

COVID-19 INFORMATION

WEAR A MASK

Follow the rules for masks in your school



alberta.ca/returntoschool

Alberta

Student Pick-Up

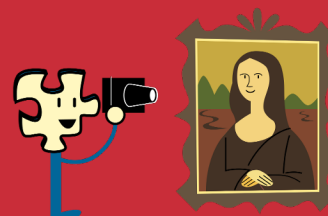
We are unable to release students to anyone besides their parents or legal guardians. If someone other than yourselves will be picking up a student, we need notification from you by either a phone call or a note to the classroom teacher or the office. Thank you for your help in this matter.

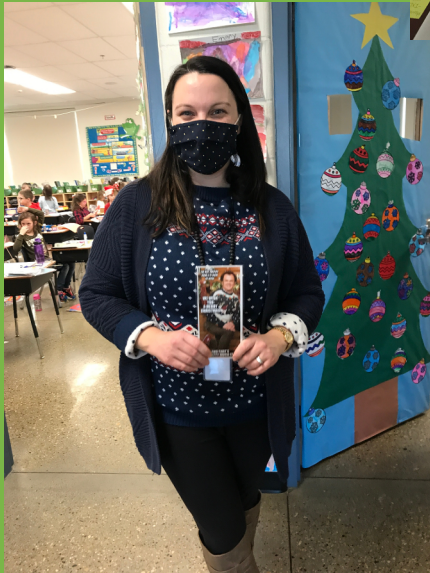
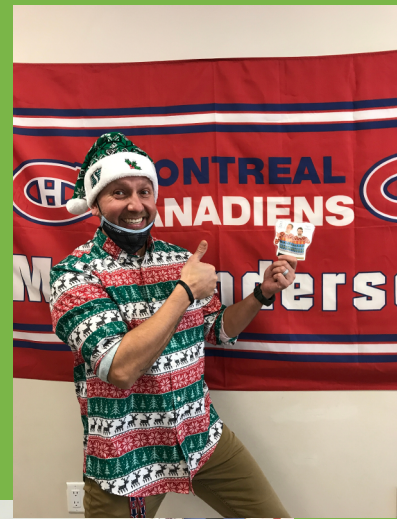
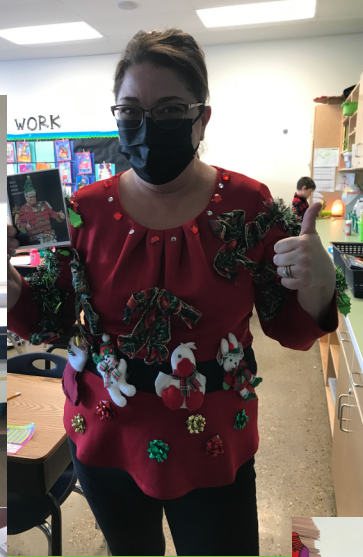
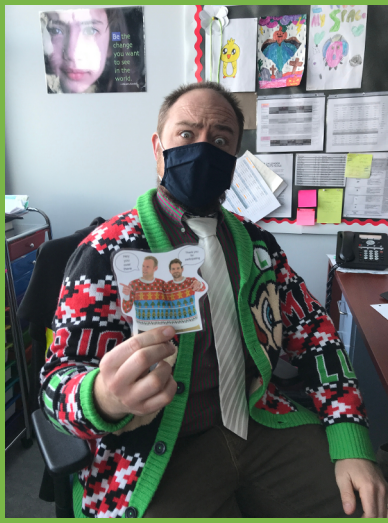
*****If there is a legal custody order that pertains to your child, please be advised that in order to enforce this, we must have a copy at the school.***

NEW DATE:

Picture Day

Feb 12/21





The One Who did not Dress Up: Ms. Wringe

The Ugliest Sweater: Mr. Porter

The one most like a tree: Mrs. Prazak

The fanciest Sweater: Mrs. Schmidt

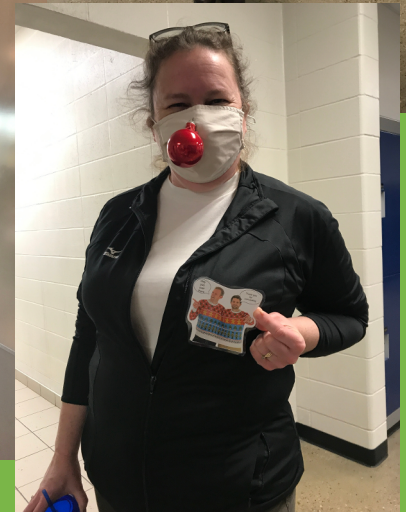
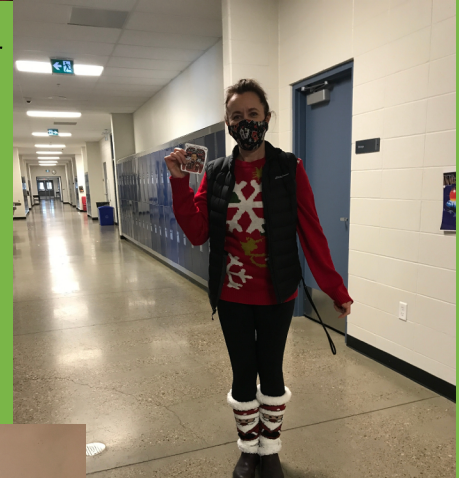
The "movie" sweater: Mrs. Kirton

The Millennial: Ms. Fecho

The Griswold: Mrs. Christou

The best homemade Sweater: Mrs. Zimmer

Don Cherry: Mr. Childs
(with honorable mention to
Mr. R. Froland & Mr. Cable)



BLACK GOLD SCHOOL DIVISION

SAVE THE DATE! January 20, 2021
2021-2022 Kindergarten Registration begins!



For more info, visit **www.blackgold.ca** or contact
Early Childhood Services at (780)955-4534.



LOST & FOUND

In an effort to reduce contact, we have relocated the lost and found to the office. If any of these items are yours or you'd like to check and see, please send an email totobey.morris@blackgold.ca or call the office at 780-986-5991. One of us will be happy to assist you. Please note: students and parents are unable to go through the lost and found themselves. These items will be displayed on this website for two to three weeks and then they will be bagged to donate.

Check
out our new
VIRTUAL lost
and found on
our website

<https://whps.blackgold.ca/lost-found/>

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 4:00 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, during entry or dismissal.

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 be saddened if an injury occurred to a person or student 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 |

ECS School Hours:

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

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



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, we now have an [Online Absence Reporting Form](#) you can complete on our website 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)

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

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 covers 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 Sales

Lost and Found

<https://whps.blackgold.ca/lost-found/>

Each year, we see the large amounts 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.**



Leduc Recreation Centre Active 8's & 9's

This is a FREE Membership to the LRC and Alexandra Outdoor Pool for **Grade 8 and Grade 9 students** that live or go to school in the City of Leduc and Leduc County only. The membership has to be renewed each school year and is valid October to August for those that are eligible so we are asking those students that are in Grade 8 and Grade 9 this school year to come in to Guest Services and register.

Please note: It is applicable only to residents who pay municipal taxes to the City of Leduc and Leduc County.



Family Leduc Recreation Centre Passes

West Haven Public School is excited to continue a pilot project with Ever Active Schools, in collaboration with the Leduc Recreation Centre (LRC) and Healthy Hearts. We have one family pass for admission to the LRC that our families are welcome to borrow for a week at a time. Note: Due to Covid 19, the use of the LRC amenities must be booked. This can be done through downloading the app at <https://www.leduc.ca/liveleducmobileapp>, by contacting our Guest Services at 780-980-7129, or booking in person at the LRC. To book these passes, please contact either Sheila Ankerstein (sheila.ankerstein@blackgold.ca) or Sandy Musteca (sandy.musteca@blackgold.ca) to book the passes.



**BE A SPECIAL PERSON IN SOMEONE'S LIFE -
BE A SCHOOL BUS OPERATOR!**

- No daycare costs, take your child with you!
- Summers off, work only school days!

For more information, contact us today:
780-955-6034

WHPS School Council & Fundraising Society News

Hello Parents!

As our 2020 school year closes, we would like to thank everyone for the support and all the hard work to make this year a success. Wishing all staff, students and families a happy and healthy holiday season.

Our first School Council and Fundraising meeting of the New Year will be Thursday, February 11 at 6:30pm. Any questions can be directed to the Fundraising Society at whpsfs@gmail.com.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Fundraising Society

You can support the Fundraising Society by eating at Boston Pizza. 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.

PowerSchool Mobile App: Problem Syncing Error

BGSD does not provide technical support for the Mobile App - it is impossible for us to support multiple platforms and an App which is developed by a third party. Instead, please refer to the PowerSchool web portal: <https://powerschool.blackgold.ca/public>

Problem

If you are attempting to use the PowerSchool Mobile App and are receiving an error that reads "Problem Syncing", this means that there was a problem syncing your mobile device with our school district's information system. There are several potential causes for this error:

- There may be a system error when pulling in data.
- The district has temporarily paused sending out new data, usually for maintenance.
- The district has not yet sent new data. This occurs frequently during the change of terms.

Here are a few steps you can take to troubleshoot.

Step-By-Step Solution

- Uninstall the app and then restart your phone.
- Re-install the app by downloading the app from the App Store/Google Play Store.
- Once the app is installed open the app and it should land in the page which asks for the District Code.
- Do not enter the District Code, rather click on the link "Where is my district code?" below the District Code.
- Type in Black Gold School Division to find the district name and select
- Enter your PowerSchool Parent Portal Username & Password
- Wait for the system to load

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 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. Most 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.

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 are 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.

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.



LUNCH HOUR PROTOCOL:

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 classroom cohorts. We only use staff to supervise 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.



| | Lunch 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.

January 2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|----------|--|---|------------------------|----------|
|  | | | | | 1 New Years Day | 2 |
| 3 | 4 Day 1 | 5 Day 2 | 6 Day 3 | 7 Day 4 | 8 Day 5 | 9 |
| At-home learning for Kindergarten - Gr 9 | | | | | | |
| | | | Noon: Deadline for Choice of Learning 2:30pm Early Dismissal No Kinder Classes | | | |
| 10 | 11 Day 1 In-person classes resume for Kindergarten - Gr 9  | 12 Day 2 | 13 Day 3 | 14 Day 4 | 15 Day 5 Jersey Day | 16 |
| 17 | 18 Day 1 | 19 Day 2 | 20 Day 3 9:00am - ECS Registration Opens for 2021-22 | 21 Day 4 | 22 Day 5 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 Day 1 | 26 Day 2 | 27 Day 3 International Family Literacy Day | 28 Day 4 Character Ed Assembly - COURAGE | 29 PD Day | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

February 2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|----------------------------|----------|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------|
| | 1 Day 5 | 2 Day 1 | 3 Day 2 2:30pm Early Dismissal No Kinder Classes Throwback/Retro Day | 4 Teachers Convention No School | | 5 |
| 6 | | | | | | |
| 7 | 8 Day 3 | 9 Day 4 | 10 Day 5 | 11 Day 1 | 12 Day 2 Picture Day | 13 |
| | | | | | | |
| 14 <i>Happy</i> VALENTINE'S DAY | 15 Family Day No School | 16 Day 3 | 17 Day 4 | 18 Day 5 | 19 Day 2 | 20 |
| | | | | | | |
| 21 | 22 Day 1 | 23 Day 2 | 24 Day 3 PINK SHIRT DAY | 25 Day 4 | 26 Day 5 Character Ed - HONESTY | 27 |
| | | | | | | |
| 28 | | | | | | |