



West Haven Public School Newsletter - January 2021

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I hope this message finds you relaxed after the Christmas holidays and rejuvenated. January is a great month to accomplish a lot at school as we push through to the start of the second semester.

I'd like to remind all families that the Declaration of Learning for Semester 2 is due January 5th. If the declaration isn't completed, it will be assumed that the intent continues the same way that it did in semester 1. Eg. Those who are in school, remain in school and those in Distance Learning continue in Distance Learning.

We are already starting to look at registrations for the 2022-2023 school year. It may sound a bit early, but it helps us start planning and meet submission deadlines to the government. As such, please feel free to share that the kindergarten registration for next year opens up at 9 am on January 19, 2021. Registrations can be submitted at www.blackgold.ca/kindergarten. We will continue to offer the choice of either morning or afternoon programming, so try to submit your preference ASAP as placement is on a first-come; first-served basis. Registration for students in grades 1 to 9 opens on January 20, 2021 at 9 am. www.blackgold.ca/parents

We will be working to confirm registration for the rest of the school over the upcoming months. If you are aware of a change, please contact Sandy at the front desk to start that conversation anytime in February or later.

Sincerely,

Ray

325 West Haven Drive, Leduc, Alberta T9E1B6
Phone: (780) 986-5991 Email: whps@blackgold.ca

Principal: Mr. Raymond Cable

Assistant Principal: Mr. Rob Froland Assistant Principal: Mr. Isaac Schnell



Wolverine Dates to Remember

Jan 3: In-person classes resume

Jan 5 :Early Dismissal - 2:30 pm; No Kinder Classes

Jan 31 - PD Day - no school

Feb 2 - Early Dismissal - 2:30 pm; No Kinder Classes

Feb 10-11 Teachers Convention - No Classes

Feb 21 - 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 31

February 11-12

March 11

April 29

May 19-20

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.***

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 paula.breitkreuz@blackgold.ca and/or sandy.musteca@blackgold.ca

Early Dismissal (1st Wednesday of each month)

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

2021- 2022 SCHOOL FEES

Kindergarten: For Sep 8 /2021- Jan 31/22 - \$50.00 payable September
For Feb 1/22 - Jun 21/22 - \$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 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.**

WHPS School Council & Fundraising Society News

HAPPY NEW YEAR West Haven families!

Last year was such an usually weird but exciting year for the School Council & Fundraising Society. We are so amped up for what is all to come in 2022! The board and staff are getting ready for our 1st Spell-a-thon coming later this month, hot lunch is making a come back and so much more.

Our next meetings will be held February 7, 2022 via Google Meet. All are welcome to attend. Hope to see you there

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.

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	12:33 - 1:00pm	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.





Counsellor's Corner

Mrs. Christou

January, 2022

Happy New Year! Welcome Back, in whatever capacity that is right now, as I'm writing this before we head to break. As we say goodbye to 2021, I'd like to take a moment to think about the good things that happened this year.

Resiliency: I saw children, families, teachers, and support staff continue to rally together to change the way we live on the turn of a dime. It was uncomfortable, but we did it anyway. As a school community, we supported each other with empathy, compassion, encouragement, and a lot of humour.

Generosity: Over the Christmas season, families reached out to me to see if any help was needed for some of our community members. Absolutely. I had the pleasure of matching up families who needed help, with those who were able to give it. Although both givers and receivers were kept anonymous, my heart was warm knowing that this community is one to be proud of, as they go out of their way to take care of one another.

As the facilitator of the West Haven GSA, I am so proud of this group of students who wish to make this community a better place, full of empathy, understanding, and empowerment. They work to spread the word of inclusion for all throughout our hallways and in our classrooms. We will continue to meet throughout the year to share information about the 2SLGBTQ+ community.

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



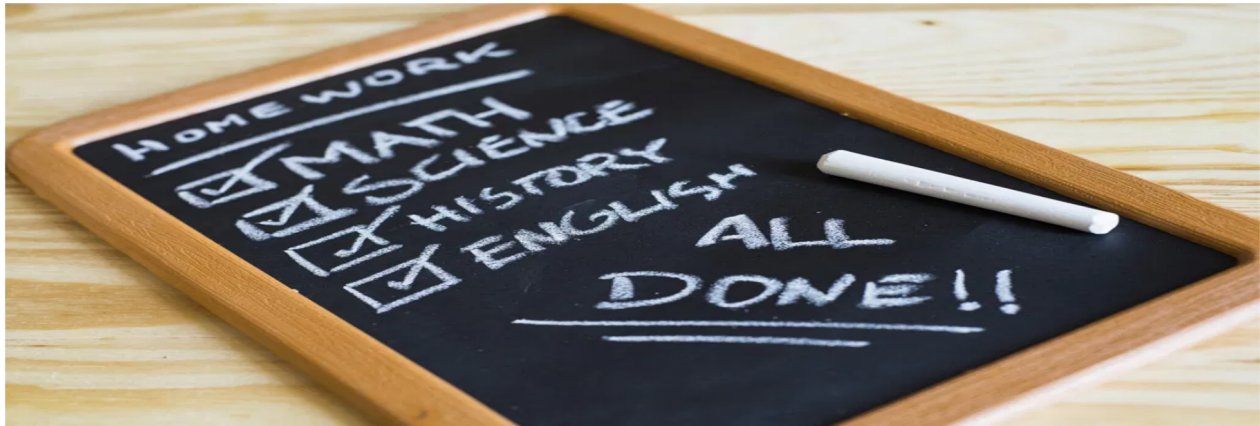
West Haven Wellness News

Time is a funny concept when you are a kid, as it apparently moves so SLOW when watching the clock in class but totally flies while playing a game in the gym. This leaves me to wonder, what is it about being an adult that makes time also seemingly fly-by in a blur? Is it the jam packed schedules? The pressure of running kids here and there? Undoubtedly, the hustle and bustle of everyday life leaves many people wishing they were kids again - if only to have time seemingly creep along so that they can enjoy things more fully. Sometimes I find that I too can be seemingly on cruise control and focused solely on *getting things finished* or *checked off* because time is seemingly stretched too thin. Unfortunately, time slows for no one - as here we now sit four months into the school year - but we can work to use our time more effectively so as to maximise our presence and perhaps lessen the potential for those unexpected time crunches!



Now January is typically a time in which people reflect back over the past year to see what they have accomplished, and glance ahead to the future to visualize where they are going. Yes, the dreaded resolutions...but not all are as bad as you'd think, simply change resolution to goal! It is with this idea of self reflection, and the goal of perhaps using our time more wisely, that the West Haven CREW team wishes to challenge everyone (and themselves) to set the goal of being truly *present* in whatever you do on a day-to-day basis.

Being *present* can mean different things to different people, for some it may mean taking better care of themselves by being more active and/or eating healthier, for others it could mean staying positive or connecting more meaningfully with family or people in general. Regardless of the meaning, having an identified goal will allow you to efficiently focus your attention and energies. This January as part of West Haven Public's mental health focus, we encourage parents and students to discuss how school has been going so far, and to set some realistic goals for the next semester. This is an excellent time to lay out a plan to positively improve or maintain classroom performance. Late or missing school work can be a huge deterrent to success — so now is the perfect time to make sure everyone has a plan to use time wisely to stay on top of his or her work to avoid falling behind...this includes parents.



Here are a couple helpful links to help with ideas and get you started on setting some S.M.A.R.T. goals:

Setting SMART Goals for Students -

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3PA-O_u2Blk

SMART goals - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PCRSVRD2EAK>

Goal Setting for Kids (a Tutorial) -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cC4ZI-R6wkc>

In conclusion, we want to wish everyone a great start to the New Year and trust that everyone had an enjoyable, and restful break!

Mr. Henderson

CHRISTMAS CONCERT CONTEST WINNER

Thank you to the families and friends who took the time to watch the Kindergarten to grade 2 Christmas concert - journey to the north pole. And thank you for sending in your concert. Selfies. Congratulations to the winner of our prize Emery Sterling and family.



SAVE THE DATE!

All applicable Black Gold schools will open for 2022-2023 Kindergarten registration on Wednesday, January 19, 2022.

Each designated school may offer different program times (i.e. morning, afternoon, Monday/Wednesday, or Tuesday/Thursday), and all children will have a place at their designated school.

If you have a strong preference for a particular time, please register early to avoid disappointment as program times will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.



For more info, visit www.blackgold.ca/kindergarten

January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Happy New years Day
2	3 School Resumes Day 1	4 Day 2	5 Day 3 2:30pm Early Dismissal No Kinder Classes	6 Day 4	7 Day 5	8
9	10 Day 1	11 Day 2	12 Day 3	13 Day 4	14 Day 5	15
16	17 Day 1	18 Day 2	19 Day 3	20 Day 4	21 Day 5	22
23	24 Day 1	25 Day 2	26 Day 3	27 Day 4	28 Day 5	29
30	31 PD DAY					

February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Day 1	2 Day 2 2:30pm Early Dismissal No Kinder Classes Throwback/Retro Day	3 Day 3	4 Day 4	5
6	7 Day 5	8 Day 1	9 Day 2	10 Teachers Convention No School 11		12
13	14 Day 3 Happy VALENTINE'S 30 DAY →	15 Day 4	16 Day 5	17 Day 1	18 Day 2	19
20	21 FAMILY DAY NO SCHOOL	22 Day 3	23 Day 4	24 Day 5	25 Day 1	26
27	28 Day 2					