



West Haven Public School Newsletter - October 2021



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

September always seems to come and go in a hurry. It doesn't seem to take long before we are in the month of October and looking ahead to Halloween and trying to decide if our children's costumes will need to accommodate a snowsuit underneath. Sorry for dropping the term 'snow' this early, but we never know what we will get in Alberta.

This last month, I was away for a couple of weeks for foot surgery. I'm sure happy to be back at work with the students and staff. I really missed the daily interactions, saying good morning to the students and getting into the classes. During this time, I reflected on my situation and was thankful for all the support I had around me and how important it was. At home, my wife and kids were beyond amazing helping me out when I was unable to get around. At school, Mr. Rob Froland stepped into the principal role like a champion.

Having support around us is so very important. We don't always know when we will need it, but when we do, it can turn a tough or seemingly impossible situation into something manageable. I wish everyone these same supports for their tough times. However, sometimes those supports aren't obvious. In those times, if you or your kids find yourselves looking for extra help, please reach out to the school and we will be happy to provide that support or try to help you find it. We all need to be connected and supported; it is a sign of strength to reach out when needed.

I'll leave you with some lyrics from a song that keeps coming to mind that I think captures this well. Here are the opening lyrics from Lean on Me.

Sometimes in our lives
We all have pain
We all have sorrow
But if we are wise
We know that there's always tomorrow
Lean on me
When you're not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on...
For it won't be long
Till I'm gonna need somebody to lean on

325 West Haven Drive, Leduc, Alberta T9E1B6

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



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

Wolverine Dates to Remember

OCTOBER:

October 6, 2021 - Early Dismissal (2:30pm) / No Kinder Classes

October 11, 2021 - Thanksgiving Day - No School

October 12, 2021 - PD Day - No School

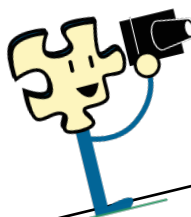
Early Dismissal

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!!!

October 4th 2021



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 12

December 3

January 31

February 10 & 11 (Teachers' Convention)

March 11

April 29

May 19-20

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

paula.breitkreuz@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 6th, 2021 @ 2:30 pm

November 4th, 2021 @ 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.***

2021- 2022 SCHOOL FEES

Kindergarten: For Aug 30 - Jan 31/22 - \$50.00 payable September
For Feb 1/22 - Jun 28/22 - \$50.00 payable February

Technology Fee: Grade 1 - 3 - \$10.00

Technology Fee: Grade 4 - 9 - \$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

Now that the students are settling nicely back into their school routines, it's time to start looking at how we as parents can help make the 2021/2022 school year an amazing one! The School Council and Fundraising Society have been brainstorming new and exciting ways to assist the school with volunteering and fundraising during these uncertain times. We are looking for anyone interested in sharing ideas, coordinating or volunteering to help in many areas. Please contact us at whps.chair@gmail.com if you would like more information or join us at our next meeting on Thursday, October 7 @ 6:30pm. Hope to see you there!

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.

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.

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.

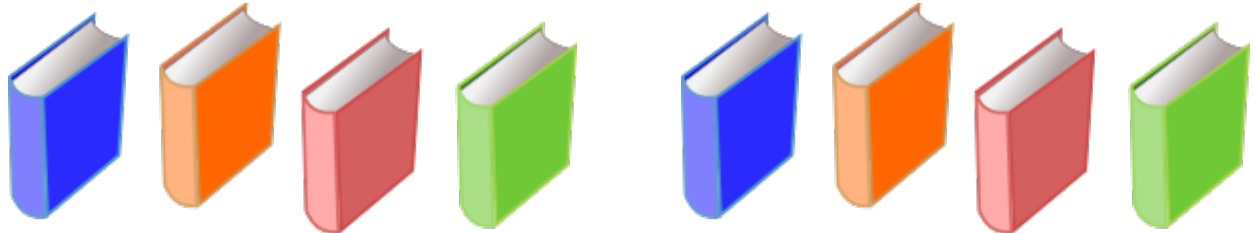


Need to Reach Us?

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	12:30-1:00pm	12:30-1:00pm

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 2021-2022 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.

If you have a credit in your power school account, you now have the ability to transfer that credit to a new school for the upcoming year. For example, if your child is moving from junior high to a high school in Black Gold, you can ensure that your child's credit moves with them. Credits can also be applied to transportation, summer school and division technology fees.

In order to transfer the credit, follow the steps below:

1. Access your Power School account
@ <https://powerschool.blackgold.ca/public/home.html>
2. Select "Student Fees and Forms" in your Power School account
3. Select the "Menu" option on the top right of the screen
4. Select the Transfer Money option which will generate a pop-up menu.
5. Choose to move your credit from the current school to the desired Black Gold location. This credit will now be available for future use at the selected location.



\$328.25 was raised by
classes donating money for the Terry fox run!!!

A Message from your Black Gold District Health & Wellness Mentor

September was a blur of activity as we kicked off another year here at West Haven - it is hard to believe it is already October. Now with that said, allow me to introduce myself, I am Trevor Henderson and in addition to teaching grade six and supervising our student-wellness team aka CREW, I am also West Haven Public's new Health and Wellness lead teacher. This is a new position for the Black Gold School Division and is one that represents our division's increased focus on comprehensive health and wellness programming within all of their schools. This likely gets you thinking, what is comprehensive school health?



Comprehensive School Health (CSH) is a whole school approach that supports healthy school communities. It helps inform and guide practices within the school environment. Comprehensive school health addresses four distinct but related components:

- Social and physical environment
- Teaching and learning
- Policy
- Partnerships and services

Addressing all four components of CSH allows our school to have a greater impact on student health and well-being, and helps us incorporate well-being as an essential aspect of student achievement.

My efforts in this regard are to ensure our school's actions to promote and support health and wellness are more visible to all members of our school community,

ie. students, teachers, administrators, and of course our parents. With this in mind, our school's wellness focuses for October will incorporate activities focused on physical health, mental wellness, as well as partnerships and service through which we can demonstrate respect for others via community service.

Our health and wellness activities this month include...

International Walk to School Week



West Haven Public School is registered to participate in **International Walk to School Week**. This event will run from Monday, October 4th through until Friday, October 9th. In addition to supporting our promotion of active travel, this event gives children, parents, school teachers, and community members an opportunity to be part of a global event that celebrates the many benefits of walking.

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And what are the benefits of walking you ask, well...

- increased cardiovascular and pulmonary (heart and lung) fitness.
- reduced risk of heart disease and stroke.
- improved management of conditions such as hypertension (high blood pressure), high cholesterol, joint and muscular pain or stiffness, and diabetes.
- stronger bones and improved balance

Now getting your children to walk to school may prove challenging, so here are some ideas that may help with motivating them to grab their walking shoes - <https://tinyurl.com/429a57wt>

For our younger students who may have trouble navigating the route to school, consider setting up a walking school bus to provide them some support - <http://www.walkingschoolbus.org/>

Further info on *International Walk to School Week* can be found here:

<https://shapeab.com/iwalk/>
<http://www.iwalktoschool.org/>

School Spirit Day: Jersey Day

Our monthly school spirit day this month will be **Jersey Day on Friday, October 15th!** In celebration of the official start of the 2021-2022 NHL season everyone is encouraged to wear a jersey...any kind of jersey - hockey, soccer, baseball, basketball - whatever you have, put it on and cheer for your team!

"We Scare Hunger" - School Food Drive
Running **October 25th through to October 29th**, West Haven Public will be running a food drive in support of the Leduc Food Bank entitled, "We Scare Hunger"! During this week, students are encouraged to bring in a non-perishable food item to their classroom in support of the Leduc Food Bank's annual Fall Food Drive.

One of the better-known benefits of community service is the positive impact on the community. Our actions will help us to connect to our community and make it a better place. Even helping out with the smallest tasks can have an impact on our personal wellbeing while making a real difference to the lives of people and organizations in need.



More information on *We Scare Hunger* can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TySrpYqNzFE>

October 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Day 3	2
3	4 Day 4	5 Day 5	6 Day 1 Early Dismissal	7 Day 2	8 Day 3	9
10	11 Thanksgiving No School	12 PD Day- No Students	13 Day 4	14 Day 5	15 Day 1	16
17	18 Day 2	19 Day 3	20 Day 4	21 Day 5	22 Day 1	23
24	25 Day 2	26 Day 3	27 Day 4	28 Day 5	29 Day 1	30
31						

November 2021



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Day 2	2 Day 3	3 Day 4 Early Dismissal	4 Day 5	5 Day 1	6
7	8 Day 2 Midterm break No School	9 Day 3 Midterm break No School	10 Day 4 Midterm break No School	11 Day 5 Remembrance Day Midterm break No School	12 Day 1 Midterm break No School	13
14	15 Day 2	16 Day 3	17 Day 4	18 Day 5	19 Day 1	20
21	22 Day 2	23 Day 3	24 Day 4	25 Day 5	26 Day 1	27
28	29 Day 2	30 Day 3				

