

June 2018

Elk Island Public Schools

THE WESTBORO REPORT



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Wow! Is it June already? There is still so much to do before the end of the school year! Students are busy learning the final objectives, studying for classroom and Provincial Achievement Tests, going on field trips, and being active on our *Fun in the Sun Day*.

The staff of Westboro Elementary would like to extend their thanks to parents for their support over the past year. Your contributions and efforts to help our students is most appreciated. We are already busy planning for next year and wish all our graduating Grade 6 students the best of luck as they move on to Junior High. If you are leaving our school community we wish you a fond farewell and hope for all the best for you!

From all of the staff at Westboro, thank you for a great year and we wish you a relaxing, fun and safe summer!



PROVINCIAL ACHIEVEMENT TESTS (PAT)

The grade six Provincial Achievement Tests will soon be in full swing. It is very important that students are well-rested, have had a good breakfast and arrive on time with their equipment (HB pencils & erasers) ready to do their best work these days. The provincial government uses these results as one tool to measure school effectiveness so we want our students to be at "the top of their game". Best of luck to our students!

JUNE PAT DATES

GRADE 6

- Monday, June 18
Grade 6 L.A. Part B
- Tuesday, June 19
Grade 6 Mathematics
- Thursday, June 20
Grade 6 Social Studies
- Friday, June 22
Grade 6 Science



All PATs begin at 9:00 a.m.!!

JUNE

- 1 AMA Patrollers Picnic
- 6 Staff Meeting
- 7 Camp YoWoChAs
- 12 Logos Meeting 7 p.m. at Westboro
- 14 Chapel 11:30 a.m.
- 15 Hot Lunch
- 18 Gr 6 PAT (ELA)
- 19 Gr 6 PAT (Math)
- 20 Gr 6 PAT (SS)
- 22 Gr 6 PAT (Science)
- 25 Outdoor Fun Day
- 28 Last Day for Students
Gr 6 Farewell 1 p.m.
Report Cards posted

Summer Holidays!!!!

- 30 Operational day for teaching staff

PRINCIPAL
Mike Lastiwka

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
Matt Matheson

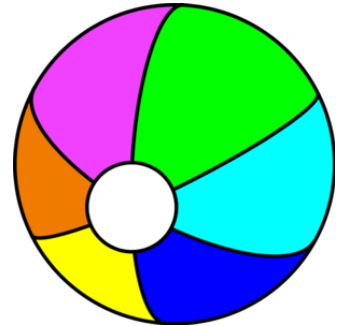
1078 Strathcona Drive
Sherwood Park, Alberta
T8A 0Z9 780-467-7751
www.westboroelementary.ca
@WBOelementary

HOT LUNCH

Thank you parents for all your support with the hot lunch program this year. A special thank you to all our parent/grandparent volunteers. It has been a huge success and we (students included) appreciate all your effort. We end the year with Nitza's Pizza hot lunch on Friday, June 15th. We would also like to express our gratitude to Save on Foods on Wye Road for helping us provide hot lunch to our students all year long.

Thank you parents for your support in our endeavour to help those in financial need with our new donate a lunch program. It has been a success and we will be continuing with it in the fall.

Please be aware that all files on westboro.hotlunches.net are deleted over the summer. This eliminates errors in the fall with students changing classes and teachers, as well as protecting the privacy of those leaving Westboro. In September, parents will need to re-register as a new user on the system and enter your children's new class number and teacher.



Have a super summer!

STUDENT DRESS CODE

*dress
code*

With the warmer weather upon us, a reminder to students to dress for their "Work Day" is needed. The expectation for students is that they are expected to dress in a neat and appropriate manner both for school and weather conditions.

Thank you for helping us provide a respectful work environment.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

If your child is currently enrolled at Westboro Elementary and will be attending next year, there is nothing for you to do.

If your child is currently enrolled and ***will not be attending*** in the 2018 - 2019 school year, please contact our office at 780-467-7751 and inform us of this change.

If you are NEW to the Westboro community and would like to register your children, please contact the school office. Please click on this link to register [Online Student Registration](#).

Thank you for helping us plan for the next school year!

STAFF WELCOMES

Please join us in welcoming Dianna Graziano to Westboro Elementary as our new school counselor. Diana comes to us from Lamont Jr/Sr High where she has been for the past 10 years. Prior to that, she was teaching for 12 years and a former social worker for 14 years. We are very excited to have her join our family.

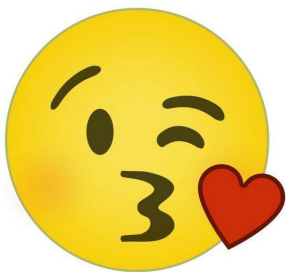
Mr. Matheson is moving to Davidson Creek Elementary as one of the Assistant Principals. We will sadly miss Mr. Matheson but we wish him all the best at the new school.

STEPS ARTWORK

The students in the STEPS (Steps to Enhance Personal Success) program have worked very hard over the last year on different sensory art projects. Most of you may have seen it while roaming the hallways or at the Family Dance. All of the artwork was done by using different tactile objects as modes of painting like: bubble wrap, cotton balls, corn on the cob and sensory balls.

The artwork is for sale by donation to raise money for the school's sensory garden. Thank you to those who have already purchased some artwork, your contribution is greatly appreciated! If you are interested in purchasing any of the remaining artwork please let Holly Berube, Billie Jean Mephram or Margo Komant know. Thank you!

KISS AND CRY



<http://www.emoji.com.br/>

Do you have a Kindergarten child attending school next year?

Are you already worrying about that first morning when you drop off your child for the full day of school?

Never Fear! Our Parents' Group and School Council have the perfect solution! Give your child a big good-bye kiss and then come and cry (or visit) with the other parents who are feeling the same as you! Please join us on September 10th & 11th, 2018 at 8:30 AM in the Library. This is a great opportunity for you to meet other parents, visit and talk about those school-drop-off blues!

All parents are also welcome to join us! We hope to see you there!

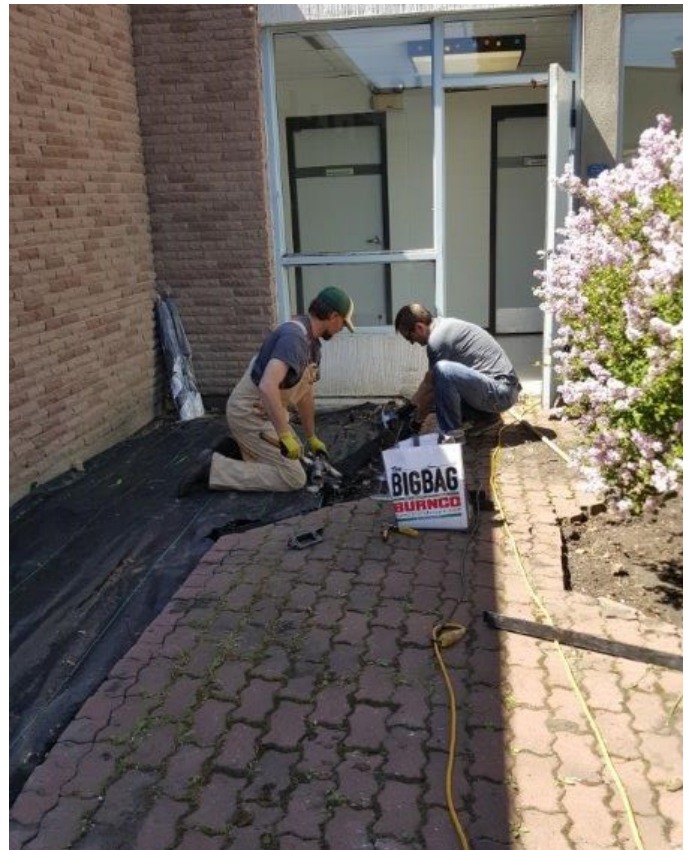


COURTYARD REVITILAZATION UPDATE

We are so excited to see the Courtyard finally progress in the right direction! We have had a couple of learning curves along the way but have come out ahead! This means that we have had success in anchoring the edging into the concrete that lay hidden under our flower beds. This complication plus others had caused our project to stand still since last spring. A **HUGE** thank-you to Jon Hryhynchuk and Jeff Dickey for working so hard in the garden on Saturday, June 2nd. We could not have completed this phase without you! We are extremely grateful for your help and to your families for giving up your Daddy time.

Our next phase is adding the various rocks and mulches to the different flower beds. This will create a bright and colourful foundation to the garden. It will appeal to Westboro students' sense of vision and touch. In order for this phase to be completed we will need 5 additional volunteers with shovels and wheelbarrows on Saturday, June 23rd at 10 a.m. Please contact Andrea Perrotta if you would like to volunteer. Any amount of your time will be appreciated as we move towards completing phase 2.

The final phase will be completed in the September when we purchase the stock tanks, picnic tables and flower pots. We will also be starting our Westboro Gardening Club for those students who want to support the Courtyard through planting and maintaining the yard throughout the year. We look forward to this new addition to our Westboro Community being completed by September, 2018.



If you have any further inquiries please contact Andrea Perrotta or Karen Stocks.

SUMMER HOURS - LOST & FOUND

Westboro School will be closed July 3 - August 27 inclusive. The main office will reopen to the public on **August 27th at 9:00a.m.** If you need to check out the school's Lost & Found bins prior to the summer break please stop at the school anytime up until Wednesday, June 27th. All unclaimed items will be donated to a local charity after 2:30 p.m. on this day.

ABORIGINAL STUDIES

We have many exciting things planned this month as we wrap up the work that we have been doing in Aboriginal Studies this year.

- Students will review all 7 Grandfather Teachings we learned about this year as well as explore some traditional Aboriginal games.
- We will be taking part in celebrating National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21st and invite you join us in the gymnasium at 1:00 for the debut of our Project of Heart music video!
- Students in K-2 will be going to Woodbridge Farms Elementary the afternoon of June 22nd to join in singing and dancing, extending our celebrations for National Indigenous Peoples Day.

We will be continuing with Aboriginal Studies again next school year, though it will look a little different in terms of content and implementation. Mrs. Richard will once again act as lead teacher and will be working within classrooms to support the integration of more Aboriginal content for both teachers and students. As we travel along the road of reconciliation and learning, we hope to:

“Grow together as learners to develop understandings that help us view others in a way that promotes kindness, respect and trust amongst all people in our community.”

We are excited to see what next year will bring!

THANK YOU!

Thank you to our parents for the amazing staff luncheon they provided to us on Wednesday May 16th!

The staff always look forward to this, and appreciate the special lunch and delicious desserts!

PARENT COUNCIL NEWS

It's June already and while I'm excited to write what will be my last newsletter submission, I'm a bit sad too. It's been another amazing year full of awesome parents contributing, in many ways, to the success of their children.

Our school council started a Parent Literacy Toolkit where we have created videos (3 up already and 3 filmed and waiting to be edited). Each video features a different reading technique that our children are learning in school. The videos (each around 3 minutes at the most) will help parents understand the different strategies their children are learning, so they can be reinforced at home.

- **Detective Dan:** Using pictures to help decode and comprehend
- **Punky Pig:** Reading punctuation
- **Chunky Monkey:** Breaking words down into smaller chunks
- **Cleverly Fox:** How to ask questions and check for understanding (without having to read it first)
- **Skippy Frog:** Skipping words
- **Flippy Dolphin:** Changing sounds when reading letters with more than one sound (vowels, c, g)

Our plan is to do more videos next school year and this project needs parents who are willing to read with their children in the videos. If you are interested, please email us at westboroparents@gmail.com

Parents Group sponsored and organized a ton of activities including:

- Hot lunch
- Shop Till Ya Drop
- Family Dance
- Pancake Breakfast
- Alberta Opera
- Spirit Wear
- Crazy Bread for Crazy Hair Day

To name just a few. We are extremely blessed to have such an awesome group of volunteers to organize all of these.

We also held elections for the executive positions. After 7 years of chairing, I'm excited to share the new Executive Council for the 2018-19 school year:

Chair: Krystal Gibson
Vice Chair: Amy Churchill
Treasurer: Matthew Bissett
Secretary: Debbie Klita

I have thoroughly enjoyed leading these two groups and am so proud of the incredible sense of community everyone has built. We have amazing parents and I am excited to pass the reigns on to an incredible and committed group.

We encourage you to stay up to date by joining our Facebook Group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WestboroParents/>) and by joining our email list (just email us at WestboroParents@gmail.com). This is a different list than the school so if you receive our agendas and minutes, you are on it and if you don't receive those, then you aren't.

PARENT COUNCIL - MABEL'S LABELS

Want to know which water bottle belongs to your child? Want to help that hoodie get returned?

We can help! Have you heard about Mabel's Labels? They are incredible labels designed for clothing, school items, and shoes and they stick!!!! (I've had the same one on a water bottle for years; the shoe ones outlast the shoes). Westboro Parents has an account and when you order them through our account, then they will give us a 20% return! In this way, everybody wins!!

Go to www.mabelslabels.com

Choose: "Support a Fundraiser" button (upper right corner)

Select: Westboro Parents Group (Sherwood Park) from the drop down menu (alphabetical)

Click: Click Here to Buy

Mabel's Labels is a Canadian company started by four moms in Ontario, and when you choose Standard Mail/Canada Post, your shipping is free!!

Best of all, there is no deadline to buy, so you can order now or later!!

LOGOS SOCIETY

It is hard to believe it is already June! Where did the year go? While we are all looking forward to spending time with our families over summer, there is some final Logos Society business to be conducted. It is **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** time. This year our AGM will be held on **Tuesday, June 12** at Westboro. The meeting will begin promptly at 7:00pm. This is the most important Logos Society meeting of the year as it is where the proposed budget for 2018-19 will be set out and elections for board positions will occur. I encourage all Westboro Logos families to attend.

June also brings Ice Cream Chapel to Westboro. Chapel will be held on Thursday, June 14 at 11:30, if weather permits outside. This is a great time that all students reflect on the past year. We hope to see you there!

Remember, details about activities or events related to Logos can be found on our website <http://elkislandlogos.ca> or on the Elk Island Logos Society Facebook page.

Blessings!

Rachel Milne

Westboro Logos Representatives

We give praise and thanks to You, O God, we praise and give thanks; Your wondrous works declare that Your Name is near and they who invoke Your Name rehearse Your wonders.



COUNSELLOR'S CORNER

Change is the one constant that we can truly rely on. The ground beneath us always seems to be in motion. June seems to be one of those times when we realize it the most. The familiar is coming to an end as the school year unravels and we look for a foothold in the upcoming September. As we do, June becomes a complex time of year. A challenging time for students and teachers and parents alike. For we are both coming and going.

June is still a time of education and of growth. Even if the weather calls us into July. Teachers seek to engage students whose attention drifts to the open windows. Learners work to climb the final tasks which have become mountains. It is a time of digging deep. A time of finishing well. A time when the importance of the curriculum may become overshadowed by the importance of our character. A time of Resilience. Let us remember our conversations about Growth Mindsets, Grit, and Stress. May they serve us well.

Schools know all too well what lies on the other side of June. Planning is an essential part of what we do. Our transition work directly involves our students as well. Transition classes will take place where students spend time with their new teacher. Classroom tours will occur. Class discussion are welcomed and planned for. We have found that all of this really helps. It helps to reduce anxiety. Yet we know that it will not alleviate all the worry that our students may experience, whether here in June or deep into the last days of August. In his book, *Drop the Worry Ball*, Dr. Alex Russell encourages us to not rush in and take the worry from our kids but rather to support our kids with their worry. This is not a dismissive action but rather one that requires more from us. And it's not easy to do. Our kids' excitement about next year may become replaced with more and more anxiety. Hard questions may begin to surface. What if my new teacher doesn't like me? What if they don't know how to help me like my last teacher did? What if my classes are too hard? What if I have no one to play with? What if next year is a bad year? We can perform a disservice to our kids if we bombard them with solutions or if we downplay their reality, offering an easier version of the truth. What's left to do? May I encourage you to sit with them in their worry? Let them know that you hear them and that their questions are good questions. Take time. You may find that there are deeper fears and bigger questions beneath. Offer empathy. That others have felt this way before. Even you. Offer what you know and ask them what they can do. Coach and support. Let them know that you are with them no matter what may come.

Soon June will let go of its hold on time. Summer will be upon us all. Embrace the chance for memories that last a lifetime. Celebrate family and time together. And if I could offer one piece of advice for the coming year - read. In backyards and on beaches and in libraries and on lawn chairs - read. Encourage your kids to read books they like and discover books they love. Reading is the best indicator of success for next September and it is truly a doorway to a better life.

September won't quite look like we thought it would. It never does. Change is the constant that we can rely on. For some of us, there will be even more change than others. For our grade sixes that will graduate to Junior High and for families that will move away, next year will be big. It is amongst this group that I find myself. I have accepted a counseling position at Salisbury Composite High School. I have loved being a part of the Westboro family and supporting your kids through the last year and a half of their lives. What an honor it has been. This September a new counselor will come and she is wonderful. New families will move in and another year of little ones in kindergarten will fill the halls. Westboro is ever changing. Enjoy your time here as I have done. May it continue to be a place to grow our kids. To prepare them for the changing world that will soon be theirs.

EIPS DIVISION NEWS

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS FOR ELK ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Throughout the summer break, Westboro Elementary will be closed and will re-open on August 27th at 9:00 a.m.. If you have any school-related questions or concerns during this time, contact the Central Office at Elk Island Public School - the office is open all summer to complete year-end activities and prepare for the 2018-19 school year.

EIPS Central Office Summer Hours (July and August)

Open: Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Phone: 780-464-3477
Address: 683 Wye Rd., Sherwood Park



Statutory Holidays

Closed	Monday, July 2nd	Canada Day
Closed	Monday, August 6th	Heritage Day

NOTE: Student Transportation is also open during the summer months and operates during the same hours as Central Office. Student Transportation can't accept in-person transportation payments on the days it's closed.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Coming Soon: School Supply lists for the 2017-18 school year

New next year, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) is adopting a Divisionwide school-supply list to lift some of the financial burden from families. Each grade will now have a standardized list of required supplies to complete the year to ensure families aren't purchasing materials in excess of what is being used in the classroom. The grade-specific lists are posted to the school website and will remain throughout the summer months. Click on [Westboro School Supply Lists](#) for next year's lists.

Tools For School

Westboro Elementary has once again partnered with the United Way for the 2018-19 Tools for School campaign. Annually, Tools for School provides backpacks and school supplies to students in kindergarten through Grade 12 whose families have limited resources. If you're a parent, or know a parent, who needs access to the program, contact our school directly. We'll respectfully distribute the backpack to your child at the beginning of the 2018-19 school year.

Alternatively, if you'd like to donate to the program, you can pick up few extra supplies when you're out shopping for back to school. Drop-off boxes are located at various businesses in the community during the summer months - including Staples and the Central Office at Elk Island Public Schools. All supplies donated within our community are invested back into in our region.



For more information about Tools for School, contact Matt Matheson @ 780-467-7751 or call our Central Office at 780-464-3477

2017-18 EIPS PARENT SURVEY RESULTS REPORT

The results are now available for the 2017-18 EIPS Parent Survey conducted in March. Thank you to all families who took the time to share their feedback with the Division. The survey included 20 questions related to the three priorities outlined in the EIPS 2015-2018 Three-Year Education Plan:

- Priority 1: Promote growth and success for all students
- Priority 2: Enhance high quality learning and working environments
- Priority 3: Enhance public education through effective engagement, partnerships and communication

The overall Division results represent 2,918 responses from parents and guardians across EIPS. This was an increase in responses from 2,678 in the previous year.

The feedback gathered will help our school and the Division measure its progress toward meeting the priorities and goals outlined in the EIPS 2015-2018 Three-Year Education Plan and develop strategies to better serve students and the wider community moving forward.

Complete Parent Survey results for the Division are available by visiting www.eips.ca/about-us/planning-and-results/parent-survey.

Westboro Elementary's Parent Survey results are available by visiting [Parent Survey Results: Westboro Elementary](#).

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION FOR 2018 - 2019

Planning to use Student Transportation in the 2018-19 school year? If so, make sure your child is registered so Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) can plan routes and send your child a bus pass before the first day of school.

All students who indicated needing transportation services through the pre-enrolment process are now registered. Those families have also received tentative route schedules and invoices—all fees are due June 30, 2018.

For those students who didn't indicate needing transportation service through the pre-enrolment process and want to now register, simply contact EIPS Student Transportation at 780-417-8151 or email st@eips.ca.

For more information about EIPS Student Transportation visit www.eips.ca/transportation.

NOTE: Fees can be paid online using the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) or in-person at the Student Transportation office—683 Wye Rd., Sherwood Park. The office will remain open during the summer months operating during the same hours as Central Administration.



LITTLE ELK ISLAND ADVENTURES: REGISTRATION



Elk Island Public Schools is once again offering its Little Elk Island Adventure, a fun and informative program for *first-time school bus riders*.

Annually, Student Transportation offers the Little Elk Island Adventure to new riders and their parents. The program's aim is to help ease any anxieties a family may have about riding the bus before even starting school. Through a series of activities, riders learn about: school bus safety, danger zones, tips on boarding and how to sit properly on the bus. After that, both the children and parents hop on the bus to practice what they've learned and then adventure out on a short ride.

The Little Elk Island Adventure is for *first-time school bus riders* entering the 2018-19 school year. Sessions and times are available in these locations:

Location	Date	Time
EIPS Central Office	August 21	6 p.m.
EIPS Central Office	August 23	10 a.m.
EIPS Central Office	August 23	6 p.m.
EIPS Central Office	August 27	6 p.m.
EIPS Central Office	August 29	6 p.m.
SouthPointe School	August 28	6 p.m.

EIPS Central Office is located at 683 Wye Rd., Sherwood Park

SouthPointe School is located at 11 SouthPointe Blvd., Fort Saskatchewan

Space is limited and pre-registration is required. To register for a Little Elk Island Adventure, visit <https://goo.gl/forms/b0suKmWAoqHRSvZs2>.

More information regarding busing for kindergarten students is available at: www.eips.ca/transportation/kindergarten-busing-faq.

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS: PROVINCEWIDE STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SURVEY NOW OPEN

Currently, Alberta Education is conducting a survey regarding student transportation. Parents, school authorities and stakeholders are asked to take the survey. The feedback received will help determine if changes need to be made to the distance criteria, mandated service levels and the safety considerations. When completing the survey keep in mind the government has said there is no more money for Student Transportation, which means if something new is funded something else may be lost. **The survey closes June 15, 2018.**

To take the survey and learn more visit www.eips.ca.

PROVINCIAL CURRICULUM PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS

The provincial government and its partners are requesting parent and guardian feedback on the draft K-4 provincial curriculum. Twenty face-to-face meetings will be held in school communities across Alberta from **May 31 to June 14, 2018**. Each session is limited to 100 participants.

Visit www.eips.ca for more information about session dates and registration details.