

December 2018

Elk Island Public Schools

# THE WESTBORO REPORT



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



As we start preparing for the holidays with Christmas concerts and other festive activities, there is a lot of excitement in the air. The students, parents and teachers at Westboro have been hard at work over the last three months and I am very happy to see the progress we have made. Our literacy and numeracy programs have been working on small groups instruction. Our Parent Literacy Toolkit is in its second year and we are looking forward to having our new videos come out in the new year. Students have begun using our All About Me digital learning portfolio. Students are able to use this program to share evidence of their learning, goal set and look at ideas for future careers. Our grade five and six teacher's have used students career interests to develop our options classes. This will give our students some hands on experiences in the career path that interests them. Mrs. Werner and Mrs. Perrotta have done some very interesting work during our weekly assemblies. Our focus has been continuing to create a school environment where all of our students are safe and respectful to everyone. We want all of our students to have Warrior Pride.

Thank you to all parents for your continued support and help as we work together to educate the students at Westboro Elementary. Please continue your efforts to read with your children every night as this truly has a lasting impact on their success. We wish every family a very happy and safe Christmas break and look forward to working with you all in the New Year.

From our School family to yours,

Mike Lastiwka



## DECEMBER

- 7 Newsletter
- 10 Princess Raffle Draw
- 10 Hot Lunch
- 11 Christmas Concert  
6:30pm
- 20 - 21 Caroling 11:15 a.m.
- 21 PJ & Pancake  
Breakfast
- 22 - 6 Christmas Break

## JANUARY

- 7 Welcome Back!
- 8 Logos Meeting 7p.m.  
at Brentwood
- 9 Early dismissal
- 11 Newsletter

**PRINCIPAL**  
**Mike Lastiwka**

**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**  
**Chantel Werner**

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## CHRISTMAS CONCERT

### What is your Christmas wish?

Is it for peace? Is it love? Is it to win the lottery? Whatever it may be, we invite you to join Westboro Elementary for this year's Christmas concert as we explore all the things that one may wish for during the Christmas season.

### WHO?

- ♫ Starring *ALL* Westboro students. We are excited to have our Kindergarten students join our whole school program to celebrate Christmas this year. Please note that there will not be a separate Kindergarten concert at the school.

### WHEN?

- ♫ Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. **Doors to the church will open at 6:00 p.m.** Please ensure that all students are at the church no later than 6:15 p.m. We hope that all students will join us for the evening performance to celebrate the season together .

### WHERE?

- ♫ We are incredibly blessed to be able to host our school Christmas concert again this year at Park Church, located at 1 Brower Dr. Sherwood Park.

### EXTRA INFORMATION

- ♫ **Please watch for a notice going home with your child the week of the concert. It will provide additional details regarding where to go and what to do once you arrive at the church.**
- ♫ Dress Rehearsal will be in the afternoon on Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at Park Church. We are aiming for the rehearsal to start at 12:45. **Families are invited to attend to view the practice if they'd like. This is also an excellent opportunity for grandparents or other extended family members to view the concert.**
  - Field trip forms for the dress rehearsal went home November 29<sup>th</sup>. Please ensure these are returned to your child's teacher if you have not already done so.

**PRINCESS PARKING AND FRONT ROW SEATS RAFFLE:** In order to help cover costs of the Christmas concert, the Parents' Group will be running a lottery at the school. You will have the opportunity to win a Princess Parking stall and 2 front row seats. Four prize packages will be drawn. Please watch for the ticket order form coming to you as we get closer to the concert.

## SCHOOL NEWS

### WEE READ



## Family literacy and school success

Research shows children who engage in early literacy activities at home are better prepared for school and have higher rates of success in school.



**44%** of grade 4 students in Ontario whose parents **"like"** reading had a higher than average reading achievement on the PIRLS scale – **570**.<sup>1</sup>



**54%** of grade 4 students in Ontario who were **often engaged** in literacy-related activities at home had a higher than average reading achievement on the PIRLS scale – **566**.<sup>2</sup>



**27%** of grade 4 students in Ontario who could perform early literacy tasks very well upon starting grade 1 had a higher than average reading achievement on the PIRLS scale – **582**.<sup>3</sup>

## HOT LUNCH NEWS

The hot lunch committee would like to thank everyone for their timely orders and all their help for handing out lunches! January and February orders will be open from December 17 until January 8. NO late orders will be accepted. Thank you and Merry Christmas!

## LOGOS SOCIETY NEWS



Thanks to everyone who donated and helped with our Staff Christmas Luncheon this year. It was a success and our teachers thoroughly enjoyed the delicious meal!

Our next meeting is in the new year - Tuesday, January 8 at 7 p.m. at Brentwood School. Hope to see you there.

May the God of hope fill you with all the joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. ROMANS 15:13

## PARENT COUNCIL NEWS

December is such a busy month! We will be hosting our annual Pancake Breakfast again this year on December 21st. Westboro Parents Group will be providing pancakes and sausage for everyone. We ask that each child please bring \$3 to help cover the costs and we invite anyone who would like to help cook and serve pancakes to join us. It is one of my favorite events as we always have such an incredible turnout. Often, we have more people than jobs, but I love to see parents talking. We have a truly incredible community at Westboro and I think the pancake breakfast is one of our best events.

Thank you to everyone who ordered and picked Stawnichy orders. The fundraiser was a huge success!

I am also excited about our Christmas concert on December 11th, which I am sure Mrs. Richard has out done herself putting it together.

I hope that each of you has a wonderful holiday season filled with warmth, family, friends and relaxation.

Thank you,

Krystal Gibson

## INDIGENOUS STUDIES

Students began participating in Indigenous Studies lessons with Mrs. Richard last month. To acknowledge Métis week, which happened during the November break, students started working on some Métis focused literacy lessons; these will continue into the month of December.

Our Indigenous Studies class will also extend into the New Year where students will continue to come as double groups (1L/2L, 3L/4L, 5L/6L, 1R/2R, 3R/4R, 5R/6R) and take part in Indigenous themed literacy-focused activities with Mrs. Richard. We hope that this time will help students to grow both in their literacy skills and in their understandings of Indigenous people. During this time, classroom teachers will be able to retain individual or small groups of students for extra practice or enrichment as needed.

You will soon see that our finale song for this year's Christmas concert is a First Nations piece. Called "Children's Blessing Song," it was written by Sherryl Sewepagaham and was chosen because of its meaning. Though the words to the song don't have a literal translation, the overall message is one meant to give strength and protection. It is about feeling safe, loved, and cared for. On the 4<sup>th</sup> repeat of the song, you will hear the drum slow down. These honour beats are meant to honour all nations in this world. As our Westboro students gather on stage to sing the finale, from all different backgrounds and heritages, we hope you feel the meaning of this song and see how it can bring all of us together no matter where we come from.

In every piece of our Indigenous Studies program, we will continue to strive 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."

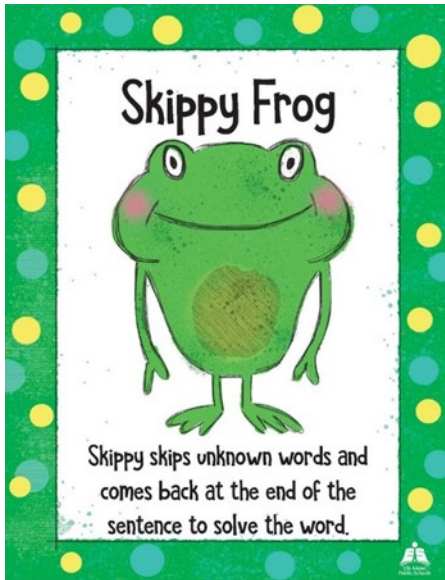


## SKIPPY FROG

Think about listening to your child read ...

Do sometimes get stuck on a word they can't get despite trying different strategies??

### *Meet Skippy Frog*



Sometimes a child may come across a difficult word; one which they can't read even after trying one or two different strategies. It's OK for them to skip the word and continue reading.

When they are done the sentence, have them go back to the word and see if they can guess the word. After they've guessed, have them look at it to see if it makes sense. Are the letters and sounds the same as the word they just said?

We do not want children to get caught up or stuck on a word, but it's important to go back and see if they can figure it out after, based on the context of the sentence.

Sometimes, they still can't get the word, so have them read a couple more sentences, or even the rest of the paragraph and then go back.

View the video here <https://goo.gl/AZkfZU>

## PATROLLER OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to our AMA Safety Patroller of the Month:

**Julia**

Many thanks to our dedicated team of School Safety Patrollers who are outside monitoring our crosswalks in the morning and after school. Well done! Keep up the great work!





# Saffron Cyber Second

In Partnership with EIPS Committee of School Councils

## "I Need More Followers."

Sarah was a 13 year old girl who had just received her first cell-phone. Sarah's friends informed her of all the new and exciting apps she could download, including Snap Chat. Her friends then informed her that she would need to turn on her location services so that her friends would always know where she was and who she was with. This feature is called Snap Map and was a new fad within Sarah's friend group and school. Though Sarah knew this was not safe and her parents told her to keep her location services off, she did not want to feel left out or excluded from her friends' online activities. Weeks went on and Sarah continued to add people to her snap chat account. Her friend began to brag about how many friends they had on the app. Sarah then started accepting friend requests from people she did not know in order to gain a sense of popularity among her peers. In doing so, Sarah added an older man disguised as a young boy. With her location services still activated anyone she added to her account could now see her every move. When walking home from school, Sarah noticed a man in a truck slowly following her. Sarah's parents however, told her that if she ever suspected someone to be following her, she would need to immediately call the police. Sarah did this, and the man following her was arrested upon further investigation.



### PRIVATE ACCOUNTS ARE KEY

Talk to youth about setting a private account so only friends can see their stories. Encourage them to avoid adding people they do not know. In addition, instruct youth to turn off their location settings and avoid the Snap Map. It is highly accurate, giving away information like a home address and school location.

## DIVISION NEWS

### HOLIDAYS MESSAGE

#### Happy Holidays from the Board of Trustees

As the holiday season approaches and we prepare for the winter break, I want to take the opportunity to extend warm wishes to all our students, staff and families on behalf of the Elk Island Public Schools Board of Trustees. We hope you and your loved ones have a wonderful and safe Christmas season, and a new year filled with joy.

We look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Monday, Jan. 7, 2019.

Thank you and best wishes,

Trina Boymook, EIPS Board Chair

### ELK ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS - HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURE

#### Enjoy the Winter Break

**Westboro Elementary School** will close for the winter break at the end of the day on Dec. 21, 2018 and will reopen on Jan. 7, 2019. During this time, if you have any school-related questions or concerns, contact the Central Administration office at Elk Island Public Schools.

#### EIPS Central Administration Office Winter Break Hours

Closed: December 22 - January 1

Open: January 2 - 4 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

\*for location and contact information visit [www.eips.ca](http://www.eips.ca).

From everyone at Elk Island Public Schools, we wish all of you a happy holiday season and a wonderful New Year.

## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION 2018 - 2019

### Kindergarten Registration Starts Soon!

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2019? If so, it's almost time to register for Kindergarten.

Kindergarten registration opens for the 2019 - 20 school year on Feb. 1, 2019.

To help families prepare, Elk Island Public Schools has put together an online toolkit, available at [www.eips.ca/kindergarten](http://www.eips.ca/kindergarten), to make the transition as smooth as possible. The kit includes information on registration, important dates, programming options, what to expect, eligibility, how to find your designated school, transportation and more.

Additional information regarding kindergarten can be found on our school website at <http://westboroelementary.ca/school-info/kindergarten>.



## ELK ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2019—20 REGISTRATION DRIVE

All student registrations for the 2019-20 school year - including kindergarten registration, returning student registration and new student registration - will take place online commencing on **Feb. 1, 2019**.

- **Kindergarten:** Your child is eligible to enrol in kindergarten if he/she will be five years old on or before December 31, 2019.
- **Returning Students:** If your child will be returning to an EIPS school next fall, this is when you will confirm that registration and select your requested school - whether your child will attend your designated school or will request a non-designated school, your family will complete this process.
- **New Students:** Students new to EIPS for the 2019-20 school year will also complete their registration at this time.

All registration forms will be online for families to complete. Additional information, including a list of schools with open and closed boundaries, will be posted on the Division website in the new year.