

September 2020

Elk Island Public Schools



THE WESTBORO REPORT

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As we begin this school year, I would like to say how incredible it is to welcome students back to school this year. Whether you are an at home learner or an in-school learner, please know, we are so happy to have you as a part of our Westboro family and we are looking forward to a successful year.

Despite our challenges, I have been so grateful to all families and students for how well our community has adapted to the changes we have had to make. Students, most of all, seem to be very happy to be back and we are well on our way to a sense of normality in our school. I know that all of you share my concerns for the safety of all students, staff, and Westboro community members. The changes and new protocols we have put in place are an important part of our re-entry plan and your cooperation and patience is greatly appreciated.

As we continue to learn and grow over the course of this school year, there may be times of frustration, as we learn of new challenges and obstacles to overcome. I would ask for your patience and understanding as we work through these problems that we currently have and ones we don't even know about yet. We are all in this together and are committed to keeping our children safe, educating them and giving them the best educational experience possible.

SEPTEMBER

- 11 Newsletter out
- 23 PHOTO DAY!
- 24 PHOTO DAY KR
- 30 Orange Shirt Day

OCTOBER

- 2 Newsletter out
- 7 Early Dismissal
- 9 No School – PD Day
- 12 No School - Thanks giving

PRINCIPAL
Mike Lastiwka

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
Shelby Hines

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www.westboroelementary.ca
@WBOelementary



BACK TO SCHOOL INFORMATION

MEET THE STAFF

OFFICE:

Principal:	Mr. Mike Lastiwka	Secretary:	Mrs. Mephram
Assistant Principal:	Mrs. Shelby Hines	Secretary:	Mrs. Pinto
Counsellor:	Mrs. Dianna Graziano	Librarian:	Mrs. White

CLASS	TEACHER	EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS
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KL	Mrs. Clayton	(EA – Mrs. Mostat)
KR	Mrs. Clayton	(EA – Mrs. Mostat)
1L	Mrs. Gilmore	
1R	Mrs. King	
2L	Mrs. Christenson	
2R	Mrs. Gottstein	
3L	Mrs. Bouwers	
3R	Mrs. Komant	
4L	Mrs. Cameron	
4R	Ms. Lee	
5L	Mr. Hay	
5R	Mr. Stetzenko	
6L	Mrs. Desautels	
6R	Mrs. Witzke	



EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS:	Mr. Fujii	Ms. Tomashewsky	Mrs. Stocks
	Mrs. Oake	Mrs. Guyda	Mrs. Matyjanka
	Mrs. Dahms	Mrs. Sutton	Mrs. Norton

MUSIC: Mrs. Richard

STEPS: Mrs. Canning

PLACE: Mrs. Perrotta

STUDENT DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP

There will be staggered entry times for each class. Unfortunately, students will not have the opportunity to play before or after school as we would like all students to only interact with students in their class cohort. We would ask that all students are ready to line up by 8:29 a.m. so we can have each class enter the school as soon as the prior class has cleared the hallway. At the designated time, your child's teacher will walk the class into the school. At the end of the day, your child's teacher will walk their class outside at the designated time and students are to go directly home as there will be no supervision and we will again encourage students not to mix with others.

The entry and exit times are as follows:

Times	Classes
8:29	1R, 3R, 6L
8:31	2R, 3L, 5R
8:33	2L, 4R, 5L
8:35	1L, 4L, 6R

Times	Classes
3:06	1R, 3R, 6L
3:08	2R, 3L, 5R
3:10	2L, 4R, 5L
3:12	1L, 4L, 6R

We are also very fortunate to have a child care centre on site if you require child care before or after these times.

Finally, please be aware of the challenges caused by changes in students taking buses or being picked up. In order for us to be able to communicate these changes and requests to your child successfully, it is **IMPERATIVE** that you let the office know, **no later than 2:30 p.m.** Often your child's class may need to be located and the message delivered. This is nearly impossible when the call is received after 2:30. Thank you for your assistance in this matter!

Bus students will be directed to their designated class line up meeting spot when they arrive at school. We have created a schedule for recesses and lunch hour where students will have staggered entry and exit times and have designated places for them to play.

As a reminder please make sure your students are wearing their masks when they arrive at school. We know that these are difficult times, but we are all very excited to see our Westboro Warriors back in school. We know that there will be many challenges and we are committed to working together to make this as successful a year for our students as possible.

For the most up to date information on our re-entry plan and Parent FAQ's please visit:

<https://www.eips.ca/school-re-entry-planning>

SCHOOL SUPPLIES: REQUIRED EVERY DAY

Each student must bring the following belongings into the school using a backpack

PRE-KINDERGARTEN (PALS)

- indoor shoes
- snacks and lunch—no food sharing
- personal-care items—diapers, wipes, change of clothes, medical care
- water bottle—labelled with the child’s name
- tissues
- mask or face-covering—when physical distancing and cohorting isn’t possible

KINDERGARTEN

- items outlined on the school’s kindergarten supply list
- snacks and lunch—no food sharing
- water bottle—labelled with the child’s name
- tissues
- personal-care items, as required—diapers, wipes, change of clothes, medical care
- a minimum of two masks or face-coverings—stored in a paper bag or cloth bag.

GRADES 1 TO 6

- items outlined on the school’s supply list and directed by teacher
- snack and lunch—the sale of food is limited, and food sharing is prohibited
- water bottle—labelled with the child’s name
- tissues
- a minimum of two masks or face-coverings—stored in a paper bag or cloth bag.

GRADES 7 TO 12

- items outlined on the school’s supply list and directed by teacher
- snacks and lunch—the sale of food is limited, and food sharing is prohibited
- water bottle—labelled with the child’s name
- tissues
- a minimum of two masks or face-coverings—stored in a paper bag or cloth bag.

STORING PERSONAL ITEMS AND SUPPLIES

Elementary: students can access a hook or locker to store personal materials when organized by cohort group or proper physical-distancing guidelines—leave non-essential items at home.

Junior high: students can access a locker to store personal materials when organized by cohort group or proper physical-distancing guidelines. Maintain physical distancing between cohorts. When not possible, students can bring items, in a backpack, into the classroom.

Senior high: students can access lockers to store personal materials when organized by cohort group or proper physical-distancing guidelines. Maintain physical distancing between cohorts. When not possible, students can bring items, in a backpack, into the classroom.

MEDICATIONS & ALLERGIES

If medication is to be administered to your child at school a form must be completed by the parent/guardian. The medication must be brought to school in the original container. Please request a Medication Administration form from the office. **Forms must be completed on a yearly basis.**

Westboro School is a **Nut Aware school**. Please remember to be cautious when choosing the food items your child will bring to school. There are a number of students who have severe allergies and we wish to provide a safe environment for each individual and staff. In addition, we ask students not to share their food and ask parents to refrain from sending in any nut products. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

PICTURE DAY



Individual student photographs will be taken on **Wednesday, September 23rd**. Kindergarten **Regular** pictures will be taken on **Thursday, September 24th** at approximately 1 p.m. These photographs are offered on a proof basis. Each student will have two personal portraits taken and proofs will be sent home for viewing. An order form and instructions will accompany the proofs.

PARKING & SAFETY

Our school zone is a very busy place before and after school. Ensuring our students safety is our first priority. Parents are reminded of the speed zone in the area in front of the school, as well as be reminded that there are no U-turns allowed anywhere within the school boundaries.

Please note that there is **no parking or stopping** in front of the school during drop off and pick-up times. That area is designated for buses only. There is also **no parking in the STAFF PARKING lots** on the east and west sides of the school. The staff parking stalls are ALL spoken for and any quick drop offs or pick ups can cause great disruptions for our staff. There is parking available in the mall parking lot across from the school, **in the middle and outer** (closest to Broadmoor Blvd.) **rows ONLY**. Please obey all the cross walk markings during the busy times in the mornings and afternoons. Students will continue patrolling the crosswalk areas, please respect their requests as they assist Mr. Lastiwka and Mrs. Hines in supervising the arrival and departure of our students.

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS



Welcome back to another great year at Westboro. I wanted to share a bit about school council and parents group and how they operate at Westboro. School council is mandated through legislation and provides support and input to the school. Parents group is our fundraising society.

Our meetings this year will be held via video conference. The date and time of our first meeting is to be determined. I promise you won't be made to join any committees to commit to anything more than you want! In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to email us at westboroparents@gmail.com and if you haven't joined our Facebook group, check us out at www.facebook.com/groups/westboroparents/

FINE ARTS AT WESTBORO

There have been many adjustments and changes this year due to COVID-19. As parents and guardians, you may have read about changes to music programs in our EIPS re-entry guidelines. Music at Westboro has always been strongly supported by our School Council and school community. We wanted to assure you that students will still have access to a music program at Westboro, with adjustments like individual student instrument bags that will help keep students safe while engaging in musical activities. Not only is Music fun, it also helps in the growth and development of every child. In addition, this year Mrs. Richard has also started a Dance program for Division 1 students and a Drama program for Division 2 students. Our hope is that students will have the opportunity to grow and learn within the Arts in different and interesting ways. Ask your child more about it. We got off to a great start and are having lots of fun learning together!

AMA SCHOOL PATROL NEWS

School is in session and the Westboro School Safety Patrol will be back at work. The patrollers make the crosswalks safe for all of our students. These young people voluntarily contribute their time to make our school a safe and better place. Please give them your support, cooperation and recognition.

LOGOS SOCIETY NEWS

Hi, my name is Michael Schnell and I just wanted to take a moment to introduce myself. I'm the President of the Elk Island Logos Society. It is a privilege to lead our board as we head into our 24th year of partnership with Elk Island Public Schools and our Alternative Christian Program here at Westboro.



What's an Alternative Program you might ask? Simply put, it's the public system and curriculum with a different context or focus. In our case, it's the Christian faith in the classroom. As a Society we look to promote and resource a classroom environment that incorporates and encourages spiritual formation in our children based on Biblical principles. You can read more about this in our handbook online at

<https://www.elkislandlogos.ca/handbook>

With this as our focus, we want to encourage you to fill out your soon to be coming home membership information. The primary reason for our membership dues and fundraising is to provide teachers in our Alternative Program with the resources they need to enhance their classroom environments. Sometimes that means physical supports like books, Bibles or other displays. Sometimes it means helping equip and refresh the teachers, so they are fully prepared to pour that back into our children! Please get your membership in early. You can do this online at <https://www.elkislandlogos.ca/members>

Thank you for all you do as parents. It's not an easy job, but we're all in this together. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions, or visit our website!

<https://www.elkislandlogos.ca>

Michael Schnell (president@elkislandlogos.ca)
B.Ed, M.Div, President of the Elk Island Logos Society

COUNSELLOR'S CORNER

Welcome to the beginning of a fresh school year for our returning students and new families. It is exciting to see how our school is expanding.

As your school counselor, my role is to promote students' personal and social development by helping students overcome peer conflict, enhance academic achievement, and coordinate linkages between the school and the family/community. Areas of support I provide include learning difficulties, grief/loss, anxiety, depression, anger management, peer conflicts, stress, parent/child conflict resolution, changes in the family due to divorce/separation, self-harm, or suicidal ideations. We can also discuss if your child has a learning difficulty, requires individual supports, or additional assessments to identify his/her strengths, challenges and recommendations for achieving their full potentials. The list is endless.

I encourage students to attend my office on Tuesdays or Thursdays (and every second Friday) to discuss their concerns. My door is always open to assist students and families with any concerns. Students cannot be expected to succeed academically if there is something that may be interfering with their concentration or social development. No student should feel that he or she needs to handle a situation alone.

If a parent, guardian, or student has a concern, please contact me and together we will find a solution. Parents can call the school or email me at Dianna.graziano@eips.ca. Due to the new hallway restrictions within our school, students can obtain an appointment card from their teacher to give to me. I will then find a convenient time to meet with the student.

In the meantime, please check out the "Back to School Basics" from Alberta Health Services (importance of vision and hearing tests, immunizations, etc.) at:

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/Page2542.aspx>

Take Care

Dianna Graziano, M.Ed., R.Psych.

--Never, never give up but believe that you CAN! Believe in YOURSELF.

UPDATE YOUR POWERSCHOOL INFORMATION

The [PowerSchool Correction and Verification Form](#) is now available online, which replaces the paper form sent to families each fall. Families can use the form to access and update their child's information—including address, parent and guardian information, emergency contacts and any medical information. Reviewing and updating the form ensures the school has the most up-to-date information regarding your child.

For more information about the PowerSchool Correction and Verification Form and opt-out options contact the school directly.

NOTE: Parents or guardians who've opted out of having the Correction and Verification Form visible on PowerSchool, will receive a paper version to review from the school.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Sync the School Calendar to Your Personal Calendar

Did you know you can sync the school calendar to your own personal calendar? Just visit <http://westboroelementary.ca/school-calendar> and click on one of the following calendar options you want to subscribe to:

- Add to Google Calendar
- Subscribe to Calendar (Outlook)
- Download iCal

NOTE: Options are located above the calendar.

Once you click on the calendar option you want to subscribe to, follow the instructions. Within seconds, your personal calendar will contain all of **Westboro Elementary** important dates including holidays, school-closure dates, planned activities, events, and more.

EMERGENCY DRILLS

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, SCHOOLS CONDUCT TRAINING AND DRILLS to help better prepare students and staff for possible emergency situations. When a school is confronted with an emergency, staff will assess the situation and then decide on a course of action. Schools conduct drills throughout the year to rehearse emergency procedures. These exercises prepare students and staff to act quickly and help to minimize a child's fear during a real emergency. In addition to the procedures described below, schools also practice protocols such as "Drop-Cover-Hold," a method of protecting vital body parts during some natural disasters, and conduct fire drills. All staff and students are required to participate in these drills. We attempt to run our drills during warm weather so that students do not need to go outside in sub-zero temperatures.

Lock-Down : Lock-Downs are usually used in response to acts or threats of violence to students and/or staff directly impacting the school. During a Lock-Down all doors to and within the school are locked. No one is permitted in or out of any area once it has been locked. Students and staff must respond very quickly to a Lock-Down command to get to a safe location before doors are locked. No one, other than law enforcement, is permitted access to the building until the Lock-Down is over.

Hold and Secure: Hold and Secure is used in response to security threats or criminal activity outside the school. During a Hold and Secure, all entrance doors to the school are locked, with no one permitted in or out of the building. No one, other than law enforcement, is permitted access to the building until the Hold and Secure has been cleared.

Shelter-in Place: Generally, Shelter-in-Place is used during an environmental emergency, such as severe storms or chemical spills. During a Shelter-in-Place, students and staff retreat to safe zones to seek shelter. This includes having students or staff who are outdoors come back into the school. Each school's emergency response plan identifies the safest location for its occupants and how to seal a room from hazardous conditions. Students will not be released or dismissed until the situation has been resolved.

Evacuation: An Evacuation requires all students and staff to leave the school and go to an alternate location. This may mean only going outside and away from the building until it is safe to re-enter the school. In other cases, students and staff may need to go to an evacuation center. Parents will be informed of the alternate location through the school's Crisis Notification Network.

Teachers will talk to students about these drills throughout the year. Please take some time to review them with your own child. For more information, please visit the Elk Island Public Schools website, (www.eips.ca) speak to your classroom teacher or feel free to contact the school.