



October 16, 2020



# WESTBORO ELEMENTARY

## Weekly Newsletter

### IMPORTANT DATES THIS WEEK:

- October 20: Online Bookings for Student Parent Teacher Conferences CLOSE
- October 21: School Council Meeting 1:30 p.m.
- October 21: Student Parent Teacher Conferences
- October 22: Student Parent Teacher Conferences

Hello Westboro families.

We have a brief staffing update for you. Our music teacher Mrs. Richard will be on leave for the next several weeks. We are grateful to have Mrs. Watson replace Mrs. Richard during her absence.



### Video Updates

Over the next several weeks, Mr. Lastiwka will be creating video updates for Westboro Families. The first video update contains some information as to what happens when there is a case of COVID-19 in the school.

Here is the link: [October 16 Update](#)

### Dressing for the Weather



A reminder to parents to please send your child to school dressed in weather appropriate clothing as we enter into the colder months. This includes a warm jacket, warm footwear, mitts and a hat. Students will be outside for recess and will need to be dressed appropriately.



Thank you.

# Alberta Health Services Information

Refer to the links below to access resources for the school community and their families.

## [Back to School During COVID-19](#)

## [School Immunizations during COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions](#)

## D2L | Brightspace

As you may know, EIPS has recently adopted D2L Brightspace as our primary learning management system (LMS).

The purpose of an LMS is to provide a virtual environment for teaching and learning. Having a platform like Brightspace will allow students and teachers to remain connected to their classrooms, even when they are not able to attend school. At the start of this school year, we've been focusing on Brightspace as a tool for our out-of-school learners as their classes get underway. However, Brightspace is a tool for all EIPS families, not just those registered in out-of-school learning.

Over the coming weeks all EIPS teachers will be engaging in a variety of professional development activities geared towards learning the functions of Brightspace. When students and parents log into Brightspace they will begin to see announcements, learning content, and assessments posted by teachers. [Students can access Brightspace](#) by using their division-assigned email and password. Parents and guardians can access [Brightspace for Parents](#) to view upcoming work, grades, and posts from teachers. If you have never logged into Brightspace for Parents before, select Forgot your password to set up a new account. An email will be sent to you with instructions for creating your account.

For more information refer to the [Brightspace Parent Guide](#).

## STAY AT HOMEGUIDE: When do I keep my child home?

**STAY AT HOME GUIDE: When do I keep my child home?**  
Use this guide to determine when to keep your child home from school and when it's safe to return.

Complete the [COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire](#) with your child every day. The questionnaire will help determine if it's safe to send your child to school. If the answer is "Yes" to any of the questionnaire questions, DO NOT send your child to school. Stay home and use the instructions below. If the answer is "No" to all the questions, your child can attend school. Always follow the advice of Alberta Health Services.

**MY CHILD IS SICK WITH:**

<b>Primary COVID-19 Symptoms</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fever</li><li>• Cough, more cough or worsening</li><li>• Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing</li><li>• Hoarse voice</li><li>• Sore throat</li></ul>	<b>Secondary COVID-19 Symptoms:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fatigue</li><li>• Headache</li><li>• Muscle or joint aches</li><li>• Loss of smell or taste</li><li>• Pink eye</li><li>• Red, swollen, itchy, or irritated eyes</li><li>• Runny nose</li><li>• Stuffy nose</li><li>• Sore throat</li><li>• Loss of appetite</li></ul>
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**WHAT SHOULD I DO?**

<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Complete the online COVID-19 self-assessment tool or call Health Line 811.</li><li>2. Isolate your child for at least 10 days from the start of symptoms or until symptoms resolve, whichever is longer – a legal requirement.</li><li>3. Testing for COVID-19 is recommended. Book an appointment through the COVID-19 self-assessment tool.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Complete the online COVID-19 self-assessment tool or call Health Line 811.</li><li>2. Do not send your child to school until symptoms resolve.</li><li>3. Testing for COVID-19 is recommended. Book an appointment through the COVID-19 self-assessment tool.</li></ol>
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**WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN TO SCHOOL?**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• After the 10-day isolation is complete, and symptoms resolve, whichever is longer, OR</li><li>• After receiving a negative COVID-19 test result – and your child has no known exposures to the virus – and symptoms resolve.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• After symptoms resolve and your child is feeling better.</li></ul>
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**WHAT IF MY CHILD HAS SYMPTOMS BECAUSE OF A PRE-EXISTING MEDICAL CONDITION?**

If your child has primary or secondary COVID-19 symptoms because of a known pre-existing medical condition, such as allergies, they may stay home if there is no onset of the condition. Follow the advice directed by your primary or secondary COVID-19 symptoms, alternatively provide the school with medical documentation of the pre-existing condition and return your child to school.

NOTE: The Stay at Home Guide is based on the province's guidelines for COVID-19. Information contained within this guide is subject to change as additional information about COVID-19 becomes available.

## Reporting Absences

Please communicate your child's absence directly to [general.wbo@eips.ca](mailto:general.wbo@eips.ca) or click the [STUDENT ATTENDANCE](#) link on the homepage of the school website. These emails are both checked regularly by the School Office staff. Do not communicate this information only to the teacher. Situations occur when the homeroom teacher is away, and your information will not be received by the Office Staff who are required to maintain an accurate record of attendance for students throughout the day.

**When reporting a student's absence, a reason is now necessary. If your child is ill, we will need to know what the symptoms of the illness are as part of the COVID-19 screening requirements.**



## **A REMINDER TO PARENTS:**

Please send **2 clean masks** and a **water bottle** with your student to school everyday.



## **HALLOWEEN AT WESTBORO**

Halloween can be a very exciting and important event for many families in our regular stream school community. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions we are not going to be able to have our traditional Westboro Halloween activities. This year we will implement the following restrictions:

- Costumes will only be worn in the afternoon
- Costumes will need to be able to be put on over regular clothes as we have limited access to washrooms and no access to changerooms at this time. As washrooms have capacity limits this year, they will be off limits to students wishing to change into a costume.
  - For ease, a suggestion would be to have students wear orange and black instead.
- Students can only eat things they bring with them and cannot share any food/treats.
- Any classroom Halloween activities will take place in the last two periods of the day.
- To ensure we continue practicing safe cohorting, activities will occur in the classroom.

The Logos alternative activity will not take place as there are no field trips off-site. Alternative activities will take place in the classroom at the teacher's discretion.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

## **2020–2021 SCHOOL FEES NOW DUE**

School fee information for the 2020–21 school year is now posted on the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#). When you log on, you'll notice the fee schedule is different from previous years. Instead of a fee based on the entire year, fees are charged on a quarterly basis.

The fee schedule change accommodates students switching from out-of-school learning to in-school learning; the four-semester system in place at some schools, and possible fee adjustments if the province decides to transition to Scenario 2—partial return to school—or Scenario 3—the suspension of in-school classes. Fees for kits or equipment kept by the student are charged in full at the start of the course. Each quarter, you'll receive an email notification letting you know fees are posted on the PowerSchool Parent Portal. To access your fee information, go to "Student Fees" on PowerSchool. There you can view your fees and pay online using Visa, MasterCard or INTERAC Online—when available from your financial institution. All fees are due within 14 days of being posted.

### **NOTE: School Fees apply to in-school learners only.**

If circumstances exist where you are unable to pay your fees, you can apply to have fees waived by submitting an Application for a Waiver of Fees. The deadline is Dec. 15, 2020—if new to EIPS, the deadline is the latter of Dec. 15, 2020, or 45 days after registration.

For more information about school fees, waivers and payment deadlines, visit [eips.ca](http://eips.ca) and [westboroelementary.ca/about/fees](http://westboroelementary.ca/about/fees) or contact the school at

780-467-7751.

## SCHOOL Council

All parents and guardians of Westboro students are automatic members of School Council and are welcome to join all meetings!

Meetings will be held on the following dates:

**October 21, 1:30 PM**  
**November 25, 1:30 PM**  
**December 16, 1:30 PM**  
**January 20, 6:30 PM**  
**February 17, 1:30 PM**  
**March 17, 6:30 PM**  
**April 21, 1:30 PM**  
**May 19, AGM 6:30 PM**

Links to the virtual meetings will be emailed out prior to each meeting.

For more information please email [westboroparents@gmail.com](mailto:westboroparents@gmail.com)

## Parents Group Fundraising

This years' school fundraisers will continue to be at Save On Foods, [Cobbs Bread](#) and [Mabel's Labels](#).

Anytime you shop at **Save On Foods Wye Road**, save your receipts and send them to school with your child to be handed into the office. A representative from the Parent Fundraiser Group will submit the receipts and 5% of all sales will be donated back to our school.

When you make a purchase at **Cobbs Bread Wye Road**, mention Westboro Elementary and they will donate 5% of the total sale back to our school.

**Mabel's Labels** are purchased directly online with 20% of sales automatically donated back to our school.



## Caregiver Education Series

Alberta Health Services is hosting a series of virtual caregiver information sessions focused on ways to support students' mental health.

The sessions are free and geared toward parents, caregivers, teachers and community members who want to learn more about challenges impacting children and adolescents.

Session topics include anxiety, ADHD, depression, self-harm, technology, teens and teaching leadership skills, communication, resiliency, and more.

Visit [Caregiver Education](#) to see the monthly caregiver sessions.

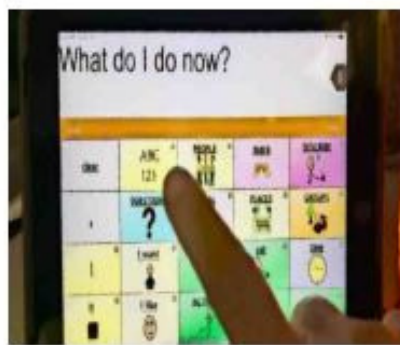
*Mark your calendars!*

# PHOTO RETAKES

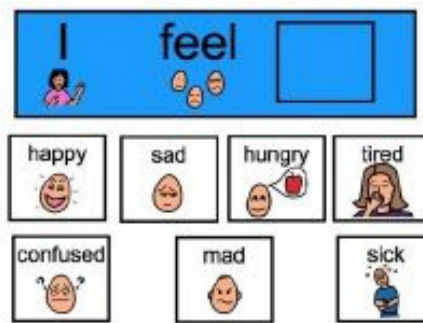
## November 17 and 18

## **AAC Awareness Month**

October is AAC awareness month. Around the world people raise awareness and celebrate the use of augmentative and alternative communication. Some of our Westboro Warriors use AAC devices to help them to communicate because they are unable to use verbal speech. Complex AAC devices can be seen on ipads that students carry with them. Some less complex forms of communication are picture boards, gestures, facial expressions, drawing and writing. Help us to spread awareness by starting a dinner table discussion with your Westboro Warrior about it. Afterwards, have your family communicate with each other by using only non-verbal ways such as writing, drawing, gestures or facial expressions. Thanks for helping us to raise awareness.



TouchChat on Ipad



Communication Board

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## **Improving Home-School Communication**

To enhance communication between families and schools, Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) has developed a how-to guide entitled, "Communication Protocol for Schools." Topics include appropriate channels to use, standard formats and structures, timing and sequencing for regular and ongoing home-school communication, and ways to bring forward questions or concerns. The manual also offers useful tools and resources schools and families can use to enhance face-to-face meetings, email communication and various social media efforts.

[Communication Protocol for Schools](#)

Most email communication from the Division will come from [communications@eips.ca](mailto:communications@eips.ca). From the school level, messages will often come from [general.wbo@eips.ca](mailto:general.wbo@eips.ca). We encourage families to add these email addresses to your address book or safe senders list to help prevent Division and school messages from filtering to a junk, spam or other folder in your email inbox.