



September 3, 2023



# WESTBORO ELEMENTARY

*Weekly Newsletter*

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

**September 4:** No School Labour Day

**September 6:** Early Dismissal - Students released 1 hour early at 2:12 p.m.

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRINCIPAL MR. LASTIWKA

Dear Westboro Families,

Welcome, Westboro staff, students, and parents! We're excited to kick off another incredible year of learning at Westboro Elementary. Our staff has been diligently preparing for a year filled with fun and adventures.

Our first day of school was fantastic, and witnessing the smiles on our students' faces as they entered the building was truly heartwarming.

As we embark on this school year, our dedicated staff is eager to witness the growth and learning that lies ahead. We look forward to working closely with you, our Westboro families, to continue supporting our students on their educational journey. Your involvement and partnership are pivotal in your child's success, and we genuinely appreciate your trust in us.

Please mark your calendars for our upcoming "Welcome Back BBQ" on September 13th. It's a wonderful opportunity for our school community to come together and celebrate the start of a new school year.

Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education. We anticipate a year brimming with achievements, growth, and unforgettable experiences. We can't wait to see you all on September 13th!

Warm regards,

Mike Lastiwka  
Principal  
Westboro Elementary School

# MEET THE STAFF

## OFFICE

Principal: Mr. Mike Lastiwka

Assistant Principal: Mrs. Tracey Prouse

Secretary: Mrs. Billie Jean Mepham

Secretary: Mrs. Melanie Pinto

Counsellor: Mrs. Dianna Graziano

Librarian: Mrs. Shelly White

Music Mrs. Courtney Richard

<b>CLASS</b>	<b>TEACHER</b>	<b>EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS:</b>
Kindergarten	Mrs. Cindy Wheeler/Mrs. Amanda Egbert (sub)	Mrs. Jody Bilawey Kindergarten
1G	Mrs. Marina Gilmore	Mrs. Wendy Oake 2/3C, 3K
2B	Mrs. Ashley Becigneul/Ms. Kayla Reivonen	Mr. Brett Fujii STEPS, 5,6
2/3C	Mrs. Sherry Cameron/Mrs. Stacey Bouwers	Mrs. Karen Stocks STEPS
3K	Mrs. Margo Komant	Mrs. Dawn Sutton STEPS
4L	Ms. Rhonda Lee	Mrs. Cheryle Kristensen STEPS
4G	Mrs. Tanya Gottstein	Mrs. Corinne Bennefeld STEPS
4R	Mrs. Erin Desautels	Mrs. Kesina Martyn STEPS
5D	Mrs. Amberly Witzke	Mrs. Jennifer Matyjanka PLACE
6W	Mr. Chris Kryslar	Mrs. Michele Norton PLACE
STEPS Kryslar	Mrs. Lindsey Stephen	Ms. Paige Tomashewsky PLACE
STEPS Stephen	Mrs. Andrea Perrotta	Mrs. Adrienne Shepard PLACE
PLACE		

## REPORTING ABSENCES

Please communicate your child's absence, leaving school early or arriving late 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 to only 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.

# BELL SCHEDULE 2023-2024

## Westboro Bell Schedule 2023/24

### Regular Times

<b>Warning Bell</b>	8:29	
Period 1	8:37 - 9:09	32
Period 2	9:09 - 9:41	32
Period 3	9:41 - 10:13	32
<b>Recess</b>	10:13 - 10:30	17
Period 4	10:30 - 11:02	32
Period 5	11:02 - 11:34	32
Period 6	11:34 - 12:06	32
<b>Lunch/Recess</b>	12:06 - 12:28 -12:51	45
Period 7	12:51 - 1:23	32
Period 8	1:23 - 1:53	32
<b>Recess</b>	1:53 - 2:08	15
Period 9	2:08 - 2:40	32
Period 10	2:40 - 3:12	32
<b>Instructional Minutes:</b>		<b>320</b>

### Early Dismissal

<b>Warning Bell</b>	8:29	
Period 1	8:37 -9:03	26
Period 2	9:03 - 9:29	26
Period 3	9:29 - 9:55	26
<b>Recess</b>	9:55 - 10:10	15
Period 4	10:10 - 10:36	26
Period 5	10:36 - 11:02	26
Period 6	11:02 - 11:28	26
Period 7	11:28 - 11:54	26
<b>Lunch/Recess</b>	11:54 - 12:24 - 12:54	60
Period 8	12:54- 1:20	26
Period 9	1:20 - 1:46	26
Period 10	1:46-2:12	26
<b>Instructional Minutes:</b>		<b>260</b>

## STUDENT MEDICATIONS

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 click the link below to complete the form online through Permission Click.

<https://permission.click/BQAzJ/ca>

Forms must be completed on a yearly basis.

## NUT AWARE

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.



## Westboro School Council & Westboro Parent's Society

A warm welcome to all new and returning families!

If you don't already know, there are two big areas of opportunity for **you to be involved** in the behind-the-scenes of making our school **amazing!**

The **Westboro Parent's Society** is a group of volunteers from our own Westboro families who plan and organize extra activities and events for our students. We want to make our school the best place to be, and by running fundraisers we can support our students in a practical way like buying new gym equipment and technology for our school, bringing in Artists in Residence, putting in scooter racks, and more! We put on Hot Lunch, Family Dance, Pancake Breakfast, support other school events, and are also able to add in teacher appreciation gifts!

Our **Westboro School Council** includes caregivers, school staff (teachers and administration), and community representatives who work together to support student learning. This is a means for members of the school community to consult and provide advice to the principal as well as the school board. This is where we get to chat about school fees, division policies, school improvement planning, etc.

### Meetings for the 2023-2024 School Year

Our Council meetings and Society meetings are held consecutively, once a month, starting at **6:30pm** until approximately 8:00pm **in the school library** with a short transition period between.

September 20  
October 19  
November 22

January 17  
February 21  
March 13

April 17  
May 22 (AGM)

As you can see, there are many ways for you to be involved throughout the year. We hope to see you at our upcoming meetings (we have coffee and snacks!) as we are looking forward to another great year!

If you would like to learn more about either Council or the Society (including how you can become a member), please email: [WestboroParents@gmail.com](mailto:WestboroParents@gmail.com).

### School Council Executive

Chair: .....Christan Rasmussen  
Vice-Chair: ...Hilary Schmidt  
Secretary: .....open

### Parent's Society Executive

President: .....Christan Rasmussen  
Vice-President: ...Hilary Schmidt  
Secretary: .....open  
Treasurer: .....Mallory Jackson

## PICTURE DAY

Individual student photographs will be taken on **Tuesday, September 19**. 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

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. Prouse in supervising the arrival and departure of our students.

## WELCOME BACK MESSAGE FROM EIPS

Welcome back, EIPS families! Don't forget to check your inbox for an email with important info about the 2023-24 school year. The message includes details about PowerSchool, SchoolMessenger and other systems the Division uses. You can also find a copy of the message on the [Division website](#).

# DOWNLOAD THESE BUS APPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL RIDE!

Have a child taking the bus this school year? Download the following apps to stay up to date with all the busing information you'll need throughout the year.

## Bus Status

A new version of the Bus Status app is available: Bus Status 4. The app provides the same features and functionality as before, but faster and more reliable for users. Families who previously used the Bus Status 3 app will need to download the new version from the App Store or Google Play. You won't be able to update directly from one version to the next. New users can download Bus Status 4 directly now.

Through the Bus Status app, families can access information about buses that are running late or cancelled throughout the year. Simply save your child's bus routes as favourites and turn on push notifications to stay up to date.

Refer to the [Bus Status: Frequently Asked Questions](#) for more information about the update, and plan to download the new version now.

## Ride 360

The Traversa Ride 360 website and app enable parents and students to access their own secure data for bus stop location, route and pickup time. With Division buses equipped with GPS hardware, Ride 360 uses GPS geolocation to let users know when to expect their bus each day. Parents and students log in with their own information to access their specific routing information and details.

Ride 360 will be updated in the coming year. Families are encouraged to download the current Ride 360 app from the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#) for the start of the school year and set up their account. When the update takes place, login information will seamlessly roll over to the updated app.

Refer to [additional instructions and the tutorial video](#) on the Division website for more details about setting up your Ride 360 profile.

For more information about transportation services, refer to the [Student Transportation section](#) of the EIPS website.

## VIDEO SURVEILLANCE ON BUSES

Did you know each EIPS bus is equipped with video surveillance?

Video surveillance and equipment help:

- ensure the safety of all students, drivers and property; and
- discourage destructive acts.

On a regular basis, EIPS Student Transportation reviews the video recordings, in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. The recordings assist the department with monitoring student and driver conduct and may be used as evidence in a disciplinary matter.

EIPS buses are also equipped with [Tyler Drive tablets](#). The goal: To enhance safety, improve communication, increase efficiency and provide oversight. These tablets allow bus drivers to stay on time with turn-by-turn route directions and show student pictures and information when bus drivers get to stop locations. To ensure students get where they need to go, there are now two distinct audible tones when students scan their bus pass boarding or leaving the bus. One tone indicates they're getting on the correct bus or at the correct stop, and the other tone indicates they're on the incorrect bus or leaving at the incorrect stop. By using live information, Tyler Drive tablets provide more accuracy than paper schedules.

For more information about the collection, use and disclosure of personal information, contact the EIPS FOIP Co-ordinator at 780-464-3477.

## SYNC THE SCHOOL CALENDAR TO YOUR CALENDAR

Did you know you can sync the school calendar to your own calendar? Simply, visit <https://www.westborelementary.ca/school-calendar> and click on the applicable subscription option:

- Download to iCal
- Add to Google Calendar
- Subscribe to Calendar

NOTE: Options are located above the calendar.

Once you click on the desired subscription option, follow the instructions. Within seconds, your calendar will contain all Westboro Elementary's important dates including holidays, school-closures days, planned activities, events and more.

## PAY SCHOOL FEES ONLINE

School fee information for the 2023–24 school year will be posted on the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) in late September. All fees are due within 30 days of being posted. To access your fee information, simply log in to the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) and go to “Student Fees.” There you can view your fees and pay online using a credit card.

Don’t forget to log in to the PowerSchool Parent Portal regularly throughout the year. Fees are often added to your child’s account to cover the cost of certain school activities such as field trips, class projects, athletic-team fees and more. Additionally, junior high and senior high fees can change as courses are added and deleted.

If you’re unable to pay your school fees, you can apply to have certain [fees waived](#) by submitting an [Application for a Waiver of Fees](#). The application deadline is Dec. 15, 2023.

For more information about school fees, waivers and payment deadlines visit [eips.ca](#). Alternatively, contact Billie Jean Mepham at Westboro Elementary at 780–467–7751.

## DOWNLOAD THE SCHOOLMESSENGER APP

Westboro Elementary and the Division use the SchoolMessenger platform for communicating with families—through both phone and email. Be sure to add [communications@eips.ca](mailto:communications@eips.ca) and [general.wbo@eips.ca](mailto:general.wbo@eips.ca) to your safe sender list to avoid having important messages funneled into your junk mail folder.

You can directly manage your phone and email subscription preferences through [SchoolMessenger](#). Simply log in to your account—or create one if you don’t already have one—and select the message types you’d like to receive to each phone number and email address on file.

The easiest way to stay connected is to download the SchoolMessenger app. Get the latest updates direct to your mobile device and enable push notifications to never miss a message. Families can also check back on past messages—for up to 30 days—directly in the app rather than searching to find an old message buried in your inbox. Download the SchoolMessenger app from the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#) today.



# Strathcona County Information

## BACK TO SCHOOL

Strathcona County is supporting parents, caregivers, students, teachers, and staff who returned to school on August 31, 2023. [Learn more here.](#)

## FREE EARLY DISMISSAL SWIM

FREE early dismissal swims, sponsored by Pasta Pantry, continue this Fall!

Make the most of your extra time in the afternoon with a free swim at Kinsmen Leisure Centre and pick up your Pasta Pantry voucher.

Wednesday, September 6 from 3:15 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.

## FALL PROGRAMS

Plan your fall swimming lessons, fall break, recreation and culture programs with the [2023 Fall Guide](#). Registration is on now! [Learn more here.](#)

## FAMILY RESOURCE NETWORK FREE FAMILY PROGRAMS

Our FREE fall program schedule from the Family Resource Network (FRN) is here!

Connect with other parents and caregivers, learn new skills and support your child's healthy development.

- Drop-in parented programs for infants aged 0 to 18 months
- Drop-in parented programs for kids 0 to 6 years old
- Registered programs for kids in grades 1 to 3 and grades 4 to 6
- Registered parenting skill-building sessions for a variety of age groups
- Special events for families and children of all ages

Check out the fall FRN schedule [here](#).

Register for programs and learn more about Strathcona County's Family Resource Network here: <https://www.strathcona.ca/.../family-resource-network/>