



Woodbridge Farms School Newsletter #7 March 3, 2017

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Check us out on twitter at @wbfschool!



From the Principal's Desk...

Time flies when you're having fun! I'm sure you remember that the end of January/start of February featured the fantastic Artist in Residence program. We were even featured in the Sherwood Park-Strathcona County News on February 7th. I know students and the approximately 250 audience members will remember this for a very long time. Kudos to students for their work in developing their curriculum related part of the performance. Again a huge thank-you to the WBF Parent Association for their financial support for this project. Huge thank-yous also go to Mrs. Berg and Mrs. Newton for writing the grant application, the BP A+ for Energy program, and the EIPS Partners in Education Fund. Without their support and dedication

Students in grades 4-6 finished February with an energetic and energizing Hip Hop workshop with DJ CreeAsian. By the end of the day students had learned two short Hip Hop routines and presented them to the school. Along the way students also heard positive and affirming messages about trying (some dance moves are tricky!) and self-confidence (performing in front of others. This also required students to take a risk, and step out of their comfort zone. By the smiles on their faces, I could tell students really enjoyed this! Division 2 students also enjoyed their ski trip to Sunridge, and thankfully the weather cooperated that day.

On February 15th, many division 1 students celebrated the 100th day of school. This day is often a highlight because 100 is the first "really big number" that some students count to. In fact, the Grade 1 Program of Studies, specifically "developing number sense" lists that students have to "say the number sequence 0 to 100".

All students attended the Ryan Laird performance on pink shirt day. Ryan Laird's message about standing up to Bullies, and that "You're Bigger Than That" resonated with many students. This month's front display (see picture later in the newsletter) is of the word "Bigger" in many different languages from around the globe. This was inspired, at least in part, by Ryan Laird's performance. Classes also got to take their picture with him afterwards. The whole school participated in "Jump Rope for Heart", with many students involved in fundraising.

As we begin March, we're already thinking about report cards, Parent/Student/Teacher interviews and the book fair. Please note, as stated earlier this year, the second report card will be "digital only", unless a hardcopy is requested. In that case we will print the same format as for the first term. Students are also busy working on their speeches! One student even mentioned that she has "Star Wars" in her speech. I'm sure that speech will be outstanding!

Also in March will be our first Blanket Exercise. The parent exercise will be on March 7th. Please use the following link to register for the evening. <https://goo.gl/forms/qPxjcciPxOLM0Gqt1>

For more information please visit the school website at:
<http://woodbridgefarms.ca/>

Happy Learning!
Sven Danzinger
Principal



MARCH 2017

- Mar 1 Staff Meeting – early out 213 PM
Mar 2 Dr Seuss' Birthday; Newsletter;
Dufflebag Theatre *Peter Pan* 1:45
Mar 3 Professional Learning Day (all schools closed)
Mar 6 Student Intention Forms due
Interview bookings open at 12 noon
<https://www.schoolinterviews.ca/>
Mar 7 Blanket Exercise for Parents (630 PM Library)
Mar 8 International Women's Day
Mar 12 Daylight time begins
Mar 15 Assembly 9 AM
Mar 16 Grade 6 to Legislature
Mar 17 St. Patrick's Day
Report Cards Issued
Hot Lunch: Press'd **note: Cycle 2 order required**
Mar 21 Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews 430-730
World Poetry Day
WBF Speech Competition 1 PM
Mar 22 Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews 430-730
Mar 24 Day in Lieu – No School
Mar 27-Apr 3 Spring Break & Easter – No School

APRIL 2017

- Apr 3 Classes Resume
Apr 5 Staff Meeting – early out 213 PM
Apr 7 Newsletter
Apr 13 Assembly 2 PM
Apr 14 Good Friday - No school
Apr 17 Easter Monday - No school
Apr 20 EIPS Speech Finals
Apr 21 Student Hot Lunch: Booster Juice/Cobbs
Apr 23 Fire Drill #4 this week (*weather permitting*)
Apr 27 WBF Staff Event (PM)
Apr 28 Professional Learning Day

MAY 2017

- May 3 Staff Meeting – early out 213 PM
May 5 Newsletter
May 11 Gr 6 ELA Part A 9-11 AM
May 17 Assembly 9 AM
May 18 & 19 School Closure Days – No School
May 22 Victoria Day – No School
May 25 ABC Days start



SPECIAL EVENT FOR PARENTS

Blanket Exercise:
Tuesday March 7
630 PM in the Library

BOOK FAIR

Tuesday, March 21 and
Wednesday, March 22
Happy Camper Book Fair
12:00pm – 1:00pm and
4:30pm – 7:30pm

SCHOOL COUNCIL & PARENT ASSOCIATION 2016 2017 MEETING DATES

All meetings are at 630 PM in the
Library
March No Meeting
Tuesday April 25
Wednesday May 31



Parents and grand-parents are *always* welcome at our assemblies!

An Attitude of Gratitude!

Woodbridge Farms Elementary is a great place to be, thanks to the efforts of many dedicated people. In this section of the newsletter we try to recognize the work done on behalf of the students. *Thank-you* to:

- ✓ The **Hot Lunch** group for organizing and distributing the hot lunch from Nitza's on February 24
- ✓ The many parents and grandparents and siblings who watched the "Energy and Environment Eco-Palooza" performance
- ✓ Mrs. Berg and Mrs. Newton for writing the grant proposal
- ✓ BP A+ for Energy Grant program for the \$10,000 grant
- ✓ WBF Parent Association for their generous support of the artist-in-residence program



In and around the School

WBF SCHOOL COUNCIL AND PARENT ASSOCIATION UPDATES

Thank-you to all the volunteers and helpers who help in so many ways in and around the school.

Upcoming Meetings

All parents are invited to attend our next Parent Association and School Council meetings. This is a fantastic way to find out what is going on in the school or share any concerns you may have. The next meeting is in the school library on **Tuesday, April 25 at 6:30 PM**. Childcare is available at no cost. We are going to start looking at some planning for next year. This includes seeking parent input on topics such as classes and configurations, including the need for combined classes.

Hot Lunch

Volunteers are always appreciated and needed to help distribute food to students. The next hot lunch is on **St. Patrick's Day, Friday, March 17th**.

School Council & Parent Association Website

A great way to stay up-to-date with School Council and Parent Association happenings is <http://wbfpa.weebly.com/>.

Wowzer Wear

Will be available during Parent/Student/Teacher conferences. Members of your Woodbridge Farms Parent Association will be at the table set up in Synergize Square (front foyer).



TERM 2 REPORT CARDS – ONLINE

As planned at the beginning of the year, the term 2 report cards will be online. The online functionality is one of the key components available with the new report cards. If you would also like a hardcopy / printed report card, please let your child(ren)'s teacher know.

PARENT/STUDENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS – MARCH 21 AND 22

Yes, it is time for parent/student/teacher interviews again! Online booking opens at 12 noon on March 6th. Interviews are 10 minutes long and run from 4:30 PM through 7:30 PM.

Please use code: zm6ub <https://www.schoolinterviews.ca/>

WBF TRACK TEAM



Congratulations to the WBF track team!

On February 17th the boys and girls team participated in the Annual Running Room Indoor Games.

Although they did not make it to the next round, they ran hard and finished strong!

They represented the school very well and we're proud of them!

Volunteer Recognition

For 2017, Volunteer week is officially from April 23 through April 29. We are deeply appreciative of **all** the volunteers who give so much of their time to the school, to enhance the students' experience here, and want with all sincerity to thank and recognize volunteer contributions. We simply **MUST** recognize all the hard work!

With your indulgence, we would like to recognize Woodbridge Farms Volunteers on Friday, June 2 with our annual "Coffee Drive-Through"

MARCH 7 BLANKET EXERCISE FOR PARENTS @630PM

You may be wondering, what is this? why should I go to this? does it apply to me? This exercise is a way for people to learn about First Nations history, and in an interactive way gain some knowledge and experience as what happened during colonization and in residential schools.

This very well may affect you personally and emotionally. When staff participated, there were many strong emotional responses.

Why should you go? Because this is part of Canadian history and your children will be learning more and more about this. Also your children will participate in this exercise in grade 5. (This year grade 5 and 6.) This applies to all of us. It can even change the way some companies do business, and business drives the economy. Lastly, this may not be offered to parents again for several years at WBF School.

We have heard overwhelmingly how valuable and impactful and experience this is.

Please sign up for participating by clicking the link: <https://goo.gl/forms/AR1DGKurlGV2Yqul2>

PLANNING FOR NEXT YEAR

Woodbridge Farms Elementary has closed boundaries for the 2017/2018 school year. This means that we will not be able to accommodate any boundary exemption requests for new students. We will only be able to register new students who are in our attendance area. This is because we have more students than our OEL (Optimum Enrollment Limit). If you would like to participate in a planning exercise, please join us at the April School Council Meeting.

Grade	Projected Enrollment	
K	52	As you may expect, the school budget and planning for next year is underway. Planning has to take into account two critically important factors to deal with: large numbers of students in many grades and that we are limited to the numbers of classrooms we have. The Kindergarten classrooms are dedicated spaces, as are CSP (Communication Skills Program) and ETP (Elementary Transitions Program). That leaves only 14 rooms for classrooms. At this time we don't have specific plans for class/grade configurations. We also take into account that CSP and ETP students are often integrated for part of their day.
1	62	
2	59	
3	73	
4	60	
5	67	
6	51	



In and around the District

BOUNDARY EXEMPTION REQUEST PROCESS: NOW OPEN

The Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) boundary exemption request process for the 2017–2018 school year is now open.

EIPS students—in kindergarten to Grade 12—wanting to attend a non-designated school in the upcoming school year can now apply to do so. All interested families must fill out a Boundary Exemption Request Form and submit it directly to their requested school. The application deadline is April 7, 2017. Boundary exemption requests received after April 7, 2017 will be declined. There is no late or secondary process.

The [Boundary Exemption Request Form](#) and additional information about the boundary exemption request process, schools with closed boundaries and frequently asked questions can be found by visiting www.eips.ca/schools/boundaries/boundary-exemption-request-process.

Final decisions will be made by April 12, 2017.

Please note: for 2017/2018 Woodbridge Farms Elementary had closed boundaries.

NEW SAFETY LIGHTS PUT A SPOTLIGHT ON RURAL SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

Students who live in rural areas throughout Strathcona County recently received a pedestrian safety light, thanks to the Strathcona County School Traffic Safety Partnership and Shell Canada. The lights are easy to attach to a backpack and are meant to help rural bus operator see children during dusk and dawn hours. Make sure to encourage your child to light up and be visible when getting on and off the school bus and crossing street intersections.

We all have a part to play in road safety. Here are a few simple rules to help keep everyone safe:

- **Look out for one another.** Slow down and watch for pedestrians when driving or cycling, particularly in areas where there are no sidewalks or streetlights.

- **Help Drivers see you.** When walking on the road, always walk against the traffic. Wear brightly coloured or reflective clothing when walking in low light or poor weather conditions.

WATCH FOR THIN ICE

Elk Island Public Schools, along with our community partners, want to remind families about the dangers of thin ice during this time of year. Depending on changing temperatures, ice can form and melt to varying degrees on outdoor bodies of water. Please remind your children about the dangers of thin ice, to obey all posted signs and to take the proper care to remain a safe distance from the ice.

For more information on ice safety, visit www.lifesaving.org.

Did you know?

The way ice forms affects the way it melts in spring. Minerals in the water actually become concentrated in vertical veins throughout the ice as it freezes. Warm temperatures cause these veins to melt more quickly and weaken the ice, a process known as *candling*.

WOODBIDGE FARMS STUDENT STRIVE TO:

*Be Safe, Show Respect, Work Hard,
Finish Strong, Be You!*



School Memo re: Mumps

*To: Students, Parents and Staff of Alberta Schools
From the Alberta Medical Officers of Health*

Date: 2017-Feb-21

Outbreaks of mumps in Manitoba and the United States in the past several months are a reminder that vaccine-preventable infections, including mumps, are still a risk to health, including here in Alberta. To reduce the risk to your child, and our communities, we need to ensure as many Albertans as possible are up to date with their mumps immunization. This includes yourself, and your children.

Mumps is a contagious viral infection that can often cause swelling and pain in the jaw (one or both cheeks may look swollen). Some people with mumps won't have gland swelling, and some may feel like they have a bad cold or influenza instead.

Mumps is spread when an infected person coughs or sneezes near you or shares food or drinks with you. A person with mumps can spread the virus seven days before and for nine days after symptoms start, though it is most likely to spread the virus one to two days before and five days after symptoms start showing.

Although mumps usually goes away on its own in about 10 days, in some cases, it can cause serious complications that affect the brain (meningitis), the testicles (orchitis), the ovaries (oophoritis), or the pancreas (pancreatitis). These complications can have life-long effects.

Mumps can be prevented through immunization (vaccine).

The MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine, and the MMRV (measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella [chickenpox]) vaccine, both protect against mumps. Most children get these vaccines as part of their routine childhood shots. The first dose is given at age one, and a second dose at age four.

The vaccine is safe, and is also effective. Before the mumps vaccine existed, mumps was a common childhood disease in Canada and the United States.

Protect yourself, and your children:

1. Check your own and your children's immunization records to be sure that you and your children are up to date on your vaccines. Call Health Link (811) if you are unsure how to find or check your immunization records, and/or to learn how to make an appointment for immunization. Mumps-specific recommendations include:
 - Children should receive one dose of vaccine at 12 months of age, and a second dose between four years and six years of age. By the age of six, all Albertan children should have received two doses of mumps-containing vaccine.
 - Adults (18 years of age and older) and born in 1970 or later should have at least one dose of mumps-containing vaccine. (Note: two doses are recommended for post-secondary students of this age and for all healthcare workers)
 - Those born before 1970 are assumed to be immune due to the fact that mumps was extremely common prior to vaccine being available. (Note: one dose is recommended for post-secondary students of this age; two doses are recommended for all healthcare workers).
2. Anyone with symptoms of pain on chewing or swallowing and/or swelling of the cheek or jaw should call Health Link (811) or a doctor to book an assessment and consideration of testing. If you think that you or your child has mumps, be sure to call ahead and explain the symptoms before you go to a doctor's office.
3. Anyone with symptoms as above should stay home from school/work for 5 days from the start of swelling.
4. To prevent spreading infections, always:
 - Practice good hand hygiene – wash hands often with soap and water, or use alcohol hand rub.

- Avoid sharing items that could be contaminated with saliva, such as water bottles, drinking glasses, utensils, etc.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are touched often (e.g. door handles).
- Cover coughs or sneezes with a tissue or a forearm, not your hand.

For more information on routine childhood immunization, and the diseases that these immunization prevent, visit www.immunizealberta.ca.

We thank you for your collaboration in keeping Alberta's children, and our communities, healthy.

Sincerely –

Dr. Albert de Villiers, North Zone Lead Medical Officer of Health
Dr. Chris Sikora, Edmonton Zone Lead Medical Officer of Health
Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Central Zone Lead Medical Officer of Health
Dr. David Strong, Calgary Zone Lead Medical Officer of Health
Dr. Vivien Suttorp, South Zone Lead Medical Officer of Health
Dr. Wadieh Yacoub, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch Medical Officer of Health