

Westmount Elementary School

December Newsletter 2017

Dear Parents & Guardians,

As the month of November comes to a close and December begins it is difficult to believe how quickly our year is going.

We had a lovely Remembrance Day Ceremony on November 10. Many of our students participated in the assembly either with the choir, or with their class. Thank you to Ms. Wilson for her leadership in organizing and carrying out a respectful time of remembrance for our service members, both past and present.

Report cards went home on November 30th and the staff is looking forward to Parent Teacher Conference time on December 6th and 7th. It is a great opportunity for parents/guardians and teachers to meet and discuss your child's progress, share highlights of their strengths and areas to improve upon.

Now, we are looking forward to time with family and friends as the holiday season will soon be here. Many thanks to all those who work so hard to support our students through volunteering and/or attending our fundraising initiatives. Your time, hard work, and dedication to our Westmount students is much appreciated!

The last day of school before the December Holiday will be December 21, 2017. Students will be returning to class on January 3, 2018.

On behalf of the staff at Westmount Elementary School, we want to say thank you to our parent community for the many ways you support your children. Have a restful and fun holiday season with family and friends. Wishing you all a happy holiday and a joyous new year.

Sincerely,

Lesley MacInnis
Principal

Tom Cleary
Vice Principal

Reminders:

December 2: Breakfast with Santa; 8:30am-11:00am

December 5-8: Scholastic Book Fair

December 6: Parent teacher interviews; 6pm-8pm

December 7: Professional Development am; Parent/Teacher interviews; 1pm-4pm (NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS)

December 13th:

Holiday concert; 1:45pm, 6:30pm

December 14th: Snow Date Holiday concert

December 21st: Last day before holiday

December 22-January 2nd: Holiday

Principal – Lesley MacInnis
Vice Principal –
Tom Cleary
Administrative Assistant –
Ann D'Eon

6700 Edward Arab Avenue
Halifax, NS, B3L 2E1

Wmount Phone – 902 493-5164
Safe Arrival – 902 493-5169
Wmount Fax – 902 493-5168
Website –
westmount.ednet.ns.ca
Email – wmount@hrsbn.ns.ca



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Safe-Arrival (Number: 902 493-5169)

Safe Arrival volunteers phone the homes of students who are absent each day. The safe arrival calls begin around 9:00am and are usually finished by 10:00. To save these volunteers time it is extremely helpful if you notify your child's teacher if you know your child will be absent. On the occasions that this is not possible please call the school to report that your child will be absent.

****NEW** You may also report that your child will be absent via email! westmountsafearrival@gmail.com THIS IF FOR ATTENDANCE ONLY. PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ANY OTHER MESSAGES.**

Parents/Guardians & Visitors to the School

Any person visiting the school for any purpose must enter through the building's main door and report to the main office. Those remaining in the building for any period of time must sign in and receive an HRSB visitor or volunteer badge. This must be worn at all times. Upon leaving, all visitors must sign out and return the badge. All assigned staff are required to wear identification badges at all times.

Please be aware that parents are not to accompany students to their classroom upon entry in the morning. Please ensure that you say good bye at the entry door.

For student safety purposes, all doors will remain locked. The buzzer at the main entrance will allow you to gain access. Parents/Guardians waiting for students at dismissal times are asked to please wait outside. This will enable teachers to arrange for a safe, orderly and timely dismissal.

Guidelines for School and/or Bus Cancellation Due to Inclement Weather

****Westmount is part of the Citadel High Family of Schools****

Student safety is the first priority of the *Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB)* when making school cancellation decisions. HRSB staff begins to gather information from various sources beginning at 4:30 am. Staff consults with Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) staff on road conditions, local weather services, and Stock Transportation. By 5:30 am, staff makes a recommendation to the Superintendent based on the information gathered. If it is safe to have students on the roads and sidewalks, then schools will be open. If not, all or some schools may be closed depending on the weather and road conditions in different areas of the board.

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Parents/ guardians; winter is coming; do you have a childcare plan in place in the event of a school closure? Do you know what *Family of Schools* your child's school belongs to? Parents/ guardians always have the right to keep their child home from school if they believe that the travelling conditions are unsuitable.

For **full day closures** of all or some schools, the decision will be announced as close to 6:00 am as possible. Announcements will be:

- Posted on the HRSB's website (www.hrsb.ca);
- Posted on the HRSB's Twitter account (HRSB_Official);
- Recorded on the HRSB's School Cancellation Information Line 464-INFO (4636);
- Shared with subscribers to the board's email and text notification system; and
- Communicated to local media outlets.

If conditions deteriorate throughout the day, the Superintendent may **close schools early** when weather or road conditions are considered to be a threat to the safety of students. In the event of an **early school closure**, the announcement will be made by 11 am. School busses will be dispatched to schools **two hours** earlier than their normal regularly scheduled pick-up for the afternoon dismissal, **walking students** will be dismissed at the start of their regular lunch time.



NEW! On school days when weather conditions exist that it is not safe to open schools at the regularly scheduled time, but it is predicted that conditions will improve, a **2 hour delayed opening** may be considered. Delayed openings would be considered when a severe weather event has concluded but snow clearing or other operations require additional time. Delayed opening may also be considered when the physical plant is experiencing an issue (power, water) and additional time is required to prepare the facility for opening.

In the event of a delayed opening the following will apply:

- School opening will be delayed 2 hours
- School bus pick up times will be delayed 2 hours
- Excel child care will be cancelled for the morning only
- Pre-Primary opening will be delayed 2 hours
- Each school will alter morning schedules to best address their timetables.
- Lunch times will not change
- Afternoon class schedules will not change
- Dismissal time will not change.

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Holiday Concert:

Our P-3 Holiday concert this year will be on Wednesday, December 13th. The concerts will be at 1:45pm and 6:30pm. Tickets for each family will be distributed on Monday, December 4th. Our strings students and band students will also perform.

Criminal Records Check and Child Abuse:

Please bring letters that you have received to the office. If you want to help chaperone trips please get these forms from Ms. D'Eon.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR:

The scholastic book fair will take place during the week of December 5th- December 8th. The book fair will be open on the evening of December 6th at the same time as parent/teacher interviews. This will be a chance for parents to purchase books. More information will be coming home soon.

Book Fair Hours:

Wednesday, December 6th: 12pm-1pm; 4pm-8pm

Thursday, December 7th: 12pm-4pm

Friday, December 8th: 8:15am-9:00am (Last minute shopping!)

Looking Ahead...

- January 3, 2018, School re-opens
- January 12, 2018, Maritime Dance Academy performance; 11am.
- January 29th, WSA meeting; 7pm

*Wishing you a peaceful holiday
&
Happy New Year!*

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