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The Westwind wave

September 12, 2023

AND... WE'RE OFF!

We hope that your children have made a smooth transition from the summer break and thank you so much for your patience as we worked through organizing our school year. Already the students are making new friends. It's always exciting when the students get into their new classes. A change in classrooms, teachers and classmates is exciting and challenging at the same time. Change (and shaking up the routine) can at times create some anxiety, however in the long-run, it is always a good test of our resiliency. Our only set back is due to a Province wide- teacher shortage. Human Resources at the School Board is still in the process of interviewing this week and eventually securing two grade 3-4 Teachers for us. We are looking forward to everyone getting settled and into the flow with the school year and as new routines are set, the comfort and confidence for all increases.



This being Mrs. Tse and my second year at Westwind, we are really appreciating knowing our staff, our parent group, and students better. It makes working together so much easier when we know one another. We look forward to seeing that spirit flourish as we set into routine, and as you'll see from reading below, we've planned some exciting activities that we think will generate some school spirit/energy.

In addition to the school spirit, we also have some logistics to sort out. To help us with this, many **important notices** that require your attention and action will come home this week in your child's backpack. Thank you in advance for attending to those as the sooner we have that information back from you, the sooner we're into the flow.

We have a **very supportive parent group and Parent Advisory Council (PAC)**. We look forward to continuing on with the good work you have started, and keen to seek ways that we can enhance our school even more to create the best learning environment possible. We would like to thank again our Parent Advisory Council for hosting the "Welcome Back" to the school year coffee and treats on the first day of school. The Welcome Back social along with the first week of school was a great chance to connect with parents and meet many of the new Kindergarten parents. We're looking forward to meeting more parents at our **"Meet the Staff" evening next Thursday, and at our upcoming PAC Meeting Tuesday September 26th**.

If by chance you think you may have missed information, please refer to our webpage. All Newsletters are archived on our school webpage westwind.sd38.bc.ca. The dates for all we do is also listed on our online calendar. You can follow us on **Instagram @westwindwaves**. We have enjoyed greeting the students and parents this week, and hope to meet more of you as time goes by. Mrs. Tse and I have an open-door policy and would be happy to meet with you if you ever have questions #604-668-6497.

On behalf of Mrs. Tse, and our staff, here's to another great school year.

Mr. Bill Juhasz, Westwind Principal

PHYSICAL LITERACY AT WESTWIND

We will be continuing to ramp up our physical literacy this September. We have our school wide runs three times per week, our Terry Fox Run, and the District Cross Country Running race on the horizon. All students from Kindergarten to grade 7 are expected to jog and/or power walk on our Westwind track in the back field when we go out. We will continue with all our students doing regular school-wide runs all year (weather permitting). Our September training will also be in preparation the District Cross Country Race on October 17th.

SCHOOL-WIDE RUNS

On Mondays, Wednesday and Friday at 1:45pm (when the weather is decent), we'll be heading outside for a jog/power walk. This will no doubt create a solid foundation for our cardiovascular fitness and overall health and wellness. Please make sure that your child has suitable running shoes so they're comfortable being active. There's nothing worse than running 2kms in Hello Kitty rubber boots. We will be running around the 500m track at the back of our school. Our minimum expectation for the primary students (after they've had a chance to train) is that they are able to run one lap of the track without having to stop to walk. For intermediate students (grade 4-7), they're expected to be able to run 2 laps of the track if they want to be considered "proficient."



DISTRICT CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING RACE: OCTOBER 17TH - 3:15pm @ Garry Point

For Kindergarten to grade 7 runners. Save the date. Details to follow.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP JOB FAIR

Our grade 6/7 Teachers met today to plan how we will enhance our students' sense of service to the school community. We are in the planning stages of hosting a Student Leadership Job Fair for students in grades 6 and 7. We'll first host an assembly to describe the various service opportunities available to the students, then students can submit expressions of interest, if they wish. Opportunities include: morning announcements, assembly prep/stage and lighting crew, assembly emcees, lunch monitors, technology monitors, PE storage room monitors, school spirit committee etc. We endeavour to include as many of our students who express interest as possible. We will look to incorporate the grade 5's into the leadership mix in the spring.



WESTWIND WAVES WEAR ON WEDNESDAYS

On Wednesday we'll show our school spirit by wearing our Westwind Wave wear. We'll not only wear this on our school spirit days, we'll also wear it when participating in school events like cross-country running, sports day, track and field etc. etc. Folks who are new to Westwind would not have their Westwind Wave wear yet. Not to worry, we'll be sending out shortly a notice with information on how you can order some school spirit wear. We also had a great parent idea come forth about how we can make use of outgrown spirit wear...stay tuned for details!

MEET THE STAFF: THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 21st - 5:30-6:30pm

You are welcome to join us at 5:30pm next Thursday to meet your child's teacher and see their classroom. Parents/guardians with more than one child attending Westwind can go at your leisure from class to class to meet each of your children's teachers and support staff. At 6:15pm, we'll all assemble in the gym for staff introductions, and a school spirit slide show of some of the September highlights. We've intentionally scheduled it from 5:30-6:30pm so that parents who also have children attending McMath are able to attend that Parent Night as well.

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING: NEXT TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26th - 6:30pm

A supportive Parent Advisory Council is an important part of any vibrant school. If you're new to Westwind, you should know that the Westwind PAC is an active group that finds lots of ways to support the school, its students and programs. Our Westwind PAC is one of the strengths of our school and do an amazing job contributing in many ways to our school community. All Westwind Parents are members of the school PAC, so please feel welcome to come out and get involved. There are varying levels of involvement, all very important when considering that "many hands make light work." Some parent volunteers are involved in leadership roles that require additional time to fulfill those roles (eg. The PAC Executive), while others are on hand (as worker bees) to help out those leaders occasionally on an as needed basis. Stay tuned for an invitation from the PAC to join our first meeting (virtual) of the year. A link to the meeting will be sent out prior to the meeting. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. Hope to see you there!



See next page for our 2023-2024 IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES...





2023-2024 IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES

Tuesday, September 5	First day of school
Wed, September 13	Student Photo Day
Friday, September 15	Terry Fox Assembly 1:45pm
Thursday, September 21	Meet the Staff 5:30-6:30pm
Friday, September 22	Professional Development Day
Monday, October 2	Truth & Reconciliation Stat holiday
Monday, October 9	Thanksgiving Day
Wed, Oct 18 & Thur, Oct 19	Early Dismissal for Learning Updates (1:45pm)
Friday, October 20	Provincial Professional Development Day
Monday, November 6	Student Photo Retake Day
Friday, November 10	Remembrance Day Assembly
Monday, November 13	Remembrance Day Stat Holiday
Friday, December 1	Professional Development Day
Mon, Dec 25 to Fri, Jan 5	Winter Vacation
Monday, January 8	Return to School
Monday, January 29	Professional Development Day
Wed, Feb 14 & Thurs, Feb 15	Early Dismissal for Learning Updates (1:45pm)
Friday, February 16	District-wide Professional Development Day
Monday, February 19	Family Day Holiday
Thursday, March 14	Last day of school before Spring Break
Friday, Mar 15 to Thur, Mar 28	Spring Vacation
Friday, March 29	Good Friday
Monday, April 1	Easter Monday
Tuesday, April 2	Return to School
Friday, May 17	Professional Development Day
Monday, May 20	Victoria Day Holiday
Friday, June 7	Sports Day (rain out day – Fri, Jun 14)
Tuesday, June 25	Grade 7 Farewell Assembly
Thursday, June 27	Year End Assembly / Last Day of School for Students