

Good afternoon Parents, and Guardians,

Happy Thanksgiving! My apologies for this later than expected weekly update. I hope you all were able to enjoy the weekend with family or friends.

Here is the information for this week coming up:

Events/Recognition

Thank You Coaches!

New Business

Fire Drills

Booking Meetings with the Principal

Old Business

Textile Bin

Criminal Record Checks

Parent Drivers

Parking/Student drop off

District Information

Gingerbread Houses (see attachment)

Calendar:

Updated

SCHOOL INFORMATION

Events/Recognition

Thank You Coaches!

I want to thank our Cross Country coaches, Mrs. Zirnhelt, Mrs. Miller and Ms. Gabelle who are entering the final week of their season culminating in the last race of the year at Westsyde Centennial hosted by Westmount and Westsyde Elementary [schools](#). It is always a quick season but one that is so enjoyable. Thank you parents for your support in helping get students to and from these events.

I want to thank our volleyball coaches who have stepped up to coach this year. Thank you to Mrs. Caputo and Mrs. Ruddick who will be coaching the Grade 7 Girls in the competitive division this year. Thank you to Brent Fritz for coaching the Grade 6 Girls in the recreational division this year. Finally, a thank you to Jamie Simpson for coaching the Grade 5 girls in the Tier 3 division this year. We so appreciate parents and teachers stepping up to help coach so that students can experience the joy that sports bring.

New Business

Fire Drills

I have heard of some concerns around the fire drills that we are doing at the school the past three weeks. We have our 3rd practice drill tomorrow. This will complete our fall fire drill practices. In the spring we will conduct three more practice drills. These drills are mandatory for all schools in the event that we actually need to evacuate the building for some reason.

Our first fire drill was without the fire alarm to help our new students in Kindergarten and those with sensitivity to noise to adjust to the routine of what to do during a fire drill. The 2nd drill included the alarm but I announced to the entire school when the alarm would sound and encouraged students to either hold their hands over their ears or have headphones available to them and our Kindergarten students stood outside so that they could hear what the alarm sounds like but not so close to it.

Tomorrow, the fire alarm will sound again, and I will announce exactly when the alarm will sound. However, this time, students will be in their classrooms or the gym.

If you would like to voice your concerns with me, please email me to set up an appointment at rstyles@sd73.bc.ca.

Booking Meetings with the Principal

Another repeated thing I have overheard involves my availability and booking a time to meet. Katie Dillman is one of the best secretaries in our district but she is not in control of my schedule. Please do not reach out to Katie for my availability, instead reach out to me. The easiest way to reach me is by email. I am most likely not at the office if you are to call as I am usually out and about doing many different things around the school. I am pretty good at getting back to people in a timely manner.

If you would like to book a meeting, please email me at rstyles@sd73.bc.ca

Old Business

Textile Bins

We have two textile recycling bins. This is for any clothing, bedding, towels, footwear, hats or backpacks that you no longer need. We ask that they are not torn or in poor condition and that you place all your items into a plastic bag. All of the donations are picked up every Thursday and the school receives money which we put back into the school to support students.

Time to perform that fall closet purge.

Criminal Record Check Process

Criminal record checks are a requirement by anyone who wants to volunteer for field trips or as a parent driver. I would advise you to go through this process now instead of waiting before the trip you end up going on. If you wait, there is a higher probability that the criminal record check will not be processed

before your trip. Please go to the Westmount website for the link:

<https://westmount.sd73.bc.ca/en/index.aspx>.

This process has been changed slightly this year but only in that you must do it online. No longer can you go to the RCMP detachment to complete a criminal record check. To streamline this process it would be best for you to get the BC Services App on your personal device. To set up your BC Services card on your device takes only a few minutes and it will make the criminal record process much easier and quicker. If you decide against downloading the BC services app then once the criminal record check is received by the school, you will be called to come into the school and bring 2 pieces of ID proving your identity and this must be done in the Principal's presence.

Thank you to those who have been diligent and their criminal record checks done. When you fill out the application online the school receives the document directly.

For those who need to update their criminal record check because it has expired (the district has a renewal rule after 3 years despite the RCMP indicating that the check is good for 5 years), please go to the link on the school's website and there will be a tab to indicate you need your criminal record check re-sent to the school. The school will then accept the criminal record check until the 5 years expiry date or 3 years from the date we receive it.

Criminal record checks stay on file for 3 years, then will need to be renewed. Mrs. Dillman will contact people who have a criminal record check that is expiring and explain what the next steps will be.

If you have any questions please contact the school.

Parent Drivers

Parents are only allowed to drive students from another household, not their own child, if they have completed the criminal record check **and** filled out a parent driving form from the office. Every year the parent driving form must be completed with a proof of a minimum of \$1 000 000 liability insurance from your vehicle insurance. You will need to go to the office to do this.

Parking/Student drop off

The traffic situation at Westmount is not ideal, we understand that, but unless we work together to make it more efficient, then it will not improve. Unless you have parked in a parking stall, leaving your vehicle at any time is not permitted. This stops the flow of traffic moving around the loop and causes greater congestion on Walkem Road and at times backs it up on Westsyde Road, which can create dangerous driving scenarios. We ask that you follow the rules listed below:

- Only park in designated parking spaces; avoid the staff parking lot as this is only for school staff, district staff and any person with a designated accessibility parking pass.
- Stay in your vehicle when picking up or dropping off students, then make your way around the loop
- Stay in the line; trying to pass other cars can create an unsafe situation for oncoming traffic or pedestrians

- Listen to our staff members who are working in the area. They are there to make it safe for everyone and as efficient as possible
- When turning onto Walkem Road please watch for pedestrians and crossing guards in the walkways; **Do not turn or attempt to turn while there are people in the crosswalks**

DISTRICT INFORMATION

Gingerbread Houses (see attachment)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

This Week's Dates

Monday October 12th

- Thanksgiving Day (school closed)

Tuesday October 13th

- Fire Drill #3

Friday October 16th

- PAC Hot Lunch: Mucho Burrito

Next Week's Dates

Tuesday October 20th

- PAC Snack: Booster Juice
- Last Day to Order PAC Hot Lunch for November

Friday October 23rd

- Pro-D Day (no school)

Dates to Plan for:

Monday October 26th

- PAC Snack: Popcorn

Tuesday October 27th

- Recognition Assembly (Invitation Only)
- Photo Re-Takes

Friday October 30th

- Halloween Parade (8:45am)
- PAC Hot Lunch: Subway

Respectfully,

Roy Styles, Principal



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH 
Y WOMEN'S EMERGENCY SHELTER



GINGERBREAD HOUSE

Competition



BUILD. ENTER. WIN.
Think your gingerbread house has what it takes?

**We're looking for Kamloops' most creative, clever,
over-the-top gingerbread houses!**



TABLE
twelve
fifty

**PRIZES TO BE WON
AGE-BASED CATEGORIES
\$10 DONATED FOR EVERY ENTRY**

For more info please email jordyn@twelvefifty.ca or
nicole@twelvefifty.ca



Register here!