

Good morning Parents, Guardians and Caretakers,

I would like to officially welcome you all to the 2026-2027 school year. For those of you new to Westmount Elementary, my name is Roy Styles and I am the principal. I wanted to reach out to you all and provide you with information about the first day of school, dates to save and other important information. I hope this finds you and your family well and that you were able to enjoy the summer the way you hoped and intended.

Here is the information for this final week coming up. I will send a second email to you as I have many attachments and they all will not fit on this email.

Celebrations

New Staff

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Calendar:

Updated

SCHOOL INFORMATION

Celebrations

New Staff

Every year we say goodbye to many staff members and then in September we welcome new staff to our building. I would like to introduce Mrs. Samesock who will be our Primary Prep teacher. Mrs. Samesock is currently on maternity leave so in her place until she returns from leave will be Mrs. Duque Zuluaga. Mrs. Sohal will be our new evening custodian and Mrs. Prevost, our new 2-hour evening custodian.

Also of note, Ms. Torchia was married this past spring and has officially changed her name to Mrs. Hoffman.

Once classes are confirmed I will send out the class configuration to the community in a Weekly Update.

New Business

First Day of School

Next Tuesday, September 8th is the first day of school. It will **begin at 10:30am** and students will be **dismissed at 12:34pm**. Please note the change in the dismissal time!

The purpose of the first week is to see who is back, welcome new students and begin to establish school routines. Wednesday, September 9th will be a full day from 8:30am to 2:34pm.

Students from grades 1 to 7 will **go to the classroom that they were in last year**. New students will go to the library. New students will get a tour of the school and be introduced to various adults, and shown the expectations. Before the dismissal bell at 12:34pm, the new students will be placed in a classroom with peers of their age and they will go to that class to begin the next day. This will not be their class for the year. We are hoping to have all students placed in their permanent classes by the end of the week.

School Busing (Before and After School)

On the first day of school, the city bus will arrive at your child's normal pick up spot (the city bus stop) 2 hours later than what is indicated on the City Transit [website](#) and then drive them to the school. When you go to the website (click the link provided in the previous sentence), the route that you are looking for is #80: Batchelor Heights. After the school day

ends at 12:34, the school bus will pick up your child and then drop them off at their location.

For Wednesday and every day moving forward, the city transit will pick your child up from the city bus stop closest to your home at the times as indicated on the city's transit website.

If you need clarification or have any questions please contact either Mrs. Dillman or Mr. Styles at the school, 250-376-8879.

Kindergarten Gradual Entry

Kindergarten students will start gradual entry and follow the schedule sent to them before the end of last school year. If you do not have a schedule please call the school office at (250) 376-8879.

Parents you will be required to attend the first two days of the gradual entry. The first day is a meeting with the teacher and the second day you will drop your child off and then meet Mr. Styles in the Library.

School Fees/Forms

Messaging will come home when we have finalized class placements with regards to school fees, and many forms will need to be signed so please when you receive them, return them as soon as possible to the classroom teacher.

We encourage you to make payments for school fees on School Cash. There is a link on the school's website, but we will accept cash as well.

PAC and Hot Lunch/Snack

We are so lucky to have the PAC that we do, who go out of their way to help create a positive culture here at our school. If you have an interest in joining the PAC, the first meeting will be on Monday September 14th at 6:15pm in our school's library.

We are also so fortunate to have two amazing women lead our hot lunches and snacks at Westmount. A huge thank you to Carol Sippel and Jennifer Marshall for their hard work in providing students an opportunity to have unique and delicious lunch options this year. I have attached the hot lunch schedule for September to December.

Once we have created classrooms for this school year, information will be sent to parents so that they can order hot lunches. Accounts cannot be made until we have classrooms set up. Thank you for your patience on this.

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**

Old Business

DISTRICT INFORMATION

Public Health (see attachments)

Roots of Empathy (see attachments)

Kamloops Hospice (see attachments - second email)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

This Week's Dates

Tuesday September 8th

- School begins @ 10:30am; Dismissal @ 12:34pm (School Special will be running)

Wednesday September 9th - Friday September 11th

- Full school days (8:30 - 2:34)
- Kindergarten Gradual Entry begins (Parents to come at the time sent to you)

Next Week's Dates

Monday September 14th

- PAC Meeting @ 6:15pm (Library)

Wednesday September 16th

- Kindergarten first full day of school (8:30 - 2:34)

Dates to Plan for:

Friday September 18th

- PAC Freezie Friday (\$1.00 each)

Monday September 21st

- Professional Development Day (for staff): No School

Tuesday September 23rd

- Where The Wild Things Are performance (Primary classes only)
- PAC Hot Lunch orders close

Monday September 28th

- Recognition Assembly (invite only)
- Photo Day

Tuesday September 29th

- Orange Shirt Day

Wednesday September 30th

- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (School Closed)

There will be more information coming out in next week's weekly update to you. I hope you all have a wonderful long weekend and we look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday September 8th!

Respectfully,

Roy Styles, Principal