
WEST BEDFORD



ELEMENTARY

50 Broad Street
Bedford, NS B4A
0T4

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Principal: Susan Casey

Vice Principals: Jacinta Heckman
: Joanne Treen

Monday, November 17, 2025

Dear WBS Families,

This past week we closed access to our upper parking lot as some students were almost hit by vehicles not following our procedures. Please find below a detailed breakdown of our parking expectations. Please be respectful with staff and others when on our property. Our number 1 priority is student safety. All families are expected to follow our drop-off, pick-up, and parking procedures on our property. Failure to follow them may result in a police ticket and/or ban from school property. With over 1100 students, we are moving a small village in and out every day. All families must do their part in keeping ALL students safe. We have had too many situations where students and staff have been impacted by drivers who do not follow our procedures.

Parking Procedures at West Bedford School PP-6

- i. **Visitor/Family drop off and pick up: Parking** for all families and visitors is in the **lower parking lot by the field**. In the mornings, there is a “Kiss and Go” Loop in the lower parking lot next to the sidewalk (Grades 3 to 6). This is a quick drop off place only! There are also many visitor parking spaces for vehicles to park in to walk children to their assigned entry/exit doors (Primary to Grade 2 students).

Please note that **All vehicles**, with a Primary to Grade 6 student **MUST** use this parking lot to drop off/pick up their children.

Please be respectful, patient, and follow the directions from staff. Everyone's safety is a shared responsibility!

- ii. **Pre-Primary Parking passes:** Green parking passes have been handed out to our Pre-Primary families for the 2025-2026 school year. You **MUST** have this parking pass visible to enter the upper driveway by the front playground. Cars will be directed to the Pre-Primary drop off area by a staff member. Please park responsibly and only in defined parking spots or against the curb. Please do NOT block in other vehicles or leave your vehicle in the middle of the parking lot. ***If you cannot show your 2025-2026 pass you will not be allowed to enter the driveway.***

- iii. **LC Parking Passes:** Some of our families who are supported through the learning center have

received a parking pass to access the upper parking lot or around back for safe drop off and pick up. ***If you cannot show your 2025-2026 pass you will not be allowed to enter the driveway.***

iv. For those with accessible parking passes, if you have a meeting at the school or are required to exit your vehicle, there are accessible parking spots by the main blue doors. This parking pass must be clearly visible. If you are picking up your child and not exiting your vehicle, please park and wait for your child in the lower parking lot.

NO OTHER VEHICLES SHOULD BE ENTERING THIS DRIVEWAY!!!!

v. There is **NO PARKING around the back of the school or the small parking lot next to the HS building between the high school and the field.** ***This area is for staff parking and Special Needs bus drop off and pick up.*** Please respect this procedure so that we can keep our students safe when accessing their buses.

vi. **EXCEL Families:** *Those families who have a child in Excel can drop off their child between 7:30-8:00 am in the front loop. Pick up after school in the loop is from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm.* Dropping off or picking up your child outside these times requires families to park in the lower parking lot. ***We ask that you respect these guidelines as it impacts the safety of students.***

3. Bussing:

- Morning arrival- when buses arrive, staff will supervise the offloading of students and support them in heading to their entry door.
- At the end of the day, students in P-2 who ride a bus will be brought to the cafeteria where they will find an orange pylon with their bus number on it. Students in Grade 3-6 can choose to wait for their bus in the cafeteria or outside. Pre-Primary students will be brought to their buses and buckled in by their Pre-Primary teachers.
- Students will sit at a cafeteria table designated by their bus number - When their bus number is called, an adult will lead the bus line out to the bus and supervise the students getting on.
- Students in PP-2 must have an authorized adult waiting at the bus stop to receive them. If a child does not have anyone at the bus stop to pick them up, the bus drivers **MUST** bring them back to the school.

Seasonal Events:

STUFF-A-BUS December 5, 2025

We will be starting a food drive next week on Monday to support Feed Nova Scotia. All classes from PP-6 are invited to bring in non-perishable food items from Monday November 24th to Wednesday Dec 3. The class who has the highest donations in PP-3 and in grades 4-6 will receive a pizza party for their class.

Some items to consider donating:

Canned soups and stews
Canned Vegetables and fruits
Rice
Pasta and pasta sauces
Baby Food/Formula
Canned and powdered milk
Any boxed/canned non-perishable food
Any new unopened personal hygiene items (toothpaste/deodorant/mouthwash)

Please remember as a school we cannot have donations of items with peanuts in the building due to allergies. Thank you for all your support in giving back to our community!

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Call for volunteers! If you have your volunteer paperwork completed and on file at WBS and can spare some time the week of December 8th to 12th helping out at our book fair- please reach out to Heather MacIntyre HMacintyre@hrce.ca

Holiday Tree- Our holiday Kindness Tree is up in our main lobby ready to welcome students on Monday, November 24, 2025

Beginning December 1, Sparkles, our travelling Kindness Reindeer, will visit different spaces in the building each day, looking for students demonstrating our four core values: Respect, Responsibility, Relationships, Reciprocity.

During the final few weeks of classes, homerooms will be invited to participate in a “Sparkles STEAM challenge”, a door decorating challenge, and a hot chocolate event put on by our Home and School Association.

We are encouraging all classes to explore cultural learning connected to the diverse celebrations and traditions represented within our school community—Christmas being just one example.

West Bedford Schools Community Spirit Week- December 8–12, 2025

We are excited to share that this December, West Bedford School and West Bedford High will be partnering to host our first Community Spirit Week—a celebration marking the official opening of our shared building. This week of events will give our school community a wonderful opportunity to come together, celebrate student creativity, and showcase the many talents of WBS and WBH students.

Highlights of Community Spirit Week

Special Evening Events

Tuesday, December 9 — Coffee House Night (Time 6-8 pm) Everyone Welcome!

- Performances by:
 - WBS Choir
 - WBS Ukulele Club
 - WBH student performers (Choir, Drama, Individual)
- **Location:** Cafetorium stage
- **Fine Arts Night:** A gallery walk throughout the WBS building

Wednesday, December 10

- **Grade 6–12 Band Concert** (Evening in the Gym)
- **Fine Arts Night** continues with the gallery walk open for families to enjoy in both schools.

Extras:

- The WBS Home & School Association will offer tea, coffee, and water on December 9th.
- The Scholastic Book Fair will run all week, with an evening opening on December 9th.

Daytime Events (During the School Day)

- **Spirit Week Theme Days:** Organized by WBS Grade 6 Student Ambassadors (Drew Fournier & Mary Cobb) and the WBH Student Council.
- **Primary–Grade 2 Special Event:** Our music team has partnered with Halifax-based artist Meaghan Smith—a Canadian musician, storyteller, and visual artist—to spend time with our Primary to Grade 2 students. Ms. Smith will share her new book, *It Snowed*, inspired by her hit song of the same name. This special event will take place on December 9 during the school day for all students in Primary to Grade 2.
- **Scholastic Book Fair** open throughout the week.

Building Ceremony (December 10th or December 11th)

A school-wide ceremony will mark the official opening of our building, including:

- A virtual assembly for Grades P–12 to participate in this experience

Fine Arts Gallery Walk — Student Showcase

Students will have the opportunity to create artwork or projects to be showcased during the Fine Arts evenings. These may be pieces completed individually, as a small-group, or class pieces. Displays will be set up around the school building.

WBS November Highlights

School Liaison Officer Presentations

In the final few weeks of November, we are excited to welcome our School Liaison Officer, Constable Andrew Paquet, who will be delivering important presentations across various grade levels:

- *Stranger Danger* for Primary and Grade 1 students
- *Being a Good Digital Citizen* for Grades 2 and 3
- *Internet Safety and Cyber Bullying* for Grades 4-6

These sessions are a valuable part of our commitment to keeping our students safe and informed.

Picture Day Re-takes and Class Photos

- **Picture Re-takes:** Tuesday, December 2, 2025
- **Class Photos:**
 - Grades Pre-Primary to 3: Tuesday, December 2, 2025
 - Grades 4-6: Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Report Card Information Primary to Grade 2:

Nova Scotia introduced an updated **Language Arts curriculum** for Grades Primary to 2 in September 2024.

The new curriculum is organized into three main areas, called **strands**:

- **Foundations of Language** – phonics, spelling, and word knowledge
- **Comprehension** – understanding what is read or heard
- **Composition** – expressing ideas through speaking and writing

These strands work together to show how reading, writing, and oral language support one another as children grow into confident, capable communicators.

Starting in **November 2025**, report cards for Grades Primary to 2 will reflect these updated strands:

- **Strand A:** Foundations of Language
- **Strand B:** Comprehension
- **Strand C:** Composition

What families can expect:

- **Grade Primary:** Since grades are not reported, strand names will not appear.
- **Grades 1–2:** The new strand names will appear on your child's report card.

If you have any questions, please reach out to your child's teacher.

Upcoming Dates

November

- **Monday, November 23rd**- Term 2 begins

December

- **Tuesday, December 2:** WBS P-6 Report Cards sent home
- **Thursday, December 4:** Professional Learning Morning / Family-Teacher Meetings (1:00-3:30 pm & 5:30-7:30 pm)
- **December 8-12:** Special Events Week (Scholastic Book Fair, Band, Choir, Ukulele Performances, and Fine Arts Events)
- **December 19:** Final day of school for Students; Hot chocolate event

School re-opens Monday, January 5th, 2026