

Week #3 September 25-29th, 2023

Hello Families,

Our school population has continued to grow over the month of September and our class numbers are being reviewed by the HRCE and the Province. As we enter into the final week of September, our staffing and class configurations will most likely change throughout the week. We ask for your patience and understanding while we make these changes. We recognize that students have started to establish connections and relationships with teachers and other students, but some changes may be necessary to meet the provincial class caps at each grade level.

We will be meeting with West Bedford High School the first week in October to determine the outdoor field use. We will then be creating a schedule for use by WBS during phys ed classes and lunch time play.

The cafeteria continues to be a busy place at lunch for grades 4-6 students. Those students in a combined 3/4 will continue to eat in their classroom spaces for the time being.

I wanted to extend my sincere thanks to all of our families and students who were able to join us for our first ever West Bedford School Curriculum Night/ Open House. It was a tremendous turnout. We hope to be able to offer more evenings throughout the school year where we can welcome families into the school.

Kind regards,
Susan Casey
(Principal)

Updates:

Lockers for Grade 7 & 8 students: We have begun to distribute the lockers to students. Please note that we are not charging a fee at this time. The only thing that needs to be done to get a locker is to fill in this online locker contract <https://forms.gle/gv9aTnSD8KuAexPt8>

School Advisory Council: We have received a lot of interest from the community about being a part of the West Bedford School SAC. Expressions of interest close tomorrow at 4 pm. Expression of Interest Form: <https://forms.gle/KudBx9GzEn7sUk4R9>

The community will have the opportunity to vote for the 4 parents/guardians for the SAC through an online ballot the week of October 3 to 6th.

Morning drop off and afternoon pick up: We would like to extend our thanks to those families who continue to follow the school procedures for the morning drop off and afternoon pick up. This week, we will be sending home parking passes to our Pre-Primary Families to place in their front dash windows of their vehicles. This should speed up the process of traffic

flow for families going to the pre-primary drop off area. We continue to ask all of our families to please respect our procedures, as they will help to ensure students and staff are safe.

Hold and Secure Drill:

Another procedure the school will be practicing this week is a **“Hold and Secure.”** During a hold and secure, classroom doors are secured and the students remain inside the room until instructed by the admin team that movement throughout the building can begin again. All exterior doors are locked and no one is permitted to enter or leave the building. Students are held within the school when circumstances make it safer to stay in the classroom rather than evacuate. Just as we prepare our students to properly respond to a fire drill, they also need to be aware of the proper response during a hold and secure drill. These drills should be treated with the same level of importance as fire drills. Please be assured that staff at our school will spend time discussing the importance of this procedure with students prior to conducting a drill. We will also take time after the drill to remind them that it was only a practice and there was no danger. Please take the time to speak with your son/daughter about this procedure and reinforce its importance. We practice these drills to ensure our school remains a safe place for teaching and learning.

The date of our first Hold and Secure drill be on: Friday, September 29, 2023

Friday, September 29th, 2023- What is Orange Shirt Day?

The orange shirt is a symbol of the stripping away of culture, freedom and self-esteem experienced by Indigenous children over generations. On September 30th we wear orange shirts to honor the First Nation, Métis and Inuit children who were taken from their families and communities to be sent away to residential schools in Canada. The days surrounding Orange Shirt Day are an important time to learn more about the history of those schools.

We are inviting students here at West Bedford School to join us on **Friday September, 29th** to wear any item of orange in support!

[Orange Shirt Day Newsletter.pdf](#)

Upcoming Dates for October:

2: Truth and Reconciliation Day observed - no classes

3 to 6: Online voting for SAC Members

9: Thanksgiving Day - no classes

17: SAC Meeting #1 6:30-7:30 pm at WBS

20: Picture retakes with NS School Pictures [23-24 Instruction Letter to Parents to Pre-Register and Order Online.pdf](#)

27: Provincial conference day - no classes