

Monday Memo for November 13 to November 17, 2023

Hello WBS Families,

I wanted to take a moment to recognize that West Bedford, as a school community, has been together for 9 weeks. In these 9 weeks we have brought together students across Pre-Primary to Grade 8, from 7 different schools and from around the world. West Bedford School is proud of the different cultures and 34 languages that make up the school community.

We recognize that opening a new school, in a new building, is an experience students, families and staff have not had before. It has its challenges, but it also has its opportunities. We know that for some however, opportunities are not coming fast enough. We ask for peoples' patience as we focus on establishing a strong foundation for teaching and learning. We will continue to problem solve through areas we feel are not working and continue to build our school culture and climate with our 1285 students, their families, and 112 staff members. This will be a multi-year experience and one we are looking forward to!

I would like to extend my gratitude and appreciation to our families for the support as we work to establish West Bedford School within the community.

Have a wonderful week everyone!

Susan Casey (Principal)

Student Ambassador Event: Our Student Ambassadors will be overseeing a Cereal Drive, in support of WBS' Breakfast Program. This will take place from Monday November 20th and will run through Friday December 1st.

Cereal that can be brought in (All items must be nut free):

Cheerios

Multi-Grain Cheerios

Chex

Shreddies

We will also accept dry goods such as crackers.

Family-Teacher Meetings: Our Family-Teacher meetings will occur on November 23, 2023 from 1:00-3:00 pm and 5:00-7:00 pm. There will be a sign-up link sent out to families on November 16th, 2023. Family meetings can occur in a variety of ways: In person, virtual meeting, or by phone.

Term 1 Report Cards: The Term 1 report cards will be sent out via EDUPOST (through the student PowerSchool information on file). These report cards will be sent out by end of day on November 28th, 2023.

Holiday Concert: Our Holiday Concert will be for our students in Primary to Grade 3.

The dates for the concert are:

Wednesday, December 13th- 10 am show and 12:30 pm show

Thursday, December 14th- 10 am show and 12:30 pm show

Friday, December 15th- snow date

Each show will be the same, which allows families to choose the day and time that works for their schedules to attend. This also allows for extended family members to attend as we are not having to assign tickets or days to specific grades and classes.

**Our students in grades 4 to 6 will be a part of the musical production *Peter Pan* in the spring time.

West Bedford School Yearbook: West Bedford School has partnered with Jostens to produce the first ever WBS Yearbook! To help kick off our sales, we are offering an early bird special until the end of November!!

(1) Purchase your WBS Yearbook between now and November 30th for the discounted rate of \$35.00 with free personalization options.

(2) Starting December 1st, yearbooks will be sold for \$40.00, with an additional \$5.00 for personalization.

(3) Final sales will run from Feb 1st to March 8th. The yearbook will be sold at full price \$45.00 with additional \$5.00 for personalization options.

Please view the WBS website main page for the online sales link or click [here](#).

Cell phones: A key expectation for all students at WBS is that cell phones are to be put away and not used during 8:05 to 2:35 pm (this is the time that students are able to be on school grounds with teacher supervision). If families need to get a hold of their child, please call 902-405-0337. Cell phones are to be kept in book bags, and book bags are to be kept in their locker, their designated space in their classroom or their cubby. We have noticed that without their phones, students are engaging more in conversation with one another, and being more physically active. This is something that we would like to continue to foster.

We recognize that not all students and families agree with our no cell phone rule during certain times in the day. We feel strongly that by not having cellphones out, there are fewer opportunities for students to take photos or videos of others and then use/misuse them on social media platforms. The no cell phone expectation is one way we support our students in protecting their privacy and confidentiality and it reduces the opportunity for cyber-bullying. We ask that our families work with us by supporting this expectation at West Bedford School.

WBS Cafeteria: Our cafeteria is now open to all students at West Bedford School PP-8. We strongly encourage online ordering to help reduce the wait times for food. Please ensure that you are selecting your child's teacher, as lunches will be delivered to the classroom for students in PP to Grade 3. If your child changed classes in September/early October, please ensure that you have the new teacher selected.

One of the expectations in the cafeteria is that students remain seated while they are eating and socializing. Students can get up to throw things out and to use the washroom, but for safety reasons we are asking students to find a spot and stay there for the 20-25 minutes they have to eat and relax.

Another expectation for students is that they clean up after themselves. There has been a lot of food and garbage left on tables and thrown to the floor or around the cafeteria. This has been disappointing for us as a school community, as we know that food insecurity is prevalent within our greater community. Please remind your child to clean up after themselves when they are done eating.

Morning Arrival- We understand that there may be days when it takes longer to get to school. Arriving prior to the 8:25 am start time, however, sets students up for success. It allows students time to get settled for their day, to socialize with classmates and to touch base with a teacher, if needed. Students in Primary to Grade 8 should plan to arrive between 8:05 to 8:24 am and enter through their assigned coloured door. Please know if students ride a bus and the bus arrives after 8:25 am they will not be marked late.

Pre-Primary students arriving by bus will have supervision when they arrive, but for students being dropped off, supervision begins at 8:15 am. We have been advised that in September the Pre-Primary program adjusted the time for walkers to start entering from the PP playground area to 8:15 am. This gives the PP educators 10 minutes to support with bussing then make their way down to receive the walkers. If children in PP have a sibling in the school, the sibling can take the PP child to the meeting area. Additionally, where PP does not have an attendance policy, parents can opt to delay their child's drop off as well. Please reach out to your child's Pre-Primary teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

School Advisory Council- The next SAC Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 21st from 6:30-7:30 pm at WBS.

Online Demographic Forms- The portal to submit the demographic form to update important information continues to be open. This form was emailed to families. The form includes phone numbers, email addresses, emergency contacts, and medical information. This online demographic form replaces the paper copy of the registration form. Please submit this form with any updates ASAP. The school uses the information we have on file for many reasons. If your information is not up to date then you may not receive our memos, report cards, or other information. The media consent is also in the demographic form. Without an updated consent

students will not be able to have their photo in the yearbook or any other social media platforms.

Nut Free Building- *This is VERY IMPORTANT!* We have a number of students who have life threatening allergies to all types of nuts (Tree nuts and ground nuts). We ask that all food that is sent to school is nut free.

Scent Free Building- We ask that scented products (deodorant, perfume, lotion, etc) not be worn while in the building. We have several students and staff who will have a severe allergic reaction to scents.

Athletics: Our athletic teams are up and running. Our volleyball teams are underway and prior to January, basketball will begin. If you have questions around any of the sports teams, please contact Emily Bell at ebell@hrce.ca.

Upcoming dates

November 13- Remembrance Day observance (no school)

November 17- Assessment and Evaluation Day- No school for students

November 21- SAC meeting 6:30-7:30 pm

November 23- No school for students- Professional Development in the morning and family-teacher meetings in the afternoon and evening

November 28- Report cards for Term 1 will be distributed

December 4- Professional Development Day (No School for Students)

December 13th- Holiday concert P-3 at 10 am and 12:30 pm

December 14th- Holiday concert P-3 at 10 am and 12:30 pm

December 15th- Holiday concert snow day

December 20th- Last Day of School

January 2, 2024- First Day of School after Winter Break