

Westmount Elementary School

January Newsletter 2018

Welcome back Westmount families. We hope you enjoyed a restful break. We are back in full swing at Westmount. Looking forward to continued learning and collaboration in 2018!

Reminders:

January 12; Maritime Dance Performance, 1:30pm

January 29th; WSA, 7pm.

Parents/Guardians & Visitors to the School: REMINDER!!

Any person visiting the school for any purpose must enter through the building's main door and report to the main office. Please be aware that parents are not to accompany students to their classroom upon entry in the morning. Please ensure that you say good bye at the entry doors.

Safe-Arrival (Number: 902 493-5169)

Safe Arrival volunteers phone the homes of students who are absent each day. The safe arrival calls begin around 9:00am and are usually finished by 10:00. To save these volunteers time it is extremely helpful if you notify your child's teacher if you know your child will be absent. On the occasions that this is not possible please call the school to report that your child will be absent.

****NEW** You may also report that your child will be absent via email! westmountsafearrival@gmail.com THIS IF FOR ATTENDANCE ONLY. PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ANY OTHER MESSAGES.**

Guidelines for School and/or Bus Cancellation Due to Inclement Weather

****Westmount is part of the Citadel High Family of Schools****

Student safety is the first priority of the *Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB)* when making school cancellation decisions. HRSB staff begins to gather information from various sources beginning at 4:30 am. Staff consults with Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) staff on road conditions, local weather services, and Stock Transportation. By 5:30 am, staff makes a recommendation to the Superintendent based on the information gathered. If it is safe to have students on the roads and sidewalks, then schools will be open. If not, all or some schools may be closed depending on the weather and road conditions in different areas of the board.

Principal – Lesley MacInnis
Vice Principal –
Tom Cleary
Administrative Assistant –
Ann D'Eon

6700 Edward Arab Avenue
Halifax, NS, B3L 2E1

Wmount Phone – 902 493-5164
Safe Arrival – 902 493-5169
Wmount Fax – 902 493-5168
Website –
westmount.ednet.ns.ca
Email – wmount@hrsb.ns.ca



Remember to check the website at

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for this newsletter and the most up-to-date information

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Parents/ guardians; winter is coming; do you have a childcare plan in place in the event of a school closure? Do you know what *Family of Schools* your child's school belongs to? Parents/ guardians always have the right to keep their child home from school if they believe that the travelling conditions are unsuitable.

For **full day closures** of all or some schools, the decision will be announced as close to 6:00 am as possible. Announcements will be:

- Posted on the HRSB's website (www.hrsb.ca);
- Posted on the HRSB's Twitter account (HRSB_Official);
- Recorded on the HRSB's School Cancellation Information Line 464-INFO (4636);
- Shared with subscribers to the board's email and text notification system; and
- Communicated to local media outlets.

If conditions deteriorate throughout the day, the Superintendent may **close schools early** when weather or road conditions are considered to be a threat to the safety of students. In the event of an **early school closure**, the announcement will be made by 11 am. School busses will be dispatched to schools **two hours** earlier than their normal regularly scheduled pick-up for the afternoon dismissal, **walking students** will be dismissed at the start of their regular lunch time.



NEW! On school days when weather conditions exist that it is not safe to open schools at the regularly scheduled time, but it is predicted that conditions will improve, a **2 hour delayed opening** may be considered. Delayed openings would be considered when a severe weather event has concluded but snow clearing or other operations require additional time. Delayed opening may also be considered when the physical plant is experiencing an issue (power, water) and additional time is required to prepare the facility for opening.

In the event of a delayed opening the following will apply:

- School opening will be delayed 2 hours
- School bus pick up times will be delayed 2 hours
- Excel child care will be cancelled for the morning only
- Pre-Primary opening will be delayed 2 hours
- Each school will alter morning schedules to best address their timetables.
- Lunch times will not change
- Afternoon class schedules will not change
- Dismissal time will not change.

Lost & Found

All items from the Lost & Found bins will be on display on Friday, January 12th after school and all day Monday, January 15th. Students will have the opportunity to look for lost items. If you would also like to look through the items you are welcome at either of these times. Anything that remains at the end of the day on the 15th will be donated.

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Looking Ahead...

- February 8th; Westmount Family Dance
- February 19th; Heritage Day, No School
- February 20th & 22nd; Rocks & Rings
- February 26th; SAC 6pm, WSA 7pm

Parent Information Session regarding Primary French Immersion Program

Ecole St. Catherine's elementary school offers early French immersion for students living in the Westmount school area. They will be holding an information session for families with students starting school September 2018 who are interested in the French Immersion Program.

When: Tuesday February 6, 2018

Where: Ecole St. Catherine's Elementary School, 3299 Connolly St. Halifax

Location-Library room

Time- 6:30 – 7:30 pm.

Presentations by school staff members; teachers and administration. This meeting is designed to give a brief overview of the Early French Immersion Program. Staff will be available to answer questions about the French Immersion program.



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