



STORM NEWS

Warman Community Middle School

January 2014

Happy New Year! As we settle into a new year at WCMS, we have lots to be proud of and lots to look forward to. Our teachers continue to engage in various learning opportunities related to math and assessment and our students are benefitting from the collaboration happening on a regular basis. There have been many changes this school year for staff and students alike but our teachers have worked particularly hard to manage new reporting systems, new building issues and new teaching strategies. As we reflect on our work so far, we have much to celebrate.

We were pleased to welcome Brian Trainor to our school to speak to students and parents regarding cyber-bullying and what parents can do to help students navigate the internet safely. A blog post included in this newsletter highlights many of the same ideas he shared, if you were unable to make the presentation on January 9th. Thanks to our SCC for sponsoring and organizing this event.

Our next SCC meeting is on January 23rd in the parent room at WCMS. All school community members are welcome to attend or if you have a comment or concern you'd like this group to address, you can contact Tracie Risling (Chair) at tracielee@sasktel.net. Also, if you have not "liked" the *Warman Community Middle School*—SCC Facebook page, it is a great way to communicate with other parents and community members about what's going on at the school.

We hope you and your family had the opportunity to relax and rejuvenate over the holidays and wish you the best in the new year!

WCMS Admin Team

*"Some people
dream of success
while others wake
up and work hard
at it."*

- Unknown



Mrs. William's class in CPR

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Students from 6 Fast engaged in learning (and dancing!) with Mr Vikse

Panel Discussion for Parents

The Prairie Spirit School Division is pleased to provide parents with the opportunity to attend a panel discussion called "Do Grades Matter?" on **Monday, February 3rd in the WCMS Theatre at 7:00 pm**. Guest panelists will be:

Sandra Herbst (CEO of connect2learning, noted system leader, author, coach, and consultant)

Janet McVittie (U of S)

Michelle Prytula (U of S)

John Kuzbik (Director of Education, PSSD)

Lori Jeschke (Superintendent of Education, PSSD)

This will be a great opportunity to engage in dialogue with experts in the field of assessment and learning. All are welcome to attend!

Project Face-Off

Project Faceoff is a drug awareness program where players of the Saskatoon Blades with assistance from the R.C.M.P and the Saskatoon Police Service give presentations to students. For the past nine years Blades players have been helping students at schools in the Saskatoon area. Players will be at WCMS on January 21st to present to Grade 6 and 7 students.

Power

Announcement

As a part of our effort to continue to improve communication, we will be launching "Power Announcement" on Monday, January 13th. This auto-dialing program will provide parents with emails, phone calls and texts when a student is marked absent on a given day. Our default will be to have the system call, text and email primary and secondary contacts at 9:45 each morning if a student is missing from class and the office has not been notified. If you would prefer that any of these modes not be used (for example, if you just want to receive a text and not be phoned and emailed) just phone the office and Mrs. Kirby or Mrs. Black can update your information accordingly. As with the implementation of any new technology, we expect a few glitches along the way and we thank you in advance for your understanding and feedback as we move forward.



Bus Cancellation Information

Buses will not run should the temperature be -40 degrees or colder **with wind chill** or if road conditions are considered dangerous.

On days when buses aren't running it will be posted by 7:00 a.m. on the Prairie Spirit School Division website (www.spiritsd.ca) and advertised on various radio stations.

Cancellation announcements are provided to the following radio stations: The Bull 92.9; C95; News Talk 650 CKOM and CJWW 600.

If any or all buses do not run, parents need to know that **urban bus students will not receive a phone call.** If weather is such that you are not sure if buses are running you must check the Prairie Spirit School Division website.

If buses do not run in the morning because of cold weather or unsafe roads, they **will not run** after school that day, even if conditions have changed.



New Year's Greetings from the SRC!

We hope you all had a chance to relax, refresh and renew over the Christmas break. As we welcome a new year, the SRC is busy planning more activities to show leadership and community within our school.

On January 22 we will host our first Spirit Day of 2014.....Celebrity Day!

Dress as your favourite rock star, TV or movie star, superhero or book character....anyone you think is a celebrity.

Also, from now until the middle of June, we will be collecting any spare change for the We Create Change program. We are asking any student or family who can donate some change over the rest of the year to help to build a school in Kenya! Classes will have school house piggy banks placed in them and the collection may begin! We thank you also for the generous donations before Christmas that helped us aid victims of the typhoon in the Philippines. We raised over \$500 to send to the Red Cross. Thanks WCMS students, staff and community!

SRC

The Top Five Things Parents Need To Know About Kids and Social Media

Posted: 12/13/2013 5:43 pm

Times have changed and digital connectivity has become the standard for most of us. Online access, smartphone technology and a 24/7 interactivity has come to be the rule, not the exception. We love our technology and the many benefits that it affords us. Is it any wonder then, that our kids are as addicted to this very technology as we are? We can't really blame them when we find out that they're "tweeting," "liking" and "Instagramming" almost every aspect of their daily lives, much to our chagrin.

Our kids are on social media whether we like it or not. As disturbing as this reality may be to many parents, it's a truth that must be accepted and dealt with if we're going to maintain any control over what our kids are doing. Facebook, Twitter and many other social media platforms may indeed caution that the minimum age for participation is 13, but we all know of many kids who are much younger who have profiles on these and similar social media sites.

As a matter of fact, it's sometimes the parents themselves who open up their child's Facebook or Twitter accounts for them (in some cases pre-birth). We've certainly relaxed the standards for our kids, perhaps in part because we ourselves as parents are as enamoured of social media as are our younger counterparts. It's difficult to say "do as I say, not as I do," especially in this digitally-connected day and age.

Because of this, there are some important considerations that parents need to consider regarding their kids' social media use.

Social Media and Kids: The Top 5 Things That Parents Need To Know

1) Understand the Medium -- First things first: You can't possibly help or monitor what your child is doing without yourself feeling comfortable with the platform upon which the child is operating. Know what your kids are dealing with. Don't get Facebook and can't figure out Twitter? Get help by enlisting a trusted friend or family member who can teach you the ropes. Learn how to navigate the popular sites with ease and feel comfortable with the format, lingo and rules of how others on the site interact. By doing so, you'll be much better prepared to deal with any issues or situations that your child may encounter online.

2) Set Rules of Engagement -- Okay, so you're fine with your child being on Facebook or Twitter. That fact has been established. If you're indeed a parent who has given permission for your son or daughter to be one of the more popular social media platforms, now's the time to sit down and discuss the rules of engagement. This means asking questions and setting expectations.

Is there a particular site that you will absolutely not allow your child to visit? Then let her know. Is there a time frame within which she can interact online on these sites every day? Make sure she's aware of it and agrees. The rules should be clear and everyone should be in agreement. With instances of inappropriate languages, images and cyberbullying occurring on social media daily, this step is especially important.

3) Enforce Privacy Settings -- Make sure that your kids understand that anything posted online is equivalent to putting the same personal information up on a billboard for the world to see. A venture into the world of Facebook can mean a lot, and more than one young person has found out the hard way about how making posts and pictures "public" can have long-term negative effects on one's reputation.

4) Use Technology to Your Advantage -- If you're really stressed about your kids' activities online, there are tools that can help you to monitor and in some cases block your child from social media use on certain sites. Just as there have been parental controls for video games for some time now through such organizations as the Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB), there is now an option for parents who want better control over their kids' social media activity. FamilyControls is one app that allows parents to control their child's social media behaviour over Twitter, Facebook and Instagram from one integrated, simple platform.

5) Lead By Example -- The apple doesn't fall far from the tree and no more true is this idiom than in the case of social media. If your kids see you jostling to get the best shot of the most mundane moments of life, just so that you can post a picture of it on your Instagram account, they'll follow suit. If you post inappropriate images or comments on social media, they will be seen by your children, guaranteed. Limit and moderate your own social media activity so that your kids realize that there's a time and a place for everything.

- http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/samantha-kempjackson/social-media-and-kids-the_b_4439556.html?view=print&comm_ref=false



Indoor Track

Indoor track for grades 4-7 will begin in January. All students interested in practicing sprinting and running in relays should attend practices. Practices will be Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:00-8:40. Track meets are at the Field House across from the UofS campus. The first track meet will be the U of S Sled Dog Meet Jan. 24th/25th.

Coaching this year are Mrs. Baudais, Mrs. Williams, Ms. Russell, and Mr. Bachmeier.

Fish Club

A group of students have been using their math and teamwork skills to get our 125 gallon fish tank up and running. These students will be responsible for the maintenance of the fish (to be arriving in the next couple of weeks) and the tank throughout the year and they've demonstrated great problem solving and teamwork skills so far. Thanks for taking the initiative!

Congratulations to Drama Club

WCMS students were proud to present "Free" in our brand new theatre on December 13th and 14th. Led by Mr. Abbott, this group worked hard to prepare for this presentation throughout the fall. The final productions were a wonderful way for students to showcase their skills and work together as a team. Our entire school community wishes to thank Mr. Abbott for his tireless efforts to make this happen and congratulate students on a wonderful show!

Contact Us

Give us a call or email any time with questions, concerns or suggestions.

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**Visit us on the
web at [http://
blogs.spiritsd.
ca/wcms/](http://blogs.spiritsd.ca/wcms/)**



Saskatoon and Area

ENGINEERING FOR KIDS

NOW SERVING WARMAN
CAMPS / CLASSES / PARTIES / STEM ENRICHMENT

INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING CLASS FOR AGES 7-11

Industrial engineers design machinery, parts, and systems that help to promote a steady workflow and minimize many different types of economical waste.

During these weekly Industrial Engineering classes, your child will learn assembly line processes, cooperative building, and simple machinery through hands-on activities. Sometimes we'll even make a yummy treat!

Wednesdays: February 5th, 12th, 26th, March 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th, and April 2nd (no class on Feb. 19th)

Time: 3:30pm - 4:30 p.m.

Warman Middle School

\$200 for 8 classes.

ABOUT US

Engineering For Kids offers STEM enrichment for children ages 4 -14 through a variety of camps, classes, birthday parties, and clubs.

All of our programs are dedicated to teaching engineering concepts and methods through fun, hands-on activities. We continually inspire the next generation of engineers!

To Register, call **306-978-4186** or visit: **engineeringforkids.com/saskatoon**

