

# STORM NEWS

Warman Community Middle School

October 2015

Many staff and parents have recently commented at how quickly we have turned the page on the first month of the 2015-2016 school year. It has been a very successful start to our third year at WCMS. Our school is a busy place in the classrooms and in several fall extracurricular programs that are now underway. Students and staff have particularly enjoyed the opening of the north side playground and we especially appreciate our caretaking and facilities staff for all their work in getting that opened.

On October 6<sup>th</sup> we will be kicking off our annual fall fundraiser which will continue through October 19<sup>th</sup>. More details on the fundraiser can be found within our newsletter and more information will be emailed home in the coming week. We are making a significant change this year moving away from the magazine subscription drive and trying a gift card program to major retailers based on community feedback. We hope this change will be well received. We depend on this annual fall fundraiser to operate our extra-curricular programs and hope that we can count on your support once again this year.

Developing effective literacy practices continues to be our main school goal this year. Explicit teaching of core comprehension strategies and opportunities for students to practice those strategies as well as conferring directly with students about their reading and thinking are the two specific targets we have for our own learning and work with students.

We want to recognize and thank our School Community Council for their recent donation that assisted our school in the purchase of additional classroom library resources. Our school is so fortunate to have a group of such dedicated and passionate folks working for the betterment of our school and learning for students. Hoping we enjoy a beautiful month of October....

WCMS Admin Team



Hat & Moustache Day!

"Take every  
CHANCE you get  
in LIFE, because  
some things only  
happen ONCE."

- Unknown

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Ms. Hoffman's Grade 6 Class

## Terry Fox News

This Just In...

WCMS has raised \$2604.45 for the Terry Fox Foundation. Thanks to all the teachers, support staff, students and parents who made this possible. What a great way to recognize the heroic accomplishments of Terry Fox. Mr. Fast will have to change his hair color as a result of the school-wide GOAL being met. Maybe Blue and Green???

"Even if I don't finish, we need others to continue. It's got to keep going without me." Terry Fox

## Student Conferences –November 3 & 5

A reminder to mark your calendars for Student Involved Conferences on November 3 & 5. Students will attend these conferences and be a part of leading them in various ways. The online scheduler for making your conference appointments will be activated on Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. We will send a reminder notice home through Power Announcement prior to opening the scheduler. We look forward to seeing you and having your child talk to you about their learning and growth.

## School Clothing Update

We had a tremendous response this fall by including the order form in the registration package and had a record fall for sales of our sharp looking STORM T-shirts, shorts and sweats. We did run out of several sizes but have reordered. We expect delivery in the next week or two and homeroom teachers will get those items to those who are waiting for them. Sorry for the inconvenience and thank you for your patience.

## Noon Supervisors Needed

We are in need of noon supervisors.

This is a paid position and we are looking to fill slots from 11:57-12:52.

Please contact Lisa Mason at 306-683-3000 if you have questions or are able to help.



Gardening Girls

No School for  
Students

October 12th



## Nursing Students

Fall greetings! We would like to thank WCMS in continuing a partnership with the Saskatchewan Collaborative Bachelor of Science in Nursing! We have five students, in their fourth year of the nursing degree program, present in the school approx. 2 days/week until the beginning of December. The course, Population Health and Community Partnerships, includes a community practicum in which Carri Hadland, RN (instructor) and her students, Sam Karkut, Rachel Preeyapong, Ranelle Braun, Emily Krause, and Afroditi Papageorgiou, will be working on a variety of activities, primarily with the grade 5's that fit within this population health focus. Feel free to pop in and say hi! We are located in the parent room across from the main office.

## Warman Community Library

As users of the Warman Community Library, student patrons are responsible for adhering to Wheatland Regional Library policies regarding overdue and lost materials.

Students are issued a receipt with every resource they check out of the Warman Community Library. You can check on the status of you/your child's account by visiting the library, calling the WCL at 306-933-4387 or logging on to [wheatland.sk.ca](http://wheatland.sk.ca) with the library card number. The pin number is defaulted to the last 4 digits of your phone number.

**Library Fines:** WCMS students are charged fines for overdue and missing books. Please check your child's account regularly to ensure they are returning books on time.

You should receive emails from the library when your child's requested books come in or when their books are approaching the due date or are overdue. If you have not been receiving these messages, please check with the library staff to ensure we have the correct email address on record.

## School Community Council – Pizza Sale

The SCC will be conducting a Pizza Lunch Sale on October 29<sup>th</sup> (Grades 4 & 6) and October 30 (Grade 5 & 7). Order forms will be sent home on Monday, October 19 and must be returned to the homeroom teacher by Thursday, October 22.



### Family Health Information

- ◆ [Seasonal Flu Information](#)
- ◆ [Trick or Treat](#)
- ◆ [When to Stay Home From School](#)
- ◆ [Save that Smile](#)

Find more family health info at:  
[www.saskatoonhealthregion.ca](http://www.saskatoonhealthregion.ca)  
(Search: school newsletter inserts)

**HEALTHY STUDENTS = BETTER LEARNERS**



*Population and Public Health*

**Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>**  
**Dress up**  
**for Halloween**



## GAMES CLUB!

WCMS is starting up a Games Club for grades 4 and 5 students. Our games club will run during noon hour recess every Thursdays. Each week a different grade 4 or 5 class will be invited to come and play board games. Students may choose to participate or head outside for recess. To help build our library of games, we are currently accepting donations of games and puzzles with all their pieces appropriate for ages 8-13. If you have a game that meets that criteria you no longer need, we'd love to have it! Please send donations to school with your child. Thanks, we're looking forward to seeing some grade 4 and 5 kids at Games Club!

### PICTURE RETAKES

OCTOBER 26



## SRC

The SRC has selected its members and is ready to have a FANTASTIC school year! We would like to thank everyone who applied this year. There were over 80 applications!

Here are your new SRC members:

Griffin H	Mikayla D
Kadence R	Emily F
Alena T	Dayton P
Rylee M	Davyn M
Emily M	Riya M
Samantha W	Raina C
Leah M	Matt H
Maia H	Alexa B
Jade P	Erin E
Taya S	Josh C
Maia M	Logan C

The SRC would like to kick off the year with a Hat and Gum day on September 24th. The gum will be sold throughout the day at 25 cents a piece. We are also supporting the Terry Fox run on September 30<sup>th</sup>. All families are asked to donate 5 dollars!

## Grade 6 Soccer Teams

Grade 6 Storm Soccer teams are on the go. Our season started in early September and will go until the final tournament on October 16th. The Girls team will be hosting the final tourney at Arthur Neufeld and the Boys will travel to VCA.

Go STORM!!

Storm Coaches..

## Notes from the Music Room

Greetings from the new music teacher at WCMS! I have been enjoying teaching all of the Grade 4-6 classes as we make music, practice skills, and listen to and write about music.

Extracurricular music groups will be starting in October. Choir will start rehearsing soon, and we will prepare Remembrance Day music and music for the holiday season. My plan right now is to start band in the second half of the year working towards a school concert and talent show. There will be other drop-in music making opportunities throughout the year at noon hour.

If you have any questions about the WCMS music program or how your child is doing in class, please don't hesitate to call me at the school or email me at [blake.cumming@spiritsd.ca](mailto:blake.cumming@spiritsd.ca).

## Grade 7 Boys' Basketball Coach Needed

WCMS is seeking a motivated and qualified individual (or individuals) from the community to coach our Grade 7 boys' basketball team. The season runs from mid-November to the end of January. More information can be obtained by contacting Greg Tebay, Principal at 306-683-3000.

### Spooky SRC October News

Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup>

#### Carved Pumpkin Contest

- bring your carved pumpkin art from home
- judging will occur on Friday



## Special Education:

Saskatchewan Council for Exceptional Children is hosting a workshop Friday, October 30th @ the German Cultural Centre 9-3:30 on Mindfulness in the Classroom and Zones of Regulation. The focus is on self-regulation and the development of a positive environment.

### Mindfulness

Ask children what they did today in school and many will reply, "Nothing." Frequently, students are not focused on the task at hand and do not remember what they did throughout the day. They were not present in the moment. Having the ability to focus on one task at a time is a skill that students must learn in order to be successful. In this 90 minutes session you will learn what mindfulness is and how it can make an impact in your classroom, resource room and entire school. From tips for creating a calmer learning environment to learning about different programs to seeing the latest ideas with technology, you will walk away with a number of ideas to help your students in becoming more mindful. Presenter: Jonathan Koch, Consultant: Learning Disabilities, Saskatoon Public Schools

### Zones of Regulation

The Zones of Regulation© is a curriculum developed by Leah Kuypers. With a focus on self-regulation, sensory processing, emotional regulation, and executive function, this curriculum draws from The Alert Program©, The Incredible 5 Point Scale, and Social Thinking© concepts to provide direct instruction in managing sensory input and responding in 'expected' ways. The session will provide a thorough background on the foundations and philosophy of the program, which is essential for its successful implementation. The Zones of Regulation© was designed with particular learners in mind such as those with ADHD, Autism Spectrum Disorders, and behavioral challenges, but the strategies benefit all students.

## Kids Plus Accident Insurance

Prairie Spirit provides accident insurance through Industrial Alliance Insurance that provides insurance cover if your child has an accident at school during the school day. Children are also covered if the accident occurs at a time when they are involved in any extra-curricular activities before or after school hours, including school trips. In the unfortunate circumstances of needing this insurance, the school will need to be notified of the accident immediately so that they can submit an incident report to the insurance company and provide the parent or guardian with a claim form. The parent or guardian will need to pay any expenses initially, then ask the appropriate medical authority to complete and sign the form. The parent will then submit the form directly to Alliance Insurance. The claim process is between the parent or guardian and the insurance company.

## Communications Protocol for Parents/Guardians

It is only natural that parents/guardians are going to occasionally have questions or concerns. At Warman Community Middle School (and in our school division) we follow a communications protocol that has proven to be very effective. When there are questions or concerns the first step is to talk to your child's teacher as they are the one who knows your child best. We know from experience that when this first step occurs most questions are resolved at this point. In the event that a resolution cannot be found at this first step, the next step would be to contact the school administration for support. Please use your child's homeroom teacher (or the specific teacher involved) as your first step when you have a question or concern.

## Contact Us

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

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(306) 683-3000

patty.kirby@spiritsd.ca

**Visit us on the  
web at :**

[http://  
blogs.spiritsd.ca/  
wcms/](http://blogs.spiritsd.ca/wcms/)

### Follow the Blog

Click on the "follow" tab at the bottom of our blog (<http://blogs.spiritsd.ca/wcms/>) if you would like to receive an email each time a post is added.

## Annual Fundraiser Launch

WCMS will be launching its major annual fundraiser to support extra-curricular programming at our school on October 6. In response to parent feedback we are not doing a magazine subscription drive, and instead partnering with the FundScrip fundraising program. FundScrip is an innovative program that lets you earn cash rebates for your organization based on things you buy everyday like groceries, gas and other household items.

Every month you spend hundreds of dollars for things like food, gas, clothing, pharmacy, restaurants, electronics, home renovations, department stores, and so on. All you have to do is pay for some or all of your purchases using GIFT CARDS bought at face value from FundScrip participating retailers and a percentage of every gift card purchased is contributed to your group's fundraising efforts. Most fundraisers ask you to take out your checkbook to buy things you don't want or need....

### **Fundscrip costs you nothing!**

You make your usual visit to the grocery store. You fill your cart and go to the check out. Instead of paying with cash or a debit card, you use a gift card that you purchased through our group. It costs you nothing extra but you just earned money for your group.

Ask family & friend to support our group? We encourage everyone to invite their family members, friends, co-workers and neighbors to participate in FundScrip as well. After all, they probably buy groceries and gas, just like you do. You could give them an order form and they can order at the same time.

The gift cards come preloaded and are available in various denominations. As you use the cards, the value of the purchase is automatically deducted from the value stored on the card. If you don't use the entire amount, the balance remains on the card and can be used for future purchases.

On October 6<sup>th</sup>, students will be coming home with a Seller's Package. Each package contains:

- Introductory information on the FundScrip program
- Order form booklets (information for sellers & purchasers on the front page with the order form within the booklet. Each student will be given three with more available upon request.
- Students will turn their orders into their home room teacher on each collection day to be



eligible for a number of prizes and rewards.

- Collection days will be Thursday, October 8, Tuesday, October 13, and Monday, October 19.

Students will be eligible for a number of incentives including sellers' draws at each collection date, class awards for participation and a special set of awards as we meet certain school wide fundraising goals. More details in the introductory information coming home on October 6.

**What won't our staff members do for WCMS students?!?!?**



## Technology at WCMS

There are many different technology based tools that can support learning at school. At WCMS, students are welcome to bring their own devices for classroom use. Prairie Spirit School Division has recently secured the use of Office 365 (a cloud based version of Microsoft Office) for all students and staff and some teachers are beginning to use this with students in the class. We wanted to provide some information around our BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) procedures.



### **FAQ**

#### **What type of device may my child bring to school?**

Students may use any device that will allow them to access the internet. For example: laptop, Chrome book, Surface, iPad, iPod, Smartphone. Something that is not too heavy for the child to carry or too cumbersome to have on a desk. A case to protect the device is essential.

#### **What else should we consider when purchasing a device?**

1. Anti-Virus Software
2. Theft and hazard insurance

#### **Does my child have to bring in a device? What if a family cannot afford to buy technology for their child?**

No, it is entirely optional. Students who do not BYOD will have access to devices purchased by the school when they are required for classroom purposes.

**What if my child's device is stolen or damaged?  
What recourse can I take?**

Students bring electronic communication devices to school at their own risk, just like any other personal items. The school will not be held responsible if an electronic device or other item is lost, stolen or damaged. In some cases registering the device with your home insurance will cover lost or stolen items. Please check with your insurance provider to determine your level of coverage.



**Is it required that my child use the school wireless connection? Can they use their own 3G or 4G service?**

Students with a personally owned device are encouraged to use the school's public wireless network to access provincially licensed subscriptions and ministry owned multimedia resources. Students that choose to use the non-filtered 3G or 4G connection from their device provider should be reminded that inappropriate behavior at school holds the same consequences regardless of the connection or who owns the device.

**My child is bringing a device to school for instructional purposes. Will they have access to things they normally do with district equipment?**

Your child will have access to any of the web-based software the school currently uses (databases, library search tools, cloud services, email etc.) Software may run differently on different devices for varying reasons.

**How will you handle students accessing inappropriate websites during school?**

Students are held accountable by the school's Acceptable Use Policy, the school student handbook and student behavior policies. Students connecting to the school network will be able to access the web in a more secure, safe and resource-rich manner.

**How will my son's/daughter's device be used in the classroom?**

At the teacher's discretion, students will utilize their devices to access information, research, solve problems, collaborate, communicate and engage in the curriculum.

## SCC Book Bin

We would like to send a big THANK YOU to the SCC, who donated \$1000 to purchase books for classroom libraries. Each grade group selected a theme, and they now have a bin of high-interest books that will circulate between all the classrooms. Students are already digging through the bins and enjoying some great books! THANKS FOR SUPPORTING LITERACY AT WCMS!



The Grade 4s and 7s couldn't wait to get their hands on all these new books! The Graphic Novel Bin is perfect because it has something for all readers in the class!



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"Don't just read the easy stuff. You may be entertained by it, but you will never grow from it."

-unknown

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## Do you have books at home that you would like to donate to our classroom libraries for students to read?

Most Wanted Books for Classroom Libraries		
<p><b>Award Winners</b></p> <p><b>Newberry Medal/Honor Books:</b> including The One and Only Ivan, Doll Bones, The Underneath, Rules, Criss Cross, The Tale of Despereaux, Hoot, Because of Winn-Dixie, Holes, The Giver, Charlotte’s Web, etc.</p> <p><b>Caldecott Medal/Honor Books:</b> Award Winning Picture Books, including The Red Book, A Sick Day for Amos McGee, Casey at the Bat, No, David!, etc.</p> <p><b>Student Choice Awards:</b> Wonder, Out of My Mind, Counting by 7’s, The Fault in our Stars, Oragami Yoda Series, Divergent Series</p>		
<p><b>Great Authors</b></p> <p>Roald Dahl Kate DiCamillo Deborah Ellis Cornelia Funke Anthony Horowitz Gordon Korman Kenneth Oppel James Patterson Gary Paulsen Rick Riordan Louis Sachar Jerry Spinelli Arthur Slade</p>	<p><b>Popular Series</b></p> <p>Diary of a Wimpy Kid Dork Diaries Harry Potter The Hunger Games I Survived Percy Jackson and the Lightening Thief Skeleton Creek and Trackers</p>	<p><b>Graphic Novels</b></p> <p>Amulet Baby Mouse Big Nate Bone Books by Raina Telgemeier Lunch Lady Squish Superheroes/Action</p>
<p><b>Non-Fiction</b></p> <p>Guinness Book of World Records DK/Eyewitness Poetry Collections such as Shel Silverstein Biographies of Inspirational and Interesting People National Geographic Ripley’s Believe it or Not</p> <p><b>Educational books that teach and inspire deeper thinking – most requested themes include outdoor adventures, war, animals, and historical events.</b></p>		
<p><b>Picture Books...yes PICTURE Books!</b></p> <p><b>Teachers and students use picture books to teach and practice Reading Strategies. Books by authors such as Jan Brett and Robert Munsch (those targeted at around a Grade 3 level) are ideal.</b></p>		

If you have any gently used books you are willing to part with, please send them to school with your child or drop off at the front office for Mrs. Mason.

Thank you for supporting Literacy at WCMS!