

STORM NEWS

Warman Community Middle School

June 2014

Message from Admin

Wow, it is hard to believe that we are publishing our June newsletter and looking at the last few weeks of our first school year at WCMS. June promises to be a busy month with track and field meets, field trips and other end of the year activities. A big bouquet of acknowledgment to all of the staff and students who were involved in the first ever Talent Night at WCMS in early May. Not only were the performers great, but we are so proud of the leadership that our students showed in MCing the event, running the back stage operations and operating the sound and light systems. It was a great show and we were pleased to see so many parents and families out to see the show.

In the month of May our school joined with others to present our Learning for Life story and shared information about our school goal to support the social and emotional growth of students through the CPR program and the routine of beginning each day with a morning meeting. We shared this story with other schools, members of the school division team and Board of Education, and our School Community Council. The presentation was made by members of our administration, staff and student body. A significant takeaway for me was in the comments of one of our WCMS students who told the audience that our school took a risk in developing this program and that he believed that students were thankful we did. We look forward to continuing to start each day next year with a CPR morning meeting and strive to continue to support and develop the social and emotional skills of our students and continue to build a sense of community in classrooms and in our school.

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A multi-grade game of Red Rover!

“Do not let what you
cannot do interfere
with what you can do.”

- John Wooden

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Admin Update Cont...

We have almost completed the staffing process for the upcoming year. We'd like to welcome to our staff Clark Bymoen (Grade 7 homeroom/PAA), Brandi Kelsie (SERT), Kathryn Korman (Grade 6 homeroom for Erin Boyle), Laura McLeod (Grade 6 homeroom for Paris Burgess) and Victoria Dyck (Grade 7 homeroom). We would like to thank Michelle Russell and Evan Folden for their excellent contributions to our school and wish them the best as they move to positions at Valley Manor School (Grade 8) and Warman High School (Grade 8) respectively.

This message must conclude with a huge thank you to the staff, students and parents/guardians of WCMS. It has been a colossal year moving into a new building, working with the project team as the finishing touches continue to be addressed, and most importantly running a school that provided quality learning experiences for our students. It is a year we will all be able to look back on for years to come and everyone's dedication, hard work, patience and flexibility has been a big part of our success. In terms of our building project, we are hopeful that we will be able to return to school in September with a building that is finally finished! At the present time, work to the inside is pretty much complete with only occasional minor deficiencies needing to be addressed. If you have been around our school year you will see that extensive work is being done on the north side of the site where an irrigated sports field and softball diamond is being installed. There will also be work commencing shortly on the south side of the school year to finish off some of the landscaping and to reshape some of the grounds to provide for improved drainage. We look forward to coming back in the fall and having everything looking good!

On behalf of our staff, thank you again for your support and enthusiasm through this first year at WCMS. Have a terrific summer!

WCMS Admin Team



Talent Show Performers

Progress Reports

Students will receive their final progress reports at the end of the last day of classes on Wednesday, June 25. Students unable to attend on the last day of classes should make prior arrangements with the homeroom teacher to have the final progress report sent home with a sibling or friend, provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope so we can mail it to you, or make arrangements to pick up at the school office on Thursday, June 26 or the morning of Friday, June 27.

Final Day of Classes

A reminder that the final day of classes/ student attendance will be Wednesday, June 25th. This will also be the last day of bus transportation for the school year. Students should ensure that they have taken all their belongings and materials home by the end of the last day of classes as these materials will not be kept over the summer.

FALL REGISTRATION

If your child will **NOT** be attending WCMS this fall, please let us know by calling **306-683-3000** or emailing WCMS at wcms@spiritsd.ca.

This would be much appreciated and helpful in assessing our enrollment in August.



Grade 7 Boys Placed 2nd in the 4x100m Relay Race

Student Homeroom Assignments for 2014/2015

Teaching staff invest a great deal of time and energy in developing classroom lists for the upcoming year. Academic, social and emotional factors are all considered as we work towards a goal of placing students in a setting that is appropriate for each child individually and also for the grade group as a whole.

We have had to make changes to the way we will share information with students and their parents/guardians about the student's homeroom assignment for the upcoming year. To align with provincial privacy and freedom of information standards **we will no longer be posting class lists on the first day of school. On progress report day on June 25th, students will receive a WELCOME LETTER indicating their homeroom teacher for the upcoming year.** These assignments are tentative in the event that significant changes to enrollment over the summer may have on us having to revamp our plans. In the event this should occur, any students/parents affected by a class placement change will be contacted the week of August 25-29 by the WCMS administration. This new process should allow for a smooth start to the school year with each student knowing where they are going and who their homeroom teacher will be.

Bus Service for Grade 7 students

All current parents/guardians of WCMS Grade 7 students who live in the city of Warman and are interested in bus service, must complete a new Warman Urban School Bus Request form for the 2014-15 school year. **If you are not interested in bussing, no form is necessary.** You may use the current maps on the website <http://www.spiritsd.ca/parents/Transportation.htm> to determine eligibility. *Please be aware that the current boundaries are subject to review and may change for next year* but completing a form will ensure that your request has been reviewed and your child will get bus service if they meet the distance criteria. **If you have any questions, please call the PSSD Bus Garage at 306-374-2496.**

Grade 7 PAA Update

We have been working hard to schedule students into PAA modules. At this time, we can confirm that we will be offering modules in Foods, Woods, Electronics, Drafting, Communications Media, Textiles (Sewing), Cosmetology, Horticulture and Entrepreneurship. Students' placement in modules will be communicated by homeroom teachers in the fall. If you have any questions about this, please contact Mrs. Orth at the school.



Grade 7 Girls Placed 1st in the 4x100m Relay Race

WCMS PRESENTS THE 1st ANNUAL AIRBAND

Last week over 100 students turned out for our first annual Airband Information Meeting. Since then, students have been busy forming their bands, practicing their lyrics and routines and are extremely excited for the upcoming show. Airband performance dates have been scheduled for **Monday, June 16th** and **Wednesday, June 18th** in the afternoon, start time is TBA. Classroom teachers can sign up to watch either performance date. Parents are welcome. Hope to see you out to support our ROCK STARS!

Bikes, Scooters and Such for the Fall

We have had to be flexible and a little creative this year with accommodating things like bikes and scooters without bike racks or all of our park space. These issues will be alleviated by September when we return to school. Students should be prepared for the following changes when they return to school in the fall:

1. Bikes and scooters will be parked (and locked up) at the bike racks outside of the school. Scooters will not be allowed inside the school or Legends Centre.
2. Students who choose to use things like inline skates or skateboards are welcome to do so as long as those items can fit inside the student's locker. Some of the larger long-boards that have become popular will either have to be locked up outside or left at home.
3. Bikes, scooters and such will be parked upon the student's arrival at school and are not for use at breaks unless the student is leaving the school property.

Music News

On Thursday, June 12th, grade four students have the opportunity to sing at Division Office at 1:00 p.m. for the unveiling ceremony of the new mural. Students: please attend each rehearsal to ensure we are ready to perform! Rehearsals are at lunch recess in the music room on Mon. June 9, and Wed. June 11. Please see Ms. Styles if you have any questions.

The Drum Group did a fantastic job of playing the wish families into the gym for the Children's Wish Foundation "Exile Island" event- what a blast! Keep your eyes out for a Percussion Ensemble in the Fall!

Grade 4 and 5 music classes have been strumming away on the ukuleles! They've been playing some Coldplay and blues, and trying their hand at improvising.



Floor Hockey Tournament



Grade 6 Badminton Players

Extra-Curricular Music Offerings 2014-2015

Ms. Styles will be offering the following extra-curricular activities next school year:

Choir
Band*
Percussion Ensemble
Guitar & Ukulele Club

*Students had the opportunity to try out band instruments last month. Any students who wish to participate in band should contact Ms. Styles at michelle.styles@spiritsd.ca or (306) 683-3000 for more information.

Traffic Safety Reminder from Your SCC

We all want our kids to get to and from school safely each day. In our rapidly growing community there is much construction of residential and commercial property and on our streets. The Warman School Community Council and WCMS Administration ask you to remind your child of the following:

1. Do not play in homes or businesses under construction on your way to and from school.
2. Use sidewalks and intersections when walking to and from school.
3. Students riding bikes, scooters and such should adhere to the rules of the road.

Let's stay safe out there everyone!



Fun Times Bowling with the Grade 5's

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

June 11th—7PM Parent Information Night for Grade 3's
 June 11th—Ultimate Frisbee Clinic (for those that signed up)
 June 12th – Grade 5's @ Fort Carlton
 June 13th – Division track meet at VHS (rain date: June 17)
 June 13th—Boat Building at SIAST (some Grade 7's)
 June 17th – Grade 7's @ Wanuskewin
 June 19th – Grade 4's @ Batoche
 June 20th – Grade 4's @ Warman Spray Park
 June 24th – Grade 5's @ Pike Lake
 June 25th – Last day of school / Report cards go home

Also check the calendar tab at <http://blogs.spiritsd.ca/wcms/> Link this to your iOS device; here's how— <http://www.digitaltrends.com/mobile/sync-multiple-google-calendars-on-iphone-or-ipad/#!VaHpn>

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/>

2014-2015

PICTURE DAY:

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

RE-TAKES:

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27



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.

People with Learning Disabilities

People with learning disabilities (LD) are at the top of every field—and literature is no exception. Many of our favorite authors have overcome the adversity of LD to write books that entertain and inspire us. If you want to find out more about writers with LD or if you just want to find a quality summer read for yourself or your child, check out these books.

Books for Children

Although these authors struggled in school as children, they found ways to work around their struggles and now write books for kids.

***The Adventures of Captain Underpants* by Dav Pilkey**

George and Harold are a pair of troublemaking best friends. The boys create a superhero named “The Amazing Captain Underpants.” Blackmailed into working for their grouchy principal, the duo retaliates by hypnotizing him into believing that he is the superhero Captain Underpants...and the adventures don’t stop! Written in a comic book style, this book will engage even reluctant young readers.

***Thunder Cake* by Patricia Polacco**

As a threatening storm brews, a grandmother helps a little girl overcome her fear of thunder by baking a special cake. The story will help young children alleviate their own anxieties about bad weather and the delightful illustrations make the book a treat for kids and adults alike.

Books for Tweens and Young Teens These age-appropriate books tell the stories of two young teens’ journeys as they mature in the face of adversity—something their authors know well as people with LD.

***The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* by Avi**

Charlotte Doyle, an upper-class teenager, joins the all-male crew aboard a transatlantic ship in the summer of 1832. She meets Zachariah; an African sailor aboard who warns her of the evil doings of the Captain. However, she refuses to believe his accusations, and befriends the captain. Later, upon witnessing the cruelties the captain inflicts upon his crew, Charlotte joins the crew in exposing the captain for the man he really is. This young adult novel will enthrall any middle school reader who loves adventure (and especially young history buffs).

***My Name is Brain Brian* by Jeanne Betancourt**

Brian is your average middle-school kid...except for the fact that he has LD (and doesn’t know it yet). His classmates mock him for his struggles in reading and writing. But when his teacher detects his LD, she helps Brian get the help he needs to learn to work with his dyslexia. Many middle school readers with LD will recognize their own struggles in Brian’s tale.

Books for Older Teenagers and Adults

These award-winning books for adults and high school readers show that authors with LD can produce stunning prose.

***A Prayer for Owen Meany* by John Irving**

In the summer of 1953, young Owen Meany hits a foul ball in a Little League game that strikes and kills his best friend’s mother. Owen believes that there is a larger reason for this tragedy—and he might just be right. This philosophical coming-of-age tale is beautifully crafted by John Irving, whose dyslexia didn’t stop him from writing one of modern literature’s classics.

***Kindred* by Octavia Butler**

Dana, a 26-year-old modern African-American woman, suffers a sudden dizzy spell and is transported to the antebellum South. Her journey back and forth through time, from her modern home in California to slave quarters on a plantation, exposes truths about race and identity. Science fiction fans will find much to love in this novel by one of the genre’s pioneers.

***Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café* by Fannie Flagg**

Evelyn is an unhappy housewife when she meets Ninny, an elderly nursing home resident. As their friendship develops, Ninny tells stories of the residents of now-abandoned Whistle Stop, Alabama, inspiring both women to find happiness in their lives. This tale of friendship will inspire readers who like realistic and historical fiction.

