



# STORM NEWS

Warman Community Middle School

February 2015

Wow, it is hard to believe that this month's newsletter marks the beginning of the second half of the school year. It seems like there is always something going on for our school and students that makes the time go by so quickly. One day last week after school there were two basketball games as well as wrestling, cheerleading and badminton all going on at the same time. There are lots of athletic programs currently running and the plans are in motion for a spring musical. Students at WCMS are very fortunate to have staff and community volunteers that make these extra-curricular opportunities possible. We are also so fortunate to have access to such a wonderful facility through our partnership with the City of Warman.

Have you checked out (and bookmarked) our WCMS home page yet? If not, I recommend you do so. It is intended to keep parents and community in the loop about what is going on around the school and also celebrate all of the wonderful learning that happens each day. A big thank you to Mrs. Orth and our school division's technology support team for helping to upgrade our school web site. Daily announcements, our school's Twitter feed and a variety of resources and other information can be conveniently found here.

While we have enjoyed some unseasonably warm weather through a good portion of January we also experienced some cold weather and can undoubtedly expect some more through the next few months. On some occasions the level of unpreparedness with some students and their proper outdoor clothing is concerning. As students in grades 4-7 it is unlikely that parents are still dressing them for school, but we ask for your assistance in checking the weather forecast daily and reminding/supporting your children in choosing appropriate outdoor clothing. More information on our cold weather and recess procedures can be found in our school handbook (available on the WCMS website).

With so many special and extracurricular events and the school break mid-month, February is sure to fly by!

WCMS Admin Team

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***"It's not our job to toughen our children up to face a cruel and heartless world. It's our job to raise children who will make the world a little less cruel and heartless."***

**- L. R. Knost**

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7Dyck's class—Day of Pink to support cancer

## In This Issue

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# Emergency Response and Preparedness Plan (ERPP)

## Information for Parents/Guardians

Should an emergency or disaster situation ever arise in our area while school is in session we want you to be aware that schools have made preparations to respond effectively to such situations. WCMS has established and routinely practices response procedures for the following emergency situations:

- Evacuation of the building
- Lockdown (a threat/hazard within the school building)
- Hold & Secure (a threat/hazard outside of the school building)

Our plans are consistent with Prairie Spirit School Division policy and protocols and have been developed in consultation with the City of Warman and RCMP.

Your cooperation is necessary in any emergency, and you can assist us by observing the following guidelines:

Please do not attend to the school until you receive information or direction to do so. Keeping the roadways and areas surrounding the school clear and unobstructed are important to allow emergency services personnel in responding to the situation.

Please refrain from calling your students on cell phones. As per RCMP/emergency services direction, student cellular and electronic devices are turned off and given to the teacher in emergency response situations.

We advise you to check the school division website ([www.spiritsd.ca](http://www.spiritsd.ca)), tune into local radio stations, or call the PSSD Office at 306-683-2800 to receive updated information and directions in the event of a school emergency.

Students will be kept at the school or relocation site until they are picked up by an identified, responsible adult who has been identified as such on the student registration form, which parents are required to fill out at the beginning of every school year and update as needed. Please be sure you consider the following criteria when you authorize another person to pick up your child at school:

- ✓ 18 years of age or older
- ✓ usually home during the day
- ✓ is known to your child
- ✓ is both aware of and able to assume this responsibility

Impress upon your children the importance of promptly following the directions given to them by school staff and emergency personnel in any ERPP situation.

Updated January 2015

**No School for Students**

**February 16-20**



## Parents & Visitors at WCMS

A reminder to parents, guardians and other visitors who have school business to please check in at the school office upon your arrival. Thanks!

## SRC News

Escape Winter was our theme for January. WCMS students said GOOBYE to JANUARY by dressing up for **BEACH DAY** on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Students sported some fabulous beach attire!

Our **Bake For Change Sale** was a huge success and proceeds are going to a one of our WE DAY initiatives. Through the Year of Empowerment women and their families are empowered with financial literacy training, business mentors, support networks and resources to generate income for their family so that their children can attend school instead of working to support their family. This beauty of this strategy is in its sustainability: **every year spent in school increases future income by 10%.**

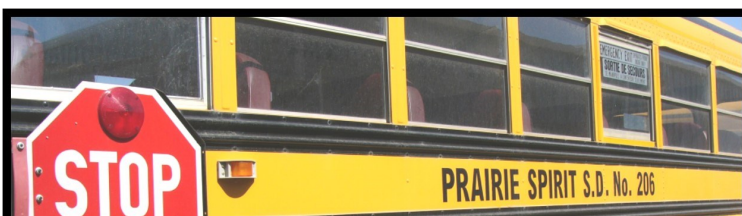
Special thanks to our SRC students and WCMS families for their baking donations and support on this very worthwhile fundraising endeavour.

Upcoming Events this February include:

Feb. 11 & 12 —**PINK AND WHITE HEALTHY POPCORN SALE** on Stay tune for more details.

Friday, Feb 13—**WCMS Valentine PINK & WHITE SOCKHOP** in the Gym in Period 5

Mrs. McKay, Mrs. Baker, Ms. Kover and YOUR SRC TEAM



### A Prairie Spirit Bus Driver:

- Receives free training
- Is well supported by the school division
- Follows the school calendar
- Enjoys daily contact with students
- Supports the local community
- Could take their young child along on route

### Applications for Bus Drivers are now being accepted

Call the Prairie Spirit Bus Garage at (306) 374-2496  
for more information about this flexible opportunity.



**PRAIRIE SPIRIT  
SCHOOL DIVISION**  
*Learners for Life*

## Ski Trips to Wapiti

**Grade 6's—Thursday, February 26th**

**Grade 7's—Friday,  
February 27th**

Bus Leaves: **7AM  
SHARP**

Bus Returns: **~6:30PM**



## FEBRUARY SCC MEETING

**HAS BEEN CHANGED TO**

**FEBRUARY 12 @ 6:30PM**

**FROM FEBRUARY 26**

## Upcoming Events

**We have number of exciting opportunities coming up for students over the next month or so. We look forward to:**

Feb 10 – SK Roughrider visit/bullying prevention (Grade 5, 6, and 7).

Feb 11 – RCMP bullying prevention (All grades)

Feb 12— Book Club Kick Off at 12:45

Feb 26 – Grade 6 ski trip

Feb 27 – Grade 7 ski trip

March 6 – John Dunn arctic presentation (All grades)

March 13—Assembly at 2:30

March 16—Progress Reports

March 17/18 – Square dancing (All grades)

March 25 – Grade 5 ski trip

**An up to date calendar of events can be accessed on our webpage and can be synched to your phone or computer—contact Mrs. Orth if you would like more information.**



## Wrestling

Storm wrestling is in full swing. Come and check out what we have learned and see our wrestlers in action at the Pupsel. This tournament will take place on February 28 at Warman High School.

We'd also like to send a HUGE thank you to Coach Eric Walker who has been helping us this year. His knowledge and skill have greatly benefitted the program. He been an awesome addition to our team and we hope he will continue to help in upcoming years!



## Indoor Track

What a great season our indoor track team has had! We have had about 100 students attend practices this year. We have participated in two meets so far and are very proud of the effort and attitude displayed by our teams. Our last meet of the season is on Feb. 10. Good luck WCMS teams!



## Grade 6 Girls Basketball

Grade 6 girls basketball season is starting. We will focus on skill development after school Tuesdays and Thursdays with some games scheduled against Osler and VCA.

Come out and have some fun with Mr. Fast and Mrs. Mason!

## Notes from the Music Room

Music 4: Students have finished creating their accompaniments to their chosen First Nations or Métis song, and are in the process of being recorded on video. Next, they will be listening very closely to what sounds Saskatchewan has, then attempting to re-create those sounds as a soundscape.

Music 5: Students are continuing to finish recording their parodies. They are also now investigating how music can communicate a message to the listener, and create positive change. The question is... can musicians change the world?

Music 6: Students have been recording and mixing their audio collages in the recording studio! They have begun experimenting and improvising using various percussion instruments in a rhythm circle as part of our study of world music. As well, they are analyzing how music of various cultures can express identity.

## WCMS Extra-Curricular Music

WCMS is starting rehearsals for the Disney musical "Alice in Wonderland Jr.". We will need lots of help to put this production together, and parent volunteers are certainly welcome! Please contact Mrs. Styles if you are interested in helping out in any way.

May the 4<sup>th</sup> be with you! Music Monday is a day when everyone should participate in a music-related activity on the first Monday in May, and this year, Mrs. Styles is looking for student ideas. Check Mrs. Styles' blog (<http://wcmsstylesmusic.wordpress.com>) and reply to her post to make a suggestion! Go to <http://www.musicmonday.ca/> and see what has been done in the past.

Contact Mrs. Styles with any questions, or to get a copy of the music activities schedule:  
[michelle.styles@spiritsd.ca](mailto:michelle.styles@spiritsd.ca)

## Grade 6 Boys Basketball

Basketball season is starting for Grade 6 boys who are interested in and committed to joining the team. An informational meeting was held in late January and information/permission notes have been sent home. Any interested players must return their permission slips by February 11th. The first practice will take place after school on February 11th. See Mr. Tebay for more details.

## Student Assessment:

### Feedback for Learning

Prairie Spirit progress reports for Grade 1 - 9 students now use a learning progression scale to report student progress.

The goal is to give learners the feedback and information they need to improve, rather than attaching a label to their level of learning.

Go to the *Prairie Spirit assessment blog* for more information:  
**earning2learning.ca**



## 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. The 6:00am Environment Canada information for Saskatoon is used to make temperature determinations.

**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](http://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.**

## Contact Us

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

### Warman Community Middle School

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[patty.kirby@spiritsd.ca](mailto: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.



## Literacy: Our WCMS School Goal this year is focused around literacy.

**WCMS School Goal:** All students will improve in their ability to assess their reading comprehension and reflect to set individual goals.

All teachers will be engaging in strategies to teach literacy across subject areas by explicitly teaching reading comprehension strategies to support students in their ability to comprehend what they are reading.

### Parent Connection: Talking about a Reader's Questions

Students at WCMS are practicing the strategy of asking questions as we read. We are learning that readers wonder about many things when they read: sometimes they wonder what will happen, sometimes they wonder what a word means, sometimes they wonder about things that are confusing, and sometimes they wonder why the author wrote a certain text. When readers ask questions, they know they might not always find the answers to their questions in the text.

At home, you can confer with your child about how they ask questions when they are reading. Encourage them to write down some questions as they read (sticky notes are great for this!) and then use some of these ideas to discuss their questioning with them:

- What do you think will happen next?
- Where did you find the answers to your questions? (Some suggestions include keep reading, look at pictures/charts/etc., ask a friend, find another source of information)
- Were all of your questions answered?
- Which questions were not answered?
- What do you still want to know?

We'd love to hear about your at-home reading and conferring! Feel free to send us a note or a picture at [wcms@spiritsd.ca](mailto:wcms@spiritsd.ca) or on twitter @wcmssstorm!

Next month, we will share ideas on how to focus on inferring when you confer with your child.

*Please remember that you can always check your child's library account by logging on to **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.

**Magazines online!** Magazine are available through the free app "Zinio." Find the link at: [http://www.wheatland.sk.ca/elibrary\\_subject.html](http://www.wheatland.sk.ca/elibrary_subject.html)

### Questioning at Every Stage!

Readers can ask questions BEFORE, DURING, and AFTER they read.

**BEFORE:** Ask questions about what will happen and wonder about content from previewing the text.

**DURING:** Ask questions about words, things they don't understand, and wonderings they have as they read.

**AFTER:** Readers may be left with unanswered questions and may want to look elsewhere for more information.



# 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		
<b>Award Winners</b> <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. <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. <b>Student Choice Awards:</b> Wonder, Out of My Mind, Counting by 7's, The Fault in our Stars, Oragami Yoda Series, Divergent Series		
<b>Great Authors</b> 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	<b>Popular Series</b> Diary of a Wimpy Kid Dork Diaries Harry Potter The Hunger Games I Survived Percy Jackson and the Lightening Thief Skeleton Creek and Trackers	<b>Graphic Novels</b> Amulet Baby Mouse Big Nate Bone Books by Raina Telgemeier Lunch Lady Squish Superheroes/Action
<b>Non-Fiction</b> 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 <b>Educational books that teach and inspire deeper thinking – most requested themes include outdoor adventures, war, animals, and historical events.</b>		
<b>Picture Books...yes PICTURE Books!</b> <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>		

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!

## News from the Library

We are so excited to have almost 30 students signed up for our first WCMS Book Club! We will be reading *Breadcrumbs* by Anne Ursu, a modern-day fairytale that is based on the traditional story of *The Snow Queen*. We will have our kick-off meeting at lunch on February 12<sup>th</sup> and will have a Breakfast Book Club wrap up in early March!

We are looking forward to our next Book Fair, which will be held on March 30 – April 1<sup>st</sup>. We hope that many of you will be able to stop by when you are at the school for Student Led Conferences. We are thankful to everyone who supports the Book Fair; the profits are used to purchase new books for the library. Stay tuned for flyers, book talks, and more details about the times the Book Fair will be open.

