



STORM NEWS

Warman Community Middle School

May 2015

The month of May sees many transitions in the school year. As the weather has warmed up we have seen the conclusion of many winter extracurricular activities, and things like track and field and other end of year activities begin. We also look forward to the Alice in Wonderland Jr musical and SRC Air Bands in the coming weeks. The last 40-some days of school will likely go by very quickly as we enter into this busy time of year. On May 14th our school will be attending the school division's Learning for Life reporting day. We look forward to sharing our story with other schools in the district about our work towards improved student literacy and hearing from other schools about their goals and learnings from engaging in that work. Our staff and students have done tremendous work this year in the explicit teaching of core comprehension strategies and conferring directly with students about their reading and thinking. This sharing is one piece in informing our next steps about literacy work we will be continuing next year.

As the weather has warmed up we see many more students getting themselves to and from school by walking, biking, etc. There are some reminders about bikes and scooters included within this month's newsletter. We would also like to take an opportunity to remind students about pedestrian safety and ask for parent/guardian assistance in reviewing safety behaviours with their children. We have been very fortunate to have the City of Warman make extensive provisions to install crosswalks, sidewalks, and other signage to support pedestrians. There have been a number of occasions lately where we have had to remind students about using crosswalks and sidewalks properly. We all have the same goal of making sure that everyone gets to and from school safely.

Have a wonderful May!

WCMS ADMIN TEAM



"Perseverance is not a long race;

It is many short races one after another."

- Walter Elliot

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Reminders about Bikes, Scooters, Skateboards, Etc.

With the warmer weather many students are choosing to ride bikes and such to and from school. The following will help everyone understand the routines and allow things to operate smoothly.

1. Bikes and scooters should be locked up in the bike racks upon arrival at school. Please do not lean these against the school buildings or fences – we have plenty of bike racks.
2. Skateboards, long boards and roller blades should be small enough to fit inside of a student's locker for safe keeping during the day. Some of the large long boards will not fit inside of a locker, and if that is the case, we ask you not to bring those to school. We discourage students from wearing Heelies (wheeled shoes) to school.
3. All of these items need to be stored promptly upon arrival at school. Students are not allowed to ride these on the playground/play area at recess breaks. Students should not loiter around bike racks at recess breaks.
4. Students who have parental permission notes signed for off campus privileges at noon should ensure that they are clearly vacating the vicinity of the school grounds at noon if they wish (and have parental permission) to go biking or skateboarding.
5. The City of Warman Rec Dept has granted students with off campus privileges permission to bike/skateboard in the southeast corner of the Legends parking lot before & after school as well as at noon break. This privilege may be revoked by the city at any time if issues of littering or safety become a problem. This is considered an off campus area and not supervised by school staff.



5Baudais dressed up for "Throwback Thursday"

Alice in Wonderland Musical

Wednesday, May 13

@ 7:30 PM

Doors open @ 7 PM

WCMS Theatre



Tickets available at the Office.

SRC News

It's been a ROCKING month of April! WCMS has been preparing all month for WE'RE GONNA ROCK WEEK. The students were very excited to participate in the 2nd Annual Airband extravaganza. The SRC would like to thank all the students who came out and auditioned! We look forward to your participation next year. Along with the airband performances, the students and teachers were asked to dress like a rockstar. Students sported some fabulous attire!

Next month, the theme will be LOVE THAT BOOK. WCMS students will be celebrating literacy in different ways. Make sure to check out our SRC Bulletin Board on the Main Level to learn more about your SRC, Calendar Events and Upcoming Spirit and Activities.

Upcoming Events:

Wednesday, May 20th - Dress as a Book Character Day



No School for Students MAY 18



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!

Track and Field Dates

Mark your calendars. More detailed information will come home from with students who are involved in specific track activities from their homeroom teachers/coaches as those events approach.

CVAC Track Conference Meet **Thursday, May 21**
(Griffiths Stadium Saskatoon)

CVAC Track Finals Meet **Friday, May 29**
(Griffiths Stadium Saskatoon)

Grade 6 School Meet **Wednesday, June 3**
(alternate Thursday, June 4)

Grade 4/5 School Meet **Friday, June 5**
(alternate Monday, June 8)

WOMV Meet **Friday, June 12**
(host school VCA)

- CVAC meets are for Grade 7 students who have been participating in the school track club.
- WOMV meet is an interschool meet for students in Grades 4-6 who qualify based on results from the school level meet.

School Community Councils – Annual General Meeting & Elections

A primary link between the home, community and school

Our School Community Council (SCC) supports student learning success and well-being and encourages parent and community involvement in the school. Prairie Spirit School Division believes that involvement with SCCs is a rewarding and meaningful activity for parent and community members. If you would like to make a difference at our school, please consider running in the upcoming SCC election. Parents and members of the community are eligible to run for the local SCC.

Our School Community Council has positions open for **FOUR** members for two-year terms beginning fall, 2015. We have **FIVE** members who will be remaining for their second year for 2015/16.

Our SCC election will be held **Thursday, May 14 at 6:30pm in the Parent Room at WCMS.**

Please contact the school office for more information and for nomination forms.

*Successful schools don't just happen.
They need parent and community involvement!*

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/)

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 explicitly teaching reading comprehension strategies to support students in their ability to comprehend what they are reading in all subject areas.

Parent Connection: Summarize and Synthesize

Students need to **summarize** information for various purposes; everything from retelling the main events of a story or event to summarizing an author's main points for research involves summarizing skills.

Synthesizing involves combining new information with our existing knowledge. Sometimes this new information changes our thinking and sometimes it just adds to it, but we always end up with a deeper understanding of the topic.

Some hints for summarizing and synthesizing:

- Putting the information in your own words is key: before you write down information, say it to someone (or to yourself!) to see if it makes sense
- Tracking your thinking about a topic helps you to see how your thinking changes over time
- Distinguishing between facts and opinions is important: encourage students to find the opinions in others' writing as well as forming their own opinions on what they are learning.

Summarize and Synthesize at Home

You can use all kinds of sources to practice these skills! Encourage kids to explain how their knowledge grew or changed after any of these experiences:

- Reading a newspaper article about a world event
- Reading or watching a biography of a famous person
- Watching or listening to the news – particularly a special report or in-depth story
- Finishing a book or movie – students can synthesize their thinking on the topic, a character, a main event, etc.

We'd love to hear about your at-home reading and how your child practices summarizing and synthesizing! Feel free to send us a note or a picture at wcms@spiritsd.ca or on twitter [@wcmsstorm](https://twitter.com/wcmsstorm)!

Library Reminders

*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.

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.



News from the Library

*A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who supported our Scholastic Book Fair! We raised over \$900 and received over \$300 in books for our library! Teachers were very appreciative of the books that were purchased through the Classroom Wish List Program. If your child purchased a book at the fair that they would now like to donate to their classroom, they can come see Mrs. Hamel in the library and get a donation sticker to place in the book.*

WCMS READS!** was a busy but successful event in our school this past week! Students were encouraged to **FIND A BOOK, LOVE A BOOK,** and **SHARE A BOOK** through various events. We hope that everyone enjoyed celebrating books and reading with **WCMS READS!

Notes from the Music Room

See Mrs. Styles' blog for information on music classes, the musical, and other extra-curricular activities (information is updated regularly). Subscribe to get email updates!

<https://wcmsstylesmusic.wordpress.com/>



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