

STORM NEWS

Warman Community Middle School

February 2016

Welcome to the second half of the 2015-2016 school year. Time has gone by quickly! WCMS continues to be a very busy place during the school day and before and after school hours with many different extracurricular opportunities for students.

Our School Community Council in partnership with the Osler SCC is excited to be bringing Brian Trainor to our communities for an informational session for parents on cybersafety and cyberbullying. Brian is regarded as a North American expert on these topics, and those who have seen him before can attest to the knowledge and engagement level he

brings to a presentation. The vast majority of WCMS students have their own access to technology and the internet. With this 24/7 access to the connected world parents often have questions about how they keep their children accountable and safe online. I highly recommend you taking an hour or so on the evening of Wednesday, February 3 to attend this presentation. More information on Brian Trainor's presentation can be found in this newsletter.

WCMS Admin Team

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you'll go!"
-- Dr. Seuss



Grade 7 120 Second Shopping Spree



Grade 7 Snowshoeing

In This Issue

- SRC
- Extra-Curricular
- Ski Trips
- Cybersafety
- Arrival Time for WCMS Students
- Important Reminders
- Tell Them From Me
- SCC
- Literacy
- Engineering for Kids
- Busing Guidelines

SRC

Bring Back the Beach was our theme for January. WCMS students said GOODBYE to JANUARY by dressing up for BEACH DAY on Jan. 21st. Students sported some fabulous beach attire! Our Lemonade stand was a huge success and proceeds are going to one of our WE DAY initiatives. Special thanks to our SRC students and staff for the support on this very worthwhile fundraising endeavour.

Upcoming Events this February in-

clude:

Feb. 8th- 11th — Cupid Secret Crush-Stay tuned for more details.

Feb 12th— WCMS Valentine RED, PINK & WHITE SOCKHOP in the Gym in Period 5

YOUR SRC TEAM



SRC making lemonade/iced tea

EXTRA-CURRICULAR

Badminton

Grade 4/5 Badminton will be starting Feb. 25th and continuing every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 7:45 – 8:45. This will be an introduction to the game of badminton. Students will be learning skills in the morning practice and then playing games at lunch. It will run until March 24th. Coaches will be Mrs. Raison, Mr. Read, Mr. Bachmeier

Grade 6 Basketball

Grade 6 Boys and Girls Basketball season is starting for Grade 6 boys and girls who are interested in and committed to joining the team. Interested players should listen for a morning meeting the first week of February.

Interested players will bring home information/parents notes then. The first practice will take place after school on February 9th from 3:30 to 4:30. The season will start Feb. 9th and end on Mar. 18th which is the date of the final tournament. See Mr. Fast or Miss Hartl for more details.



Grade 7 Boys Basketball

XC Ski Club

Thanks to generous grants from Sask Lotteries and the Crystalbrook Community Association, WCMS was able to purchase cross country ski equipment this fall in the hopes of starting an extra-curricular recreation club for interested students in Grades 6 and 7. Due to an unseasonably warm winter, it has taken some time to get things going. There will be after school skiing opportunities available for Grade 6 and 7 students and Tuesdays and Thursdays after school for the next month or so as weather and snow conditions will permit. More information can be obtained by contacting Mr. Tebay. A big bouquet of appreciation to the Legends Golf Course and City of Warman for the development of the ski trails.

SKI TRIPS

A reminder that Grades 5 through 7 have ski trips planned for the upcoming months.

Grade 7 – Tuesday, February 9

Grade 6 – Wednesday, February 10

Grade 5 – Wednesday, March 16

Information has come home for the grade 6 and 7 trips already. Grade 5 trip information will come home later in February. If you have any questions, please contact your child's homeroom teacher.

Ski Trips to Wapiti

Grade 7's—Tuesday, February 9

Grade 6's—Wednesday, February 10

Grade 5's—Wednesday, March 16

Bus Leaves: **7AM SHARP**

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



CYBERSAFETY

Cybersafety – Cyberbullying Presentation for Parents and Community

Young people's lives are increasingly intertwined with online activities. Parents and guardians often have questions about their children's online behaviour and safety but are unsure of what's important to monitor or where to get information.

The WCMS and Osler School Community Councils cordially invite parents, guardians, and other community members to an informational presentation on Cybersafety and Cyberbullying hosted by Sgt. Brian Trainor (ret.). Sgt.

Trainor is a nationally recognized and much sought after presenter on 'cyber' topics and has presented to 1000s of students and adults across North America. Admission is free/sponsored by the WCMS and Osler SCCs.

The presentation will take place: Wednesday, February 3, 7:00-8:30pm
THE PRESENTATION HAS BEEN RELOCATED TO OSLER SCHOOL (205- 4TH Avenue in Osler) DUE TO REPAIRS IN THE WARMAN COMMUNITY THEATRE.

There will be door prize gift cards for local businesses drawn for at the conclusion of the presentation. Make sure

that you enter your name into the draw box when you arrive at the Osler School gymnasium.

Internet Safety



ARRIVAL TIME FOR STUDENTS AT WCMS

Arrival Time at WCMS

A reminder that school opens at 8:45 in the morning. This is the time at which buses begin to arrive, school staff begin supervision, and the student doors are unlocked. Students are asked to arrive between 8:45 and

8:55am in order to be prepared to start classes at 9:00am.

We are currently trying a different system for the before school routine that includes allowing students to either stay outside until 8:55 or enter the school commons and sit quietly until the warning bell. This is intended to

provide a smoother start to the day for students and staff and reduce congestion problems in the boot room and entrance door areas. We will monitor this routine and make adjustments as needed.



Important Reminders

No school for students

February 15th—19th



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.

Family Health Information

- ◆ [Second Hand Smoke and Children](#)
- ◆ [Do More Watch Less](#)
- ◆ [Breakfast Gets Top Marks](#)
- ◆ [E-Cigarettes](#)

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

HEALTHY STUDENTS = BETTER LEARNERS



Population and Public Health

Contact Us

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

Warman Community Middle School

700 Gowan Road
Warman, SK
S0K 4S2
(306) 683-3000

patty.kirby@spiritsd.ca

Visit us on the web at :

<http://blogs.spiritsd.ca/wcms/>

TELL THEM FROM ME

Prior to the Christmas break all of our students had an opportunity to complete the Tell Them From Me survey, which gives all Saskatchewan school students from Grades 4-12 the opportunity to provide feedback on their school experience. One of the questions that WCMS asked students reflected our ongoing literacy work and the focus we have on instilling in students the use of specific reading/ thinking strategies.

Students were asked: "Good readers use strategies to help them keep track

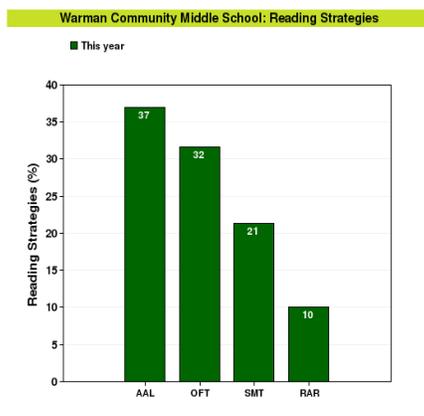
of thinking and understanding what they are reading and have ways to help them get 'unstuck' when they get into difficulties. Which of the following statements best describes you as a reader?"

- I ALMOST ALWAYS have strategies for monitoring my understanding when reading and helping myself when I get stuck or confused. (AAL)
- I OFTEN have strategies for monitoring my understanding when reading and helping myself when I get stuck or confused. (OFT)
- I SOMETIMES have strategies for monitoring my understanding when reading and helping myself

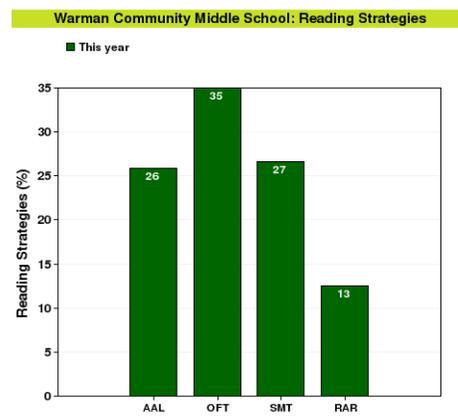
when I get stuck or confused. (SMT)

- I RARELY have strategies for monitoring my understanding when reading and helping myself when I get stuck or confused. (RAR)

These were the results (Note: students Grade 6 and below take one survey and students in Grade 7 and higher take a different survey so the results are reported separately).



Student Responses Grade 4-6



Student Responses Grade 7

We feel encouraged by this data and are happy to see that at the current time a majority of students in WCMS always or often feel they have strategies for monitoring their comprehension

and have ways to help them get unstuck. Support our work by asking your child about the thinking strategies they use when reading, or what they do when they get stuck or confused.

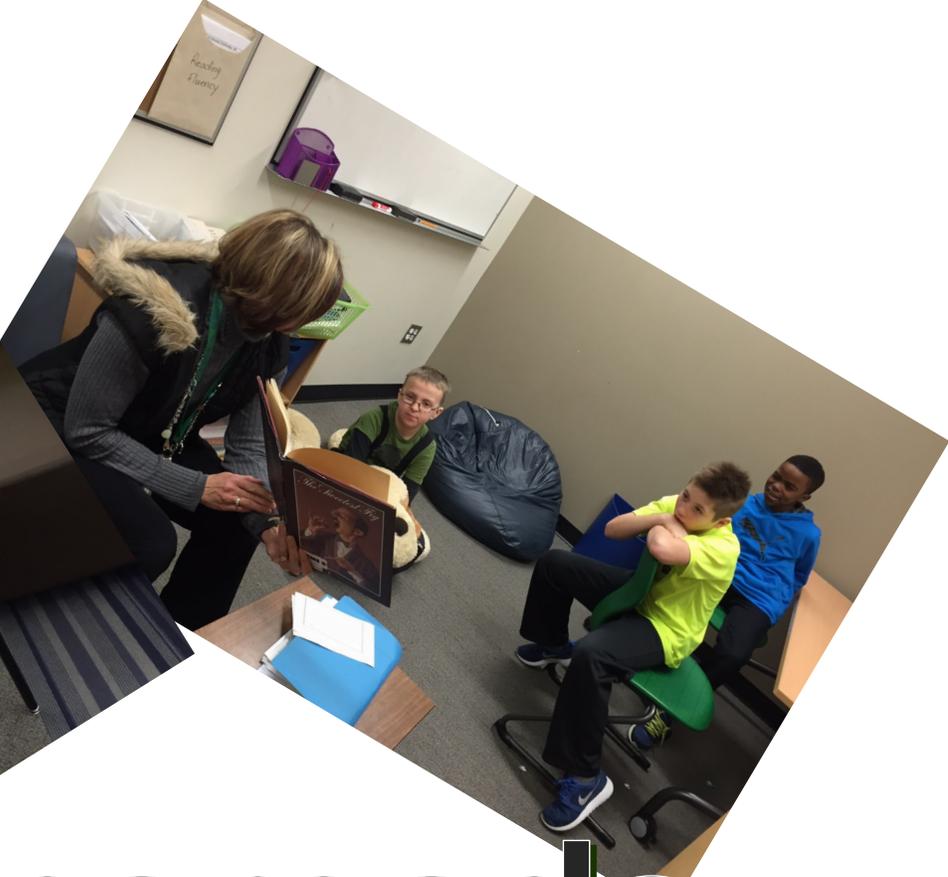
Tell your child about how you keep track of what you are reading and what you do when you get off track.

SCC – SUBWAY LUNCH

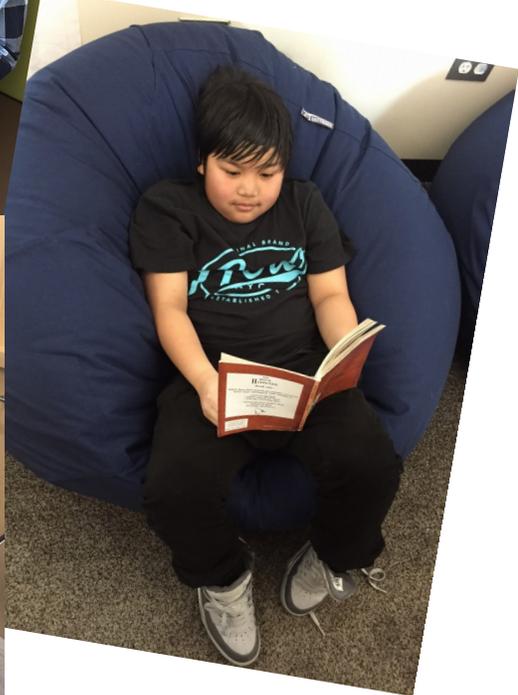
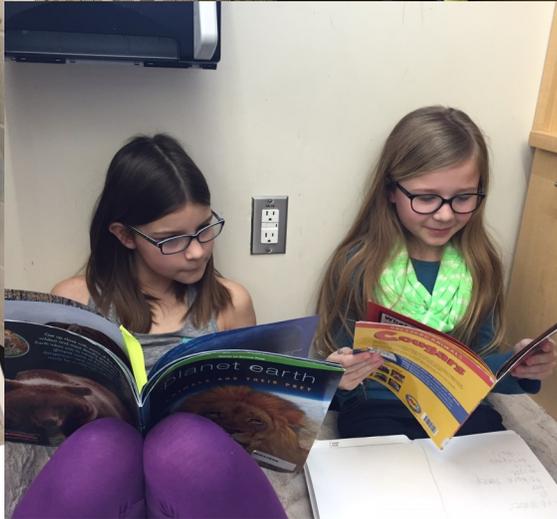
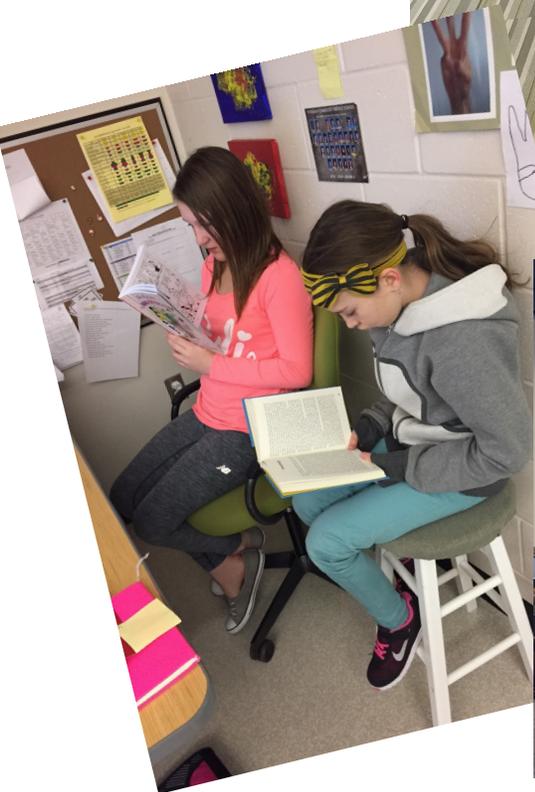
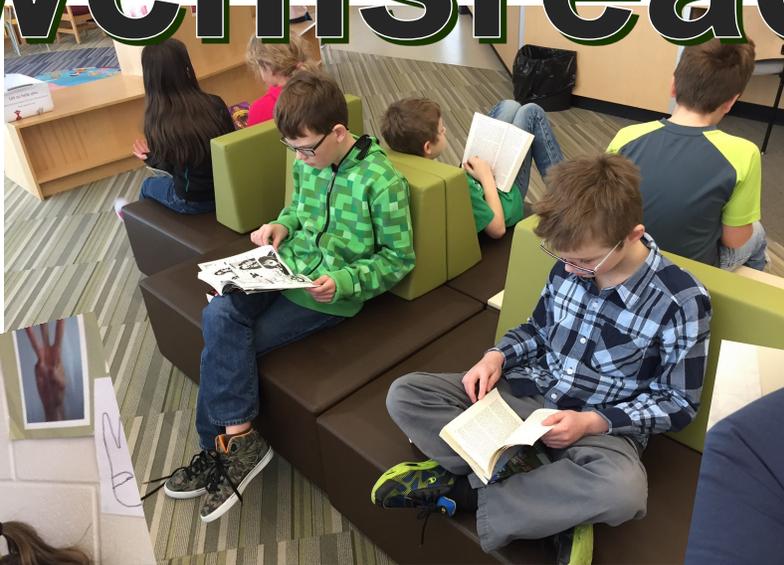
The Warman Community Middle School SCC is holding a Subway Lunch for Grade 4 & 6 students on Thurs. March 3 and for Grade 5 & 7 students on Friday, March 4. Order

forms will be sent home with students on Wed. Feb. 24 and need to be returned (with the money) to the home-room teacher no later than Monday, Feb. 29.





#wcmsreads



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>Award Winners Newberry Medal/Honor Books: including The One and Only Ivan, Doll Bones, The Undemearth, Rules, Criss Cross, The Tale of Despereaux, Hoot, Because of Winn-Dixie, Holes, The Giver, Charlotte’s Web, etc. Caldecott Medal/Honor Books: Award Winning Picture Books, including The Red Book, A Sick Day for Amos McGee, Casey at the Bat, No, David!, etc. Student Choice Awards: Wonder, Out of My Mind, Counting by 7’s, The Fault in our Stars, Oragami Yoda Series, Divergent Series</p>		
<p>Great Authors 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>Popular Series 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>Graphic Novels Amulet Baby Mouse Big Nate Bone Books by Raina Telgemeier Lunch Lady Squish Superheroes/Action</p>
<p>Non-Fiction 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 Educational books that teach and inspire deeper thinking – most requested themes include outdoor adventures, war, animals, and historical events.</p>		
<p>Picture Books...yes PICTURE Books! 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.</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!

February 16-19 Camps in Martensville

- Ages 4-14
- Camps
- Classes
- Clubs
- Parties

Pirates, Mech. Toys, and Green engineering for ages 4-6

Engineering Olympics and Food for ages 7-11.

Also ... Video Game Design Thursdays for ages 10-15

306.978.4186

engineeringforkids.net/saskatoon

Saskatoon and Area **ENGINEERING FOR KIDS**

CAMPS | PARTIES | CLASSES | STEM ENRICHMENT

VIDEO GAME DESIGN THURSDAYS

DESIGN YOUR OWN VIDEO GAME!

Video game design is one of the most imagination driven forms of engineering. Physics or real world issues do not bind video game designers unlike conventional engineers.

Your child will work in pairs to create their own video games. He/She will receive all of the games made during the class, not just his/her own! No previous experience needed.

AGES 10-15

DATES/TIMES

Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:00pm February 4, 11, 25,
March 3, 10, and 17 with no lesson on Feb. 18.

VENUE

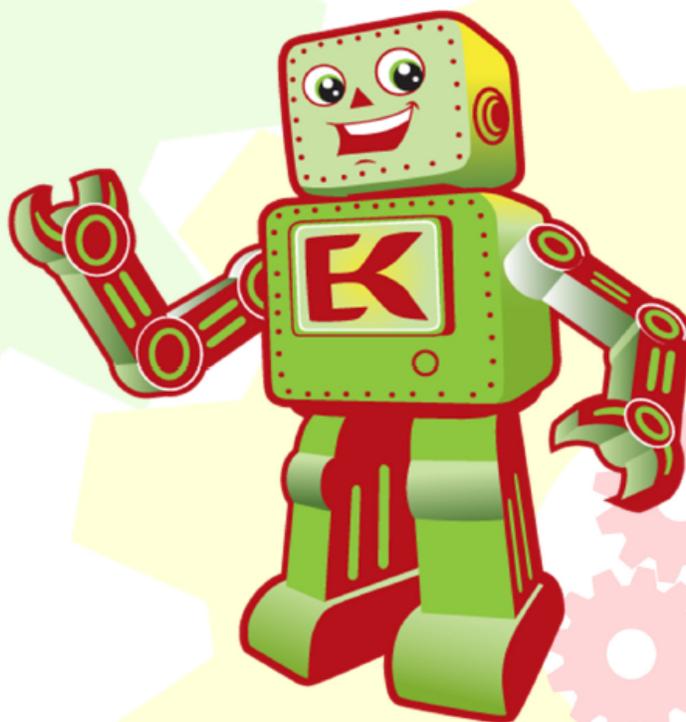
Martensville Recreation Centre, 66 Main Street

PRICE

\$229.50 per child for 6 - 90 minute lessons.

REGISTRATION

Online at www.engineeringforkids.net/saskatoon,
click 'Register' at the left of the webpage.



**Inspiring the Next
Generation of
Engineers**

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Busing Guidelines for Martensville and Warman



Safe Transportation: A Shared Responsibility

Every school day, Prairie Spirit safely transports over 5,000 students to school on 143 bus routes, travelling 22,000 kilometres. It requires considerable cooperation and coordination to accomplish this task safely and efficiently. This pamphlet provides key information for students and parents, along with contact information for questions or concerns.

Transportation protocols and guidelines

Qualifying for Service

Students with a walking distance of more than one kilometre to the school are eligible for urban busing. The walking distance is calculated using Prairie Spirit's electronic bus mapping program.

Prairie Spirit bus transportation is provided to addresses that are primary residences of the families who request bus service. For Prairie Spirit busing purposes, primary residence is defined as "the residence where the family spends the majority of the nights per year." Information provided by the family regarding a primary residence will be accepted, unless contrary information is provided.

All urban students must obtain a Prairie Spirit bus pass and present it to the bus driver to ride a school bus in Martensville or Warman.

Transportation requests for new students or changes to a route must be made directly to the Conveyance Manager, not to the Bus Driver. Please complete the *School Bus Service Request* form (found on the Prairie Spirit [website](#)) to register new students or to change existing information for current students. Please allow seven days for processing and receipt of bus passes.

Bus drivers will not allow students without bus passes on the bus. All urban students must obtain a bus pass and present it to the bus driver to ride the bus. Bus passes are valid only for the bus indicated on the pass. Students may ride only the bus indicated on the pass. No guest passengers are allowed on buses in Martensville or Warman.

Departure and Drop Off Schedules

Urban bus stops are group stops. Bus drivers do not monitor attendance of passengers. Students are to be ready five minutes before the bus "Leave Time" as posted on the Prairie Spirit website. Bus route time schedules are based on normal driving conditions. The schedule is communicated to parents with the directive that, under normal conditions, buses will adhere to bus schedules posted on the Prairie Spirit website.

Students should stand back from the bus when it is approaching the bus stop and sit facing forward when the bus is in motion. If a student has to cross the road when leaving the bus, they must cross in front of the bus.

High school students may board or disembark at any stop on their bus route. Elementary and middle school students will only be allowed to board or disembark at their designated stop unless they have a note from their parent indicating otherwise.

For more information

For more information about busing in Prairie Spirit School Division, go to the following [link](#). To refer to the administrative policies regarding transportation in the school division, please go to this [link](#).

Expectations

We expect excellent behavior and cooperation from students on our buses, just as we do in our classrooms.

A student who fails to abide by the rules, or who misbehaves on a bus, may be denied bus transportation. As well, inappropriate language will not be tolerated. After consulting with the bus driver, the principal may suspend a student from riding the bus for up to three days per incident. In the event that the principal recommends a suspension exceeding three days, the Director of Education, or designate, will decide on appropriate action to be taken in accordance with *Administrative Policy No. 409 – Student Discipline*.

We encourage parents to have strong communication with their bus driver. Please ensure your bus driver has all necessary contact information and is aware of any health concerns your child may have. Any updated information needs to be provided to the school, the Prairie Spirit Bus Garage and your driver.

At their discretion, a bus driver may ask the parent/caregiver of a Pre-Kindergarten student (under 4 1/2 years of age) to buckle their student into the car seat on the bus at pick-up and unbuckle the student at drop off. They may ask the school staff to buckle/unbuckle the Pre-K student at the school.

Bus drivers may choose to maintain an established seating arrangement throughout the school year. Drivers have the right to refuse transportation to any student who is not appropriately dressed for the weather conditions.

Severe weather conditions

Notification of bus cancellations will be posted on the Prairie Spirit [website](#) by 7 a.m. each morning. Please remember to refresh your computer for the most up-to-date information. Bus cancellations are also available on a Prairie Spirit hotline (306-683-2805). Phone calls will not be made for bus cancellations.

Buses will not run if the combined temperature and wind chill factor is -40 degrees C or below at 6 a.m. Buses for students with special needs are not to operate if the combined factors result in a reading of -35 degrees C or below.

Urban bus cancellations will be posted on the Prairie Spirit website

In determining if buses will run, Environment Canada's Saskatoon temperatures are used as a guide for Warman and Martensville. Please use the Environment Canada [website](#) to check the temperature posted at 6 a.m.

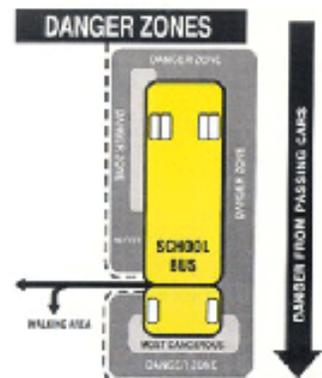
In stormy conditions (ice or fog), bus drivers within the same district are to contact one another and compare local weather and road conditions and use their discretion whether or not to run. Bus drivers are to decide whether or not to run by no later than 30 minutes before the first scheduled morning pick-up, and no later than one hour prior to the scheduled afternoon dismissal.

Buses that do not run at the regular time in the morning will not run at all on that day.

Schools will only be closed to students for reasons such as health and safety. As long as a school remains open for students, parents are welcome to transport their children to the school at any time during the school day.

Student safety

Children need to be aware that every yellow school bus is surrounded by a danger zone. There is a greater potential for injury in this danger zone than inside the bus. Parents should accompany young children to and from the bus until they are old enough to do this safely on their own.



Students should:

- take five giant steps as soon as they leave the bus
- establish eye contact with the driver when crossing in front of the bus and proceed only when the driver nods approval
- wear appropriate clothing for weather conditions
- sit properly, facing forward when the bus is in motion
- keep aisles clear of objects at all times

Students should not:

- go back to pick up items they've dropped near the bus

Stop Arm Violations

All Prairie Spirit school buses are required to use their stop arm and flashing lights when loading and unloading. According to the law, motorists from any direction approaching a bus with stop arm and flashers deployed are required to stop and wait until the stop arm and lights are cancelled before proceeding. Bus drivers will be reporting stop arm violations to the RCMP.

continued...

Some common questions

Q: Can my child be dropped off somewhere other than the normal place?

A: High school students may board or disembark at any stop on their bus route. Elementary and middle school students will only be allowed to board and/or disembark at their designated stop unless they have a note from their parent indicating otherwise.

Q: My child is having a party after school. Can friends travel to our home on the same bus?

A: No. The Warman and Martensville buses are potentially full, according to our registered student lists.

Q: Why is my child not allowed to eat on the bus?

A: Our concerns include the danger of choking, triggering an anaphylactic reaction among riders and spilling food or drinks. Students are only permitted to drink water on the school bus (not juice or pop). We need cooperation from parents in this matter.

Bus fleet

Prairie Spirit has its own bus shop facility on the east side of Saskatoon. This facility is an ultra modern five bay shop with all the appropriate equipment needed to properly maintain and service a fleet of 180 buses.

We have five highly qualified technicians who are experts in school bus maintenance. We are able to provide excellent bus service with safe equipment at a reduced cost to our ratepayers. Operating our own fleet of buses and using our own drivers has helped us to lower costs for charters and field trips, a very important consideration for managing school-based budgets.

For more information

[Bill Steckler](#), Conveyance Manager
Prairie Spirit Bus Garage
Phone: (306) 374-2496

[Rural busing in Prairie Spirit School Division](#)
[Administrative transportation policies](#)
[Environment Canada website](#)

