

September, 2023

Dear Wes Hosford Families,

Thank you for entrusting your precious children to us. We have a great team of caring teachers who will support them in their learning. I'm looking forward to another great year!

I will be sending monthly email updates so that you know what is happening in the school. I have attached this newsletter as a PDF in case it is difficult to read on your phone. If you have questions, please check our website for more information. A version of these updates will also be on the website.



Hot Lunch Orders



Ordering for term 1 opens on September 1st and closes on September 15th. Don't wait! Mark your calendar to go to MunchaLunch.com to order on September 1!

Meet the Staff

On Tuesday, September 5 from 6:00-7:00 please drop in with your child to meet the staff and see your child's classroom. There is no assembly. The format is more of an open house style, where you can pop in and see your child's classroom and meet their teacher.

Student Pick Up / Drop Off

Please send or deliver students to school at 8:20 or later as there is no supervision prior to this time.

After school, supervisors need to clear the playground by 3:20 so that they have the visual that all students have left or have been picked up.

Yearbooks (22-23)

If you ordered a yearbook, please note they will be distributed before the end of the month. If your child is in grade 7, the yearbook will be sent to your child's Junior High.

Parking

The west parking lot is for staff parking; no parent/guardian parking is available here in the morning or after school, however you may loop through to quickly drop students off. As you exit, remember that there is no left turn when exiting and it is a "blind corner", requiring you to stop before the sidewalk, which the police enforce frequently.

Please, park in the GARC parking lot whenever possible. GARC requests that we be as courteous as possible as they have clients trying to park in order to get to various courses and scheduled events.

Orange Shirt Day - Every Child Matters!

In June 2021, the Government of Canada announced September 30 as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to commemorate the history and intergenerational trauma caused by residential schools, to be observed on September 30 each year by all federal employees and workers in federally regulated workplaces.

Orange Shirt Day was created as an opportunity to discuss the effects of residential schools and their legacy. It honours the experiences of Indigenous Peoples, celebrates resilience and affirms a commitment that every child matters.

Orange Shirt Day is on Saturday, September 30, so we will be wearing our orange shirts on **Friday, September 29.**

Please Label Coats and Hoodies

Our lost and found is always overflowing. Please label everything you possibly can! :D

Important Dates

September

- 1 MunchaLunch Ordering Opens
- 4 No School (Labour Day)
- 6 Early Dismissal (2:10)
- 15 Munchalunch ordering closes
- 18 Popcorn Day!
- 21 Parent Council Meeting at 6:30 (virtual)
- 22 Treat Day and Terry Fox Run
- 29 Hot Lunch and **Orange Shirt Day**
- 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Elk Island News!

Student Transportation

Do you have a child taking the bus this school year? Download the following apps to stay up to date with all the busing information you'll need throughout the year.

Bus Status

A new version of the Bus Status app is available: Bus Status 4. The app provides the same features and functionality as before, but faster and more reliable for users. Families who previously used the Bus Status 3 app will need to download the new version from the App Store or Google Play. You won't be able to update directly from one version to the next. New users can download Bus Status 4 directly now.

Through the Bus Status app, families can access information about buses that are running late or cancelled throughout the year. Simply save your child's bus routes as favourites and turn on push notifications to stay up to date.

Refer to the Bus Status: Frequently Asked Questions for more information about the update, and plan to download the new version now.

Ride 360

The Traversa Ride 360 website and app enable parents and students to access their own secure data for bus stop location, route and pickup time. With Division buses equipped with GPS hardware, Ride 360 uses GPS geolocation to let users know when to expect their bus each day. Parents and students log in with their own information to access their specific routing information and details.

Ride 360 will be updated in the coming year. Families are encouraged to download the current Ride 360 app from the App Store or Google Play for the start of the school year and set up their account. When the update takes place, login information will seamlessly roll over to the updated app.

Refer to additional instructions and the tutorial video on the Division website for more details about setting up your Ride 360 profile.

For more information about transportation services, refer to the Student Transportation section of the EIPS website.

Video surveillance on buses

Did you know each EIPS bus is equipped with video surveillance? Video surveillance and equipment help ensure the safety of all students, drivers and property; and discourage destructive acts.

On a regular basis, EIPS Student Transportation reviews the video recordings, in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. The recordings assist the department with monitoring student and driver conduct and may be used as evidence in a disciplinary matter.

EIPS buses are also equipped with Tyler Drive tablets. The goal: To enhance safety, improve communication, increase efficiency and provide oversight. These tablets allow bus drivers to stay on time

with turn-by-turn route directions and show student pictures and information when bus drivers get to stop locations. To ensure students get where they need to go, there are now two distinct audible tones when students scan their bus pass boarding or leaving the bus. One tone indicates they're getting on the correct bus or at the correct stop, and the other tone indicates they're on the incorrect bus or leaving at the incorrect stop. By using live information, Tyler Drive tablets provide more accuracy than paper schedules.

For more information about the collection, use and disclosure of personal information, contact the EIPS FOIP Co-ordinator at 780-464-3477.

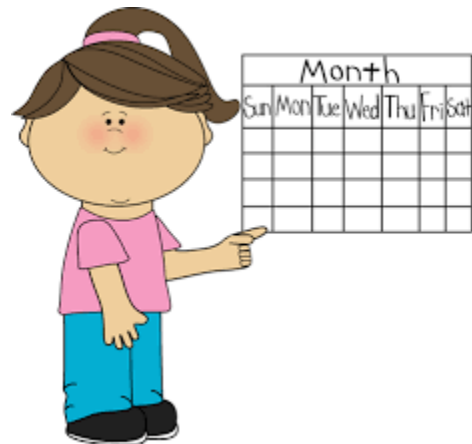
Sync the School Calendar to Your Calendar

Did you know you can sync the school calendar to your own calendar? Simply, visit <https://www.weshosford.ca/about/calendar> and click on the applicable subscription option:

- Download to iCal
- Add to Google Calendar
- Subscribe to Calendar

NOTE: Options are located above the calendar.

Once you click on the desired subscription option, follow the instructions. Within seconds, your calendar will contain all Wes Hosford's important dates including holidays, school-closures days, planned activities, events and more.



Pay school fees online!



School fee information for the 2023-24 school year will be posted on the PowerSchool Parent Portal in late September. All fees are due within 30 days of being posted. To access your fee information, simply log in to the PowerSchool Parent Portal and go to "Student Fees." There you can view your fees and pay online using a credit card.

Don't forget to log in to the PowerSchool Parent Portal regularly throughout the year. Fees are often added to your child's account to cover the cost of certain school activities such as field trips, class projects, athletic-team fees and more. Additionally, junior high and senior high fees can change as courses are added and deleted.

If you're unable to pay your school fees, you can apply to have certain fees waived by submitting an Application for a Waiver of Fees. The application deadline is Dec. 15, 2023.

For more information about school fees, waivers and payment deadlines visit eips.ca. Alternatively, contact Mrs. Snow at Wes Hosford at 780-464-1711.

Download the SchoolMessenger App

Wes Hosford School and the Division use the SchoolMessenger platform for communicating with families—through both phone and email. Be sure to add communications@eips.ca and general.whf@eips.ca to your safe sender list to avoid having important messages funneled into your junk mail folder.

You can directly manage your phone and email subscription preferences through SchoolMessenger. Simply log in to your account—or create one if you don't already have one—and select the message types you'd like to receive to each phone number and email address on file.



The easiest way to stay connected is to download the SchoolMessenger app. Get the latest updates direct to your mobile device and enable push notifications to never miss a message. Families can also check back on past messages—for up to 30 days—directly in the app rather than searching to find an old message buried in your inbox. Download the SchoolMessenger app from the App Store or Google Play today.