

November 30, 2023

Dear Wes Hosford Families,

Parents often ask me, "How can I get my children to learn responsibility?" or "How can I instill a sense of pride in accomplishment for a job well done?" Well, there are many strategies out there, but I'll share one that I used in my own home. Elementary age children are definitely ready to chip in with family chores. They may not like it at first, but this tactic should help. And, the reality is, whether they like it or not, part of a parent's job is to teach our children how to be part of a community, to do their share, and to learn to appreciate the time and effort they and others put into the team.

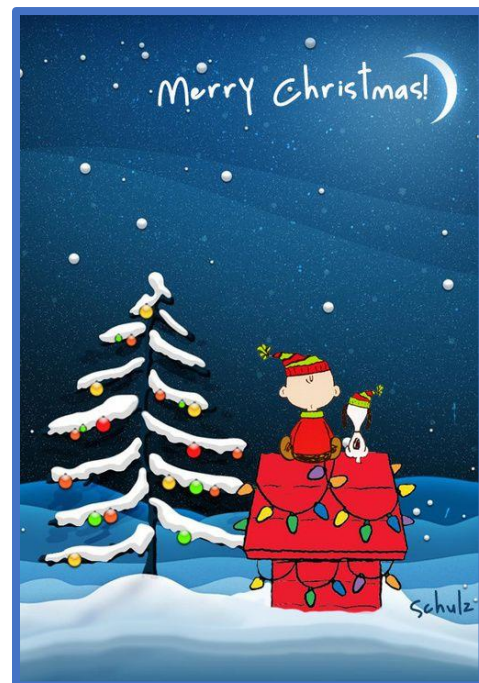
December 1st is a good date to start because I know we all need a little extra help with holiday preparations. First, decide on a list of tasks for which each family member can be responsible. The items on the list can overlap (two people in charge of garbage, three do dusting...) and they can be individual (make your bed, brush your teeth...) or family oriented (set the table, empty the dishwasher...). They can also include school related items (fill in your agenda, home reading...). Your child's age will determine some tasks. For example, in grade three they could start doing their own laundry, while a grade 1 child might be in charge of making their own bed.

Next, you need a jar with lentils, or buttons, or marbles, or some sort of counters for each member of the family, plus one empty "family" jar. As each family member completes a task on their list in a satisfactory manner, they move a counter from their jar into the family jar. When the family jar is full the family gets to decide on a fun activity they can do together: make a gingerbread house (Costco sells kits!), have a movie or games night, make ice cream sundaes, etc.

This doesn't have to be a "forever" activity or the effect will wear off. You might only do it for December - so your family jar shouldn't be huge. If you try it, let me know how it goes.

In the meantime, have a happy, peaceful holiday!

Sue



Gr 1-3 Christmas Concert



When: December 7 at 7:00pm
Where: Wes Hosford Gymnasium

The school's front doors will open at 6:30 for guests with tickets to enter the gym and for performing students, who will make their way to their classrooms. **Every person needs a ticket, regardless of age, except for performing children.**

Limited seating, due to fire regulations, meant that we asked families to pre-book tickets for the evening. You received a google form link on Nov. 20 and each family was able to book 2 tickets. On Nov. 27 we sent a second Google form for families who wanted to bring additional guests, **while supplies last**. Please remember to bring your tickets for entrance to the concert.

We are very excited that a **livestream of the concert will be available!** Thank you to Mr. Arndt for doing this for us! Now, those who can't attend can still enjoy the concert from the comfort of their home. Details to follow.

All concert tickets will be sent home in your child's backpack on December 4th. You were asked to identify the child with whom the tickets would be sent. These cannot be replaced, so if you prefer to pick them up yourself, please notify Mrs. Snow via email at terry.snow@eips.ca. **Seating will be on a first come basis.** Front doors will open at 6:30.

Our Fundraising Society is having a Christmas [50/50 raffle](#) that we hope you enter!

If you or a guest has a walker or crutches, several aisle seats will have a "Reserved for Mobility Issues" sign on them. We cannot guarantee priority seating or provide guests with mobility issues early access. Please consider having one family member wait in line and text individuals with mobility issues to let them know when they can make their way into the school.

Hot Lunch Ordering

This will open on December 11th... watch for an email. Ordering will close December 22nd.

Christmas Break

Wes Hosford School will close for the Christmas break at the end of the day on Friday, Dec. 22nd. The school will reopen on Monday, Jan. 8th, 2024. During this time, if you have any school-related questions or concerns, contact Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) Central Services at 780-464-3477.

EIPS Central Services Christmas Break Hours

Closed Dec. 25, 2023 to Jan. 1, 2024

Open Jan. 2, 2024; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

*for location and contact information visit www.eips.ca.

Counsellor's Corner

Please read Mrs. Nichol's [Counsellor's Corner](#) entry regarding Holiday Stress.

Resources at WHF

At WHF we have lots of great resources to assist students in progressing with their reading and math learning. Amongst many other things, we have purchased resources that will support learning for years to come. Some are phonics based while some provide the teacher with specific areas to focus on for remediation for struggling readers.

While we are taking care of this at our end, we DO need your help! We ask you to read with your child every day for 30 minutes or more. I know it can be hard, and that there will be days when the reading happens in the car on the way to a practice, or in the stands at the practice! But the benefits are huge! For math, even just practicing basic facts while unloading the dishwasher can help. These habits are essential.

If you'd like to talk to your classroom teacher, or to our school Counsellor, Christy Nichol, about more ways to help your child at home, please get in touch!

Literacy at Home: The Importance of Vocabulary

Parents often ask for tips on working with their children at home to build literacy skills. Daniel Willingham, a psychology professor at the University of Virginia who writes about the science behind reading comprehension, explained that whether or not readers understand a text has a lot to do with how much background knowledge and vocabulary they have relating to the topic. That's because writers leave out a lot of information that they assume readers will know.

In fact, a study by Nagy & Herman showed the following results:

Student A reads 1 minute each day in a school year	Learns 8000 new words
Student B reads 5 minutes each day in a school year	Learns 282 000 new words
Student C reads 20 minutes each day in a school year	Learns 1 800 000 new words

*Sources: Iowa Reading Research Centre, Nagy, William and Herman, Patricia: Breadth and Depth of Vocabulary Knowledge: Implications for Acquisition and Instruction, Willingham, Dan: The Reading Mind



You can see that the difference is significant!

So, what can you do at home? Here are some ideas:

- Read with and to your child for 20 minutes each day.
- Have conversations with your child and try to include "big words" and new words.
- Tell stories to your child and encourage them to ask questions.
- Involve your child in the activities you do -- cooking, fixing the car, etc. Use terms specific to the activity to build vocabulary.

Kindergarten Registration Starts Soon!

Is your child turning five on or before Dec. 31, 2024? If so, it's almost time to register for kindergarten.

Kindergarten registration opens for the 2024-25 school year on **Feb. 1, 2024**.

To help families prepare, Elk Island Public Schools has put together an online [EIPS Kindergarten Tool kit](#) to make the transition as smooth as possible. The kit includes information on registration, important dates, programming options, what to expect, eligibility, how to find your designated school, transportation and more.

Additional information regarding Wes Hosford Elementary kindergarten program is available at [Wes Hosford School](#) website.

December at Wes Hosford



1 - Report Cards available on the Parent Portal

1 - Market in Sherwood Park at the Agora - see image.

1 - Santa hat day! Or Elf hats!

5 - Popcorn Day!

6 - Early Dismissal

7 - Grades 1-3 Christmas Concert
- Tickets Required

8 - Red and Green day!

11 - Ordering for Hot Lunch opens

12 - Kindergarten Class B
Concert in the Library at 11:00

13 - Kindergarten Class A
Concert in the Library at 11:30

15 - Christmas Sweater Day!

22 - Christmas PJ Day!

22 - last day of class for 2023!

January 8 - first day of class for 2024!

I hope you have a great month of December!