

# Westwood Elementary Newsletter

*Nadleh Yaz Nun (September) 2022*

*Time of the small salmon run*

## Westwood Elementary School

2633 Vanier Drive, Prince George, BC V2N 1V1

250-562-3076

Acting Principal: Shandee Whitehead

Senior Secretary: Kathy May



Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s), Staff, and Students,

We hope you have had a wonderful summer! We would like to extend a special welcome to the families of our new students. We look forward to working with you and know you will enjoy being a part of the Westwood school community. Let us know if you have any questions or concerns. We want to ensure your transition into Westwood is a smooth one. We are so excited to meet you all so please drop in and say hello and be sure to attend the OPEN HOUSE on Thursday, September 22nd (more information to follow). We have worked very hard to get our school ready for opening and our staff has been busy preparing for your first week.

As always, we would like to take a moment to thank our returning parent(s)/guardian(s) for being such important members of our community. The home and school connection are a vital part of the success of our students, so thank you for communicating with us and working together! Please feel free to email, call or set up a meeting if you have questions, concerns or compliments.

Please note that classroom organization is still in progress and student placements, in all classes, are tentative during the first two weeks of school. We want to thank all of our parent(s)/guardian(s) for their patience and cooperation during this process. We have noted parent requests for placement and while we do our best, we need to consider the needs of all our students. We have had many families move into our community over the summer who are still going through the registration process. This sometimes means parent requests cannot be filled, but we are confident all of our students will be successful and happy in their final placements.

Lastly, please join me in welcoming our new staff members. Anna Sandberg: EA2, Darlene Williams: IEW, Winona Lam: Teacher, and Rosalind Redwood: Teacher. We know they will fit right in!

Sincerely,

Ms. Shandee Whitehead  
Principal

Ms. Kathy May  
Senior Secretary

**IMPORTANT:** Take a minute to review the attached 'School District #57 (Prince George) EMERGENCY PROCEDURES' document and the 'Student Violence Threat/Risk Assessment: Fair Notice and Process' pamphlet. These contain important information.

## Important Dates

Sept 6: First Day of School

- Gr 1-7: 8:35am to 10:05am
- Kindergarten: 9am to 10am

Sept 7 to 16: Kindergarten Gradual Entry

Sept 12: Breakfast Program Begins

- Students should arrive no earlier than 8:10am

Sept 12: First Leadership Meeting

Sept 12: PAC Meeting: 6:30pm in the library

Sept 19: Non-Instructional Day: Indigenous Day of Learning: NO SCHOOL for all students

Sept 20: First full day of school for Kindergartens

Sept 20 - 23: Toonies for Terry: Send a toonie to school

Sept 21: School Wide 'Terry Fox Run'

Sept 22: Open House: 5pm to 6pm: More info to follow

Sept 26: Picture Day: AM

Sept 29: Westwood Honouring 'Orange Shirt Day': Wear anything orange

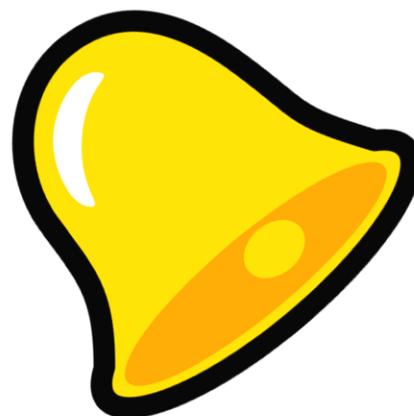
Sept 30: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation: NO school

Nov 1, 2, 3: Early Dismissal: 1:31pm

Nov 1, 2, 3: Parent/Teacher Conferences: Information TBA

## Westwood Elementary Bell Schedule: 2022/2023

Supervision Starts: 8:15am  
Welcoming Bell: 8:30am  
Classes Start: 8:35am  
Recess: 10:25am  
Classes Resume: 10:40am  
Lunch: 11:56am  
Outside Bell: 12:12pm  
Classes Resume: 12:41pm  
Dismissal: 2:31pm  
Supervision Ends: 2:46pm



**Drop Off and Pick Up:** Students are not to be dropped off before outside supervision begins (8:15 am). School doors are kept locked and there are no adults easily available if there is an emergency. Please make alternate childcare arrangements prior to morning supervision beginning. Similarly, it is expected that students leave the school grounds promptly after dismissal; supervisors are there to encourage students to head home. Supervision ends at 2:46 pm. With parent permission, students may return to the grounds when our school day has come to an end.

Please remind your child(ren) they are NOT to be on school grounds during operational hours on days they are not in attendance. The grounds are only open to staff and students who are scheduled to be at school.  
**Operational Hours: 8:15 am up to 2:46 pm.**

**Be on Time:** It is always a bit of an adjustment to move from relaxed summer schedules to responding to bells. One of our school goals every year is to reduce the number of students arriving late in the morning. Being on time minimizes interruptions to instructional time and helps everyone have a positive start to the day. We ask for family support with this goal for the current school year and with establishing morning routines that allow for your child(ren) to arrive on time for the 8:30 am welcoming bell. Staff are on supervision at 8:15 am.

**Westwood is PEANUT AWARE:** We are encouraging all families to NOT send any peanut or tree nut products to school as we have students with an airborne anaphylactic allergy which is life threatening. We need to work together to keep our students safe!



**SD57 Policies:** Review the following School District 57 Policies. The links are provided below. If you prefer a printed copy of the policies, or have any questions, please contact the school.

o Policy 5131 District Code of Student Conduct:

<https://www.sd57.bc.ca/Board/Policies/Policylisting/Documents/5131%20District%20Code%20of%20Student%20Conduct.pdf>

o Policy 6179 Acceptable Use of Networks:

<https://www.sd57.bc.ca/Board/Policies/Policylisting/Documents/6179.pdf>

o Policy 3541.35 Winter Weather:

<http://www.sd57.bc.ca/Board/Policies/Documents/3541.35%20Winter%20Weather.pdf>

o Policy 3542.3 Healthy Food Choices in Schools:

<https://www.sd57.bc.ca/Board/Policies/Documents/3542.3%20Healthy%20Food%20Choices%20in%20Schools.pdf>

o Policy 5101 Financial Hardship:

<https://www.sd57.bc.ca/school/nyoh/Documents/5101%20Financial%20Hardship.pdf>

### Parent Advisory Council (PAC):

Westwood Elementary parent(s)/guardian(s) are encouraged to join the PAC and contribute their ideas and energy to our school community. The next meeting is being held, in the library, on **Monday, September 12** at 6:30 pm. For more information, please visit the Facebook PAC page or email the PAC:

EMAIL CONTACT: westwoodwildcatspac@gmail.com

FACEBOOK PAGE: Westwood Wildcats PAC

**Monthly Newsletter:** Our school newsletter goes home once a month by email. It is very important that we have email addresses from parent(s)/guardian(s) so you can keep up to date on what is happening in the school. Email Ms. Kathy May at [kmay@sd57.bc.ca](mailto:kmay@sd57.bc.ca) if you did not receive the newsletter by email last year, your email has changed, or you are new to our school. She will add you to the mailing list. If you prefer a paper copy, please let the school know so we can ensure one goes home.

## What's Up Leadership?

**September 12: Leadership Meeting:** Joining the Leadership program is a great way for students to grow leadership skills, develop teamwork skills, gain valuable soft skills, network, learn about themselves, AND HAVE FUN! Jay will be hosting the first Leadership meeting, of the 2022-2023 school year, on Monday, September 12. Grade 6 and 7 students interested in participating in the Westwood Leadership Program will be invited to attend an information session during the lunch break. More information to follow.

**WILDCAT WEDNESDAY:** Wednesdays at Westwood are School Spirit Days. On these days we would like to invite students to wear their school t-shirt or hoodie or wear ORANGE to show their love for our school community and to demonstrate that every child matters.

Has your child outgrown their Westwood Wildcat t-shirt or hoodie or their Every Child Matters t-shirt? If so, please consider donating them back to Westwood. The office is collecting previously loved spirit wear and finding them new homes.

### September 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>: TOONIES for Terry



The students and staff at Westwood Elementary will be honouring the legacy of Terry Fox by participating in the annual *Terry Fox Run* on Wednesday, September 21st, 2022.

From Tuesday, Sept 20th to Friday, Sept 23rd, our **NEW** Leadership crew will be asking teachers to collect **TOONIES for Terry** and will donate them to the Terry Fox Foundation for the continued research into finding a cure for cancer. The goal will be to beat last year's donation of \$535.70. If you would like to donate, please send a toonie (or two) to school with your child.

*At Westwood Elementary School, we respectfully acknowledge that we are learning and playing on the unceded ancestral lands of the Lheidli T'enneh and we are grateful, humbled visitors to this territory.*