

West Nissouri News



West Nissouri Wildfire Newsletter - Issue #1 September 2020

Principal: Mr. Darryl Mann

Vice Principal: Ms. Tammy Adams

Administrative Assistant: Ms. Heather Smith

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<http://westnissouri.tvdsb.ca>

From the Principal's Pen,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! I hope that everyone had a wonderful summer.

Thank you to our wonderful staff and their tremendous efforts to welcome back our TVDSB families - both in person and virtually.

We truly appreciate everything that our families and our school teams have been doing to create a safe, welcoming and caring learning environment for our school community. Thank you as well for your patience and understanding as we continue to receive new information from the Ministry and our local public health units. We continue to work with our partners to seek clarification and we will be updating our protocols to share with you as things evolve.

I am looking forward to the many exciting learning opportunities that await our students and working with the staff and community over this school year. It is always exciting to greet the eager and smiling faces of the students on the first day back. This year also means new beginnings for many and we would like to extend a warm welcome to the families who have registered children at West Nissouri for the first time in our Kindergarten program, and also to all of the new students who are joining our classes in other grades. We are also pleased to be welcoming back some new staff this September; welcome Mrs. Dawson, returning to teach in the junior and intermediate divisions and to Mrs. Govier, returning as one of our Educational Assistants. We look forward to meeting and working with all of the West Nissouri families as partners in your child's education to ensure positive, productive and successful learning experiences. We believe that everyone's learning thrives in a collaborative, team-oriented culture, where students, staff and parents feel safe to take risks and problem solve together. I would like to thank all of the staff for their time and energy in preparing and setting up their classrooms for our new school year – what an amazing group of teachers, EAs and ECEs. Special thanks to Mrs. Smith for ensuring a smooth start-up, and also our outstanding custodial staff, Mrs. Fisher, Mr. Amaral, Mrs. Desjardins, and Mr. Nadeau for their dedicated work in making our school sparkle and shine and ready for another school year. The school looks amazing! Our 'Meet the Staff/Families' night will look different this year, and we are excited to share more information in the coming weeks. We continue to invite you to participate in our school activities and to support wonderful initiatives that will be developed. We all benefit greatly from the tremendous support provided by West Nissouri's parent community, and eagerly anticipate the on-going involvement of our parents, as the year proceeds. Please consider contributing to our school community by joining our School Council, which meets once per month throughout the year. The first meeting of the year will be announced shortly.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

We have a school website that contains a great deal of information for you. Please check out our school website on a regular basis: <https://westnissouri.tvdsb.ca/en/index.aspx>

Please note that by registering your name and email in the Parent Portal, the W.N.P.S. monthly newsletter will be shared with you electronically, in addition to posted on our website each month.

Looking forward to another exciting school year!

With you in education,
Darryl Mann
Principal
WNPS

Vice Principal's Message

Welcome Back West Nissouri!

I'm so happy to be back supporting West Nissouri families this year. Week one went very well, and students were so excited to see the staff and their friends. West Nissouri is truly a place where students, staff, support staff, and parents work collaboratively to meet student and family needs. Thank you for working with our school to foster a caring, safe, inclusive environment where all students feel welcome and valued.

"WE CAN HAVE A WORLD OF PEACE. WE CAN MOVE TOWARD A WORLD WHERE WE LIVE IN HARMONY WITH NATURE. WHERE WE LIVE IN HARMONY WITH EACH OTHER. NO MATTER WHAT NATION WE COME FROM. NO MATTER WHAT OUR RELIGION. NO MATTER WHAT OUR CULTURE. THIS IS WHERE WE'RE MOVING TOWARDS."

[Dr. Jane Goodall's Message for #PeaceDay 2018](#)

Tammy Adams
Vice-Principal
WNPS



WEST NISSOURI STAFF LIST 2020 - 2021

K1	Ms. A. Watson & Ms. N. Buck	GR1A	Ms. C. Gentle
K2	Ms. J. Cousineau & Ms. C. Mattucci	GR1B	Ms. T. Donaldson
K3	Ms. K. Lepischak & Ms. S. Gaul		
GR2A	Ms. J. Crawford	GR3	Ms. K. Hamlyn
GR2B	Ms. J. Reymer & Ms. M. Pym	GR3/4A	Ms. A. Elston
		GR3/4B	Mr. J. Sercombe
GR4	Ms. B. Jordan	GR6	Ms. S. Scudamore
GR4/5	Ms. M. Pallant	GR6/7	Ms. A. Duncan/Ms. T. Adams
GR5/6	Mr. D. Dibsdaile		
GR7/8A	Mr. J. McNamara	GR7/8C	Ms. S. Beattie
GR7/8B	Mr. M. Keunecke		
Library	Ms. M. Bogaert	PREP	Ms. A. Ferraiuolo, Ms. B. Lenko, Ms. A. McKnight, Ms. B. Dawson
French	Ms. C. Kanters	EAs	Ms. L. Dufton, Ms. J. Govier, Ms. M. Irvine, Ms. Jary
LST	Ms. S. Peetsma & Ms. A. Duncan	NHS	Ms. D. Ingrey, Ms. K. Ferguson, Ms. P. Calfax, Ms. V. Govier
Principal	Mr. D. Mann	Vice Principal	Ms. T. Adams
Administrative Assistant	Ms. H. Smith	Charge Custodian	Ms. K. Fisher
Administrative Assistant (.5)	Ms. H. Emery	Afternoon Custodians	Mr. D. Amaral & Ms. C. Desjardins Mr. M. Nadeau

Safe Arrival and Dismissal

Students **arriving after 9 AM** or **departing BEFORE 3:30 PM** are to be signed in or out through school messenger. Writing a note to the teacher is appreciated as well. Please ring the front doorbell on your arrival or call when you have arrived (519-461-9575) and someone will come and welcome your child(ren) to school or bring them out.

Student Attendance

Our automated system will contact parents for unexplained absences in a timely manner. If the automated system is unable to contact a parent or guardian, a message is sent to office and we will then make every effort to contact you and, if necessary, all of your contacts listed until contact is made. To account for our absent students in a timely manner, we ask that all absences be reported before 9:10 am.

Absences are to be recorded by [weblink](#), [free smartphone app](#) or toll free (1-844-305-3756).

Using the smartphone app is the quickest way to report an absence; it takes 30 seconds once you know what you are doing.

Look for  in the app store or google play. You must register for an account online before you can use the app.

<https://go.schoolmessenger.com/#/account/signup>

Regular attendance and punctuality ensures your child a successful educational experience.

“No Nuts Please”

Please remember that we are a “No Nuts Please” school. We have several students and staff members with peanut and tree nut allergies. Please double check all items that you send to school and make sure your child washes their hands if they have peanut butter for breakfast. As we have several students with other food allergies, please do not send any food products to be shared with the class unless you have communicated with your child’s teacher first. Thank you for helping to keep our students safe.

Parent Volunteers

Although Parent volunteers opportunities are currently on hold please take a moment and **update your annual Offence Declaration form**. The Offence Declaration form can be found in the [Parent Portal](#). We maintain your most recent Criminal Background Check for volunteering on file. The Offence Declaration is all that you require if you have already submitted a Criminal Background Check. **The declaration must be done yearly to maintain current status.**

Code of Conduct

Our Code of Conduct is to ensure a safe learning environment that encourages participation and celebrates success.

A simple set of behavioural expectations, non-negotiables, will certainly lead to a more harmonious and structured learning environment throughout our school, classroom, hallways and school yard.

This Code of Conduct was developed in consultation with staff, parents, students and administration.

Purpose: To build and sustain a positive learning community environment for all students so that they may reach their full potential.

Expectations:

All West Nissouri students, staff, families and community members will:

- Be treated with respect at all times
- Show respect to other students and to adults
- Demonstrate respect for school property and the property of others
- Actively participate in school activities

F - Fair, Honest in all we do, respecting ourselves and others

L – Leadership, Developing Leadership Skills

A – Ambitious, Always striving to meet our goals

M – Motivated, Positive work ethic

E – Excellence, Striving to do our best

S – Sportsmanship, Showing good sportsmanship in the gym and on the field

West Nissouri Public School Dress Code

It is the policy of the board that individual schools establish a dress code respecting appropriate dress for pupils, in consultation with students, school staff, volunteers working in schools, parents, and guardians. It is the expectation at W.N.P.S. that our students will dress in a manner that is suitable and appropriate for school. Appropriate attire encourages respect for oneself and others, and promotes a safe and respectful learning environment. The following guiding principles are provided to assist students in making responsible decisions.

- Footwear appropriate for safe and active play is required at all times (e.g., running shoes for physical activity, indoor/outdoor shoes worn for appropriate setting).
- Hats are not to be worn inside the school.
- Clothing should be modest and not revealing. Shoulder straps should be a minimum of the student's two finger widths.
- All items designed as underwear, or an undergarment, must not be visible.

- Tops and shirts must come down to cover the top of pants, skirts, or shorts. Bare midriffs are not permitted, and must stay covered with normal and reasonable movement.
- Length of shorts and skirts are to extend beyond fingertips when arms are extended.
- Clothing is free of designs or language that is offensive, or reference drugs or alcohol.

Students are encouraged to participate in making responsible decisions about wearing apparel.

However, the final decision on appropriateness of clothing rests with the school staff.

Students who are deemed to be in contravention of the dress code will be counselled and given an opportunity to change if appropriate clothing is available (school athletic shirts are available), cover up, or turn the article of clothing inside out. A reasonable effort will be made to contact parents as well as addressing the issue with the student.

As outlined by the Ministry of Education regulations, our dress code applies to all students, staff, parents and community members in our school building or while participating in school functions. Completed in co-operation with WNPS students' council, school council, staff, and parents (2019-2020).

Medical Conditions

Supporting Students with Prevalent Medical / Health Conditions in Schools

To ensure children with **potentially life-threatening medical conditions** remain safe while attending school, TVDSB requests Parents/Guardians update the necessary medical information on the Parent Portal so that an Individual Plan of Care (IPOC) for the student can be reviewed by the school's administration.

Medical conditions considered potentially life-threatening may include:

1. Asthma
2. Anaphylaxis
3. Epilepsy
4. Type 1 Diabetes
5. Any other potentially life-threatening condition that could result in a medical incident* (discuss with your school administrator)

Parents/Guardians can provide important information about their child's life-threatening or prevalent medical condition by logging into the TVDSB Parent Portal and clicking on the following tab: **Student Medical Information**. Once an Individual Plan of Care is submitted, the school administrator will then review the information. Parents/Guardians may be contacted for further information, if required.

Parents/Guardians who cannot access the Parent Portal on the Internet should contact the school office. Please note that Parents/Guardians are expected to be active participants in supporting the management of the student's prevalent medical condition(s) while the student is in school. **It is the responsibility of Parents/Guardians to inform the school of such conditions to ensure the student's safety at school.** *A medical incident is a circumstance that requires an immediate response and monitoring, since the incident may progress to an emergency requiring contact with Emergency Medical Services – 911

Bus Safety/Bus Cancellations/Communications



A reminder to parents and students to not walk or cut through spaces between parked busses. A reminder also to not drop off, pick up, or park in or across from the school bus loading zone.

To sign up for email notifications, you need to log into the [Bus Parent Portal](#). In the portal, click on the “Media” tab, then #2. Remember you need your child’s student number which you can find in your [WNPS Parent Portal](#). You can also follow Student Transportation Services on Facebook and Twitter.

BusPlanner Delays App: Push Notifications for School Vehicle Delays and Cancellations

The BusPlanner Delays app is available for both iPhone and Android devices and is free.

Instructions for Students/Parents/Guardians:

1. Download the free app to your device.
2. When asked for an access code, enter MBYB.
3. Select “For My Child’s Transportation”.
4. Select the school(s) from the list.
5. Select the bus run numbers (AVAILABLE IN THE PARENT PORTAL) – make sure you add both AM and PM bus run numbers, especially if your student has different bus assignments in the morning and afternoon.

Remember when our buses have been cancelled the school will remain OPEN.

All bused students who will not be driven to school by a parent, **MUST** be entered as absent due to Transportation Cancellation, in School Messenger by 9:15am. Otherwise, you will receive a call to confirm your child’s absence.

All students who are classified as “WALKERS” are expected to report to school. If walking students are not attending on a bus cancellation day, please report them as absent in School Messenger.

Reminder: On a foggy morning, **IF** buses are cancelled for the morning route, **AFTERNOON** buses will still run. If you plan to drop your child or children off on a bus cancellation morning, you may use the bus lane to facilitate easier drop off.

Communications

The Thames Valley District School Board uses 3 different web applications. Each application has its own unique log in and password.

Application 1: The TVDSB Parent Portal: <http://www.tvdsb.ca/parentportal>

- Access marks, attendance history, timetables, complete online forms

In the Parent Portal you will need to confirm your child’s Emergency Contact Information, general Student Information, and give Consent for Release of Student Information.

There is a helpful video on the board website to support parent use of the Parent Portal

https://schoolapps2.tvdsb.ca/parents/tvdsb_parents/

Application 2: The TVDSB Attendance / School Messenger Portal: <http://www.tvdsb.ca/schoolmessenger>

- Report a student absence, late arrival, or early departure
- Receive emails, phone calls, and texts informing you of an unexplained student absence

Application 3: The TVDSB Online Payment Portal: <https://tvdsb.schoolcashionline.com/>

- Pay for items your child's school has entered into the system

Concussion Reminder

Recent research has been instrumental in informing the manner in which we deal with concussions. The recognition that concussions can have serious, long-term implications for physical activity and for learning has led to the development of a new, province-wide protocol for the management of concussions within schools.

A concussion:

- is a brain injury that causes changes in how the brain functions, leading to symptoms that can be physical (e.g., headache, dizziness), cognitive (e.g., difficulty concentrating or remembering), emotional/behavioural (e.g., depression, irritability) and/or related to sleep (e.g., drowsiness, difficulty falling asleep);
- may be caused either by a direct blow to the head, face or neck, or a blow to the body that transmits a force to the head that causes the brain to move rapidly within the skull;
- can occur even if there has been no loss of consciousness (in fact most concussions occur without a loss of consciousness)

When a concussion is suspected or diagnosed, schools are required to have medical clearance for the student to resume normal participation in both physical activity and the classroom. It is important that there are open lines of communication between the school/Principal and the family to ensure that the student receives the necessary supports in returning to learn. If you require more information please contact the school at 519-461-9575.

Student Accident Insurance

There will be no paper copy of Student Accident Insurance forms coming home with your student this year. Please follow the link for further information. [Student Accident Insurance](#)

Picture Day

Picture Day is on hold at the current time for all TVDSB schools.

Home Connections in Math

It's an exciting time in mathematics right now. In late June, the Ministry of Education announced the release of the new elementary mathematics curriculum for grades 1 to 8. This new elementary math curriculum describes the knowledge and skills that students are expected to learn in each grade. It is organized into six areas: number, algebra, data, spatial sense and financial literacy, with social-emotional learning skills in mathematics and mathematical processes being taught as part of the learning through all strands. Social-emotional learning skills help students build confidence in their math skills and think critically to support their overall well-being.

The Ministry has revised the assessment and reporting procedures for the math curriculum. There will be only one mark for math, instead of providing a separate mark for each strand.

Mathematics is an integral part of our daily lives. Therefore, [The Curriculum Context](#) outlines the vision, principles and goals of the new mathematics curriculum. We want students to see the value and beauty of mathematics. There is a lot of work to be done to support our students in learning mathematics and parents/guardians play an important part in the learning process. The following link outlines the [Roles and Responsibilities in Mathematics Education](#) in Mathematics Education for all stakeholders including students, parents, teachers, principals, and community members.

Resources and additional information can be found on the Ministry's Curriculum and Resources website:

- [New Elementary Math Curriculum](#)
- [Key Changes – Ontario Mathematics Curriculum](#)

We will continue to provide any updates and support from the Ministry to all our families.

BYOD Protocol (Bring your own device)

Staff and students may bring their own computing devices to schools to limit the use of shared devices at the schools and school related events. Students and staff should not share their personal devices with others. Mobile technology devices include, but are not limited to, laptops, netbooks, Chromebooks, tablets, iPads, and smartphones.

1. Before bringing a personally owned mobile technology device to school, students and staff should record its make, model, and serial number. This information should be maintained by the family at home. Students and staff should clearly label the device and its peripherals, such as cables or headphones, with the first and last name.
2. TVDSB will not be responsible for lost, damaged, stolen items or incidents of cyber security breaches.
3. Students are responsible at all times for complying with their school's "Code of Conduct", "Computer Safe & Acceptable Use Code of Conduct", copyright legislation and the conditions outlined in this document. It is the expectation that personal owned mobile devices will be only used for educational purposes.
4. Any mobile technology device that is brought to school should have a fully charged battery at the beginning of the day. TVDSB schools do not have sufficient charging points for all students and staff.
5. Students and staff will use TVDSB's wireless network connection when at school. Please refer to Appendix A –Connecting to TVDSB's Wireless Network. TVDSB is not responsible for charges that may occur from accessing other connections.
6. Privacy and safety are paramount for students and staff. Students must obtain permission from a teacher or administrator before recording, taking pictures, or publishing images, information, or works of individuals

or groups (school code of conduct). Recordings and pictures may be taken for teacher-approved projects only, and permission must be obtained.

7. It is not the responsibility of TVDSB to troubleshoot individual personal, non-board devices.

STUDENT USE OF PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

At West Nissouri Public School we embrace technology for the purposes of enhancing student learning. We also understand that cell phones serve a purpose for student's safety reasons while walking to and from school. However, in efforts to protect the learning environment from distractions and in order to protect the privacy of our staff and students, cell phones and all other electronic communication devices must be turned off and away during the entire nutrition break, on the yard at recess and in the hallways/bathrooms.

In the classroom, cell phones and electronic devices are prohibited unless students are directly supervised by a teacher and they are used only during instructional time (as directed by an educator), for health and medical purposes and/or to support special education needs.

Students must not use cell phones and/or electronic devices to take photos, videos, or sound recordings unless direct teacher supervision for instructional purposes.

Should a student need to contact a parent, they are to request permission from their teacher to go to the office and use the telephone.

Electronic devices are not to be kept on the student's person during the day. Each individual classroom will have an appropriate storage place available in a centrally locked location. All electronic devices are not the responsibility of the school. It is therefore best that such items are left at home. If a device is out during instructional time or not being used for instructional purposes, without permission and supervision, the cell phone will be taken and kept in the office. Progressive measures will be taken, if necessary.

Thank you for your cooperation,

D. Mann

Principal

Completed in co-operation with WNPS students' council, school council, staff, and parents (2019-2020).

IMPORTANT SEPTEMBER DATES

- **Monday, September 30 - Orange Shirt Day – Commemorating Residential Schools**

PLEASE CONTINUE TO MONITOR OUR WEBSITE CALENDAR FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. Want to sync our school calendar to your smart phone, just click the subscribe button and choose what you want to subscribe too! It's that easy 😊