

WEST NISSOURI WILDFIRE NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2021

Principal: Mr. Darryl Mann

Vice-Principal: Ms. Tammy Adams

Administrative Assistant: Ms. Heather Smith

Clerical Assistant: Ms. Heather Emery

Phone: 519-461-9575

westnissouri@tvdsb.ca

<http://westnissouri.tvdsb.ca>

Trustees: Sean Hunt and Arlene Morell

Superintendent: Kevin Auckland

From the Principal's Pen

It's June and what an unprecedented year it has been! The end of each school year is usually a time when students, parents and staff stop and look back on the years events. When I stop and reflect on everything we experienced over the past ten months, it is truly unbelievable.

The end of a school year also means saying goodbye to our graduating class of grade eights. We wish them all well as they start a new chapter in their lives as they venture off to high school.

We must also say thank you and goodbye to several staff members. Ali Assaff and Rachael Litt have been in Long Term Occasional Assignments. Ali has been sharing a class with Mrs. Elston, teaching our Grade 3/4s as well as prep for our primary division since November. Rachael Litt joined us in January to teach Music to our junior and intermediate classes. Both have been wonderful additions to our staff, and we wish them well in their teaching careers.

In addition, we announce the retirements of Becky Lenko and Valerie Kings. We have all benefited from their hard work and dedication. We express our appreciation for the years of service they have given to WNPS and the Board. We wish them a healthy and enjoyable retirement as they start a new chapter in their lives. We know they are eager to spend time with family.

Finally, we wish Ms. Adams all the best as she takes her career and leadership to Cedar Hollow Public School, after being a WNPS Wildfire teacher and administrator for the past 3 years!

On behalf of the students and staff, both past and present, thank you Mr. Assaff, Ms. Litt, Mrs. Lenko, Mrs. Kings and Ms. Adams for everything. You will all be greatly missed!

Thank you for a terrific school year at West Nissouri and a year filled with many unforgettable memories. It has been a very full, unpredictable and busy year and I know we are all ready for a break to enjoy summer vacation. I wish all our students, families and staff a safe and fun filled summer and I am looking forward to next year and the adventures that await. We understand how important it will be for students, families and staff to have an opportunity to reconnect in person and mark the beginning of a school year.

See you in September!

With You in Education,

Darryl Mann
Principal West Nissouri Public School



Friday, June 11th and Tuesday, June 29th are PA days for Elementary Schools.

Library Learning Commons

Thank you for your continued support for our LLC! In May, we welcomed 3 different authors virtually. Emil Sher presented to our Grade 5/6 - 7/8s, Jess Keating presented to our Grade 2 -5/6, and Vikki Vansickle presented to our Ks - Grade 4/5. Amazing information and engaging conversations were had, and students were able to learn about the writing process from Canadian published authors! We look forward to scheduling more of these in the future!

All library books have a due date of June 10th, and this will be changed by the Board as needed. We can always gather books in the Fall too. Our free book to each student order should be arriving soon and will be distributed as soon as the school safely opens. We greatly appreciate your patience and excitement! Happy Reading!

Bev Brown Award

Every year one grade 6 student is awarded the Bev Brown award. The award is given to a student that demonstrates leadership qualities by motivating and inspiring others, sharing responsibility, information and credit when working towards a goal. The Bev Brown recipient communicates fairly, honourably and openly and sets a high standard of integrity by leading through example and maintaining high personal standards. This year the Bev Brown recipient is Ella Haight. Throughout the year Ella has shown a tremendous amount of initiative and willingness to share her love of learning with others. She treats others fairly and equitably and provides encouragement. Congratulations Ella!

Home and School

The June Home and School meeting takes place virtually tonight (June 7th) from 6 p.m.

Home and School Executive for 2020-2021 school year

President: Sarah Doan

Vice President: Amanda Elliott

Treasurer: Lindsay Fleming

Secretary: Candace Pink

Fundraising Chair: Kendra Ferguson

School Advisory Council

Minutes and Principal's Report – Posted to WNPS Website.

Next Virtual Meeting: June 15th @ 6:30 p.m.

How to connect to our next meeting:

There will be an invitation sent out with school messenger with a unique password

****a reminder you will have to know your child's login information****

If you have any questions or concerns, please email us at sc-westnissouri@tvpic.ca

You can find us on Facebook at - **West Nissouri Public School Advisory Council**

The minutes will be shared from each meeting on our school website -westnissouri.tvdsb.ca.

It can be found under the "Parents" tab and by selecting "School Council"

As well as on School Messenger!

Our WNPS Council Member Executive:

Chair: Tiffany Grubb

Secretary: Alexis Juliao

Treasurer: Tara Santagapita

Community Reps: Jeannine Poulton, Andrew Poulton

Parent Reps: Amanda Borges, Michelle Coughlin, Blair Masse, Kendra Bricker

Teacher Rep: Carissa Kanters

School Bus Registration



It's time to get registered for a spot on the school bus for September if your address is eligible. Please note the deadline to register July 15, 2021. You will need to have your child's student ID number handy. Please send an e-mail to the school (westnissouri@tvdsb.ca) if you do not have the Student ID number and we will be happy to send it to you. To register, please go to www.mybigyellowbus.ca.



Meet Mrs. Peetsma

LEARNING SUPPORT TEACHER
@ WNPS

What is something that we might not know about you?

I like to sew and bake. I have made curtains, pillow covers and even some clothing. I like to bake and decorate cakes and cupcakes.

How long have you been a part of the WNPS community?

I have been teaching at WN since its opening in 2010, and before that I was at Leesboro. I have been teaching in this community since 2001.

What do you do to 'energize' and take care of yourself?

I play soccer and exercise daily. I like to read and go camping.

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

I would like to go to a warm location, Hawaii. I would like to do some hiking and enjoy the culture.



Online Safety Tips for Caring Adults

May 2021

Online Safety Tips

Learn how to navigate the websites/apps/chat rooms that your child accesses.

Show your child how to create secure and unique passwords, eg. PizzaCat25!

Teach the importance of pausing and thinking before posting as posts can be difficult to remove.

Remind your child never to share personal information online.

Review and set privacy settings.

Remind your child that they need permission to post photos of others.

Teach Your Child Mindful Messaging

Before you text, tweet, send, or post, take a moment to:

- Take a deep breath
- Notice how you are feeling
- Re-read your message
- Ask yourself "is the message true?"
- Think about how the message will be received
- Think about what will happen next
- Change the message if needed

Keep in Mind

- If you are hurt, angry, or confused it is wise to wait before hitting send
- Don't send messages that you would not say to the person's face.

Healthy Online Behaviour



Explain that how you behave online should reflect how you behave in person.

Encourage your child to speak to a trusted adult if something makes them feel uncomfortable.

Suggest taking regular breaks from technology.

Ensure that websites/apps/platforms/etc. are appropriate for your child's age and stage of development.

Adapted from <https://kidshelpphone.ca/get-involved/programs-resources/open-conversation-young-person/online-safety-tips-caring-adults>

Start the Conversation

Set a positive tone by validating the importance of technology in your child's life.

Discuss what your child does online, and who they interact with.

Ask if they've received any unwanted messages and listen to their stories.

Teach them strategies when feeling uncomfortable with online interactions:

- do not message back
- do not retaliate
- report to caring adult
- keep a record
- block the person

Let them know that if you feel there is a concern you may need to look at their electronic communications.

Allow for negotiation when creating agreements as this will promote your child taking ownership.



Adapted from <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/ntrl-scr/cbr-scr/cbriling/prnts/prvnt-cbriling-en.aspx#a04d>

Online Safety Resources

Kids Help Phone: Online safety: Tips for caring adults

Media Smart: Digital and media resources for caring adults

OPHEA: Internet safety resources for caring adults

Public Safety Canada: How can you prevent cyberbullying

Mental Health Resources

Kids Help Phone: 24/7 crisis support: 1-800-668-6868, text 686868, www.kidshelpphone.ca for web chat

Reach Out Crisis Support: (519)433-2023 or 1-866-933-2023, www.reachout247.ca for web chat

These underlined hyperlinks provide great information

Mathematizing the Beach

So much of a student’s success in math is based on their ability to develop personal benchmarks and use those benchmarks to estimate measurement in school and the world around them. A personal benchmark is a physical reference for a unit of measure. For example, the width of your pinky finger is about a centimetre. It must be gained through experience! Once students have a sense of personal benchmarks, they can use these benchmarks to estimate. Parents can help students develop these benchmarks within everyday contexts by asking questions like: Do I have enough sugar to make cookies? Will this wrapping paper cover the box? Will my car fit into the parking space?

Let’s illustrate how you might help your child develop personal benchmarks using the example of a trip to the beach.

How long do you think it will take us to get to the beach?

What increments of time are key for kids? Do they have a sense of a minute, 15 minutes, half an hour or an hour? We take it for granted that children have this sense. Car rides are a great opportunity for children to get a better sense of time.



What do you think is the temperature today?



If children know that water freezes at 0 degrees Celsius and it boils at 100 degrees Celsius, can they estimate the temperature on a “hot” day? Did you know that “burning hot” sand can be 50 degrees Celsius?

How much water will this container hold? How much does it weigh?

A really important benchmark connection is that *a litre of water has a mass of one kilogram.*

Once a child has made this connection there are many opportunities to explore them at the beach. For example:

- How many litres of water will fill your pail?
- What is the mass of the pail?
- Can you find something with a mass of one kilogram?



How long is a kilometre?



The beach provides an ideal opportunity to develop a personal benchmark for a kilometre. You could use an app on your phone to keep track of distance. Pick a visual marker as a start point, walk a kilometre, and then look back! We did it!

kilometre, and then look back! We did it!

So, the next time you are planning on heading to the beach - use the opportunity to help your child build personal benchmarks.

On rainy days, try some of the activities at the link below:

<http://www. estimation180.com/>