

# Wildfire Newsletter – November 2021

**West Nissouri Wildfire Newsletter - Issue #3**

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## Principal's Message

From the Principal's Pen,

The autumn leaves are falling and the chilly winds of November have arrived.

WNPS continues to be alive with student learning and the return of numerous activities for our students.

During the month of October we were pleased to have many of our students participate in Cross Country and have recently begun Volleyball. I would like to thank Ms. Hamlyn, Ms. LaBute, Mr. McNamara, Ms. Scudamore, Ms. Ferraiuolo, Ms. Crawford, Ms. Dufton, Ms. Dawson, Ms. Elston, Mrs. Beattie, Ms. Mirasty, and Mr. Sercombe for making it possible for students to participate and for giving up their time to coach and supervise our students. Wow, what a team!

Thank you again to our Home and School Association, for supporting school events and opportunities in the coming month, namely a Ring and Rocks Curling Program and our Forest of Reading Program. Finally, thank you to our Student Voice group, led by Ms. Duncan, Ms. Gould, Ms. Elston, Ms. LaBute, Ms. Young and Ms. Bumanlag for organizing Halloween activities for our students. It was great to see so many of our staff and students, of all ages, dressed up and enjoying activities in their classrooms and throughout the school.

Elementary Progress Reports for students in Grades 1-8, and Kindergarten Communication of Learning go home on November 5th. The Progress Reports are based on the first eight weeks of school and are intended to describe in overall terms, what students know and can do, describe their strengths and identify next steps for improvement. They also help parents and guardians understand how they can support their children at home. The Learning Skills and Work Habits are on the front page. Each of these important skills and habits include descriptors which provide specific expectations to help students become lifelong learners.

There are many important events happening this month and are outlined in this newsletter and that can be found on our WNPS and TVDSB websites:

<https://westnissouri.tvdsb.ca/en/index.aspx#>

<https://www.tvdsb.ca/en/index.aspx>

With You in Education,

Darryl Mann  
Principal

## Upcoming Important Dates:

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November 5<sup>th</sup> - Progress Reports Go Home  
November 8<sup>th</sup> - Grad Photo Day  
November 9<sup>th</sup> - Student Advisory Council Virtual Meeting 6 p.m.  
November 11<sup>th</sup> - Remembrance Day  
November 12<sup>th</sup> - P.A. Day – Children do not attend school on this day  
November 15<sup>th</sup> - Gift Card Fundraiser Orders due  
November 19<sup>th</sup> - Pajama Day  
November 26<sup>th</sup> - Crazy Hair Day  
December 6<sup>th</sup> - Home & School Virtual Meeting 6 p.m.  
December 6<sup>th</sup> - Gift Card Fundraiser Orders due  
December 7<sup>th</sup> - Virtual Grade 8 Parent Night – Medway – 7 p.m. (details to follow)  
December 8<sup>th</sup> - Virtual Grade 8 Parent Night - Lord Dorchester – 6:30 p.m. (details to follow)  
December 14<sup>th</sup> – Student Advisory Council Meets Virtually (6 p.m.)

## Library Learning Commons (LLC)

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*Our LLC is off to a great start, with almost 3000 books signed out already this year! Students can sign out up to 3 books, for 3 weeks at a time. Our students in Grade 4 and up can reserve books also through our LLC website too. Reading at home is a great way to build vocabulary, background knowledge and comprehension skills.*

*Our December book fair will be virtual, with many details to come. Dates should be in early December, and shipping will be to individual order's homes. Our Spring Book Fair was such a huge success! Thank you to our Home and School and our Community for continued support! Happy Reading!*

## WN Wildfire Girls Volleyball

The girl's volleyball season has begun at West Nissouri, running from October 26th to December 1st. The girls are focused on building their skills as a team and have had fun at their first few games! Mr. McNamara, Mrs. LaBute and Mr. Mann are excited to be coaching the girls this season. Best of luck ladies and have fun!

Go Wildfire!



## WN Wildfire Boys Volleyball

The boy's volleyball season has also begun at West Nissouri, running from November 2nd to December 2nd. The boys will be focusing on foundational skills and developing a deeper understanding of the sport. Mrs. Elston and Ms. Beattie look forward to coaching the boys and building their skills in volleyball. We are excited to be able to travel within our Northeast Region during the season and to compete against other teams within the Valley. Best of luck boys!

# Home and School Association

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Happy November Everyone! There's a lot happening with Home and School this month! We have been given the go-ahead to resume hot lunches, so keep your eyes open for forms to come home over the next week or two. We're also looking into resuming the second hot lunch day through the Lunch Box Program and will be sending home information on that as well.

The gift card fundraiser will also be starting up again in November and December with deadlines of November 15<sup>th</sup> and December 6<sup>th</sup>. If you prefer to drop off the form and payment directly rather than sending in cash or a cheque with your child, please e-mail Sarah Doan at [sarah.doan@live.ca](mailto:sarah.doan@live.ca) to make arrangements. The forms will be sent home this week and will also be e-mailed out by the school. We have partnered with I Love Thorndale again this year to offer local gift cards as well with a few new opportunities!

Spirit Wear order forms will also be coming home as soon as possible, so keep your eyes peeled for those as well!

We are also very pleased to have been able to donate another drop off of snacks for the hungry bear snack bins! We love being able to support our students!

Additionally, we have donated funding for The Egg Farmers Rocks and Rings Tournament presented by Curling Canada where students will engage in friendly competition while learning curling terminology, scoring, and more while using mini curling lanes on an iceless rink right in the West Nissouri school gym!

Our next meeting is Monday December 6, 2021 at 6pm via Microsoft Teams. Please consider joining us to see what we have coming up for the rest of this school year and to share any ideas you may have!

Thank you for your support!

- The West Nissouri Home and School Association

## School Council

West Nissouri's Student Advisory Council will meet on Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Agenda and Meeting Invite to come in a separate e-mail message.

## Grad Photographs

We are pleased to let you know that West Nissouri Grad Photos have been booked for November 8<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. There will be no retake date or studio time available. A message has been sent to all our Grade 8 students with the details. If you have not received information, please contact the school (519-461-9575).

## Grade 8 Virtual Parent Nights – “Save the date”

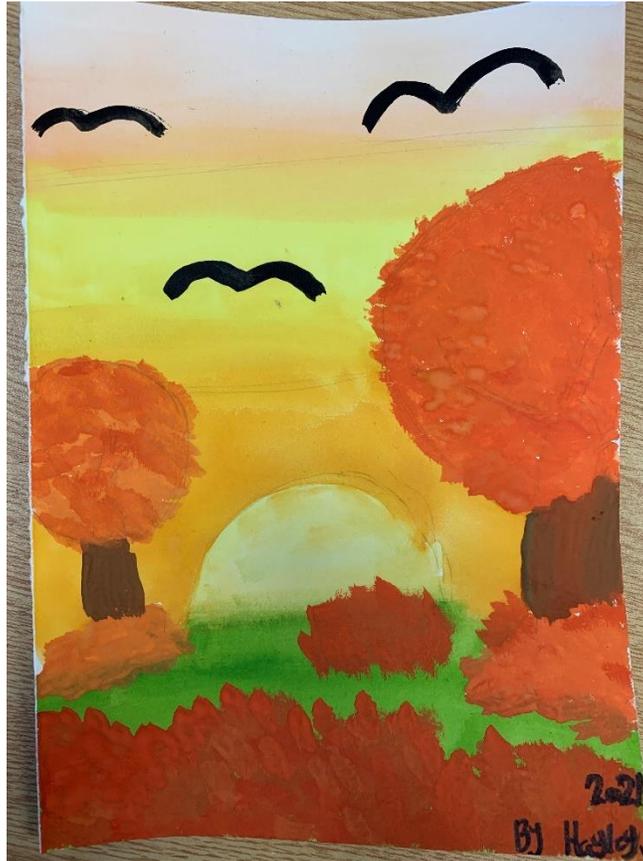
Medway Secondary School will be hosting a Virtual Grade 8 Parent Night on Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Lord Dorchester Secondary School will be hosting their Virtual Grade 8 Parent Night on Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 p.m. More details will follow at a later date.



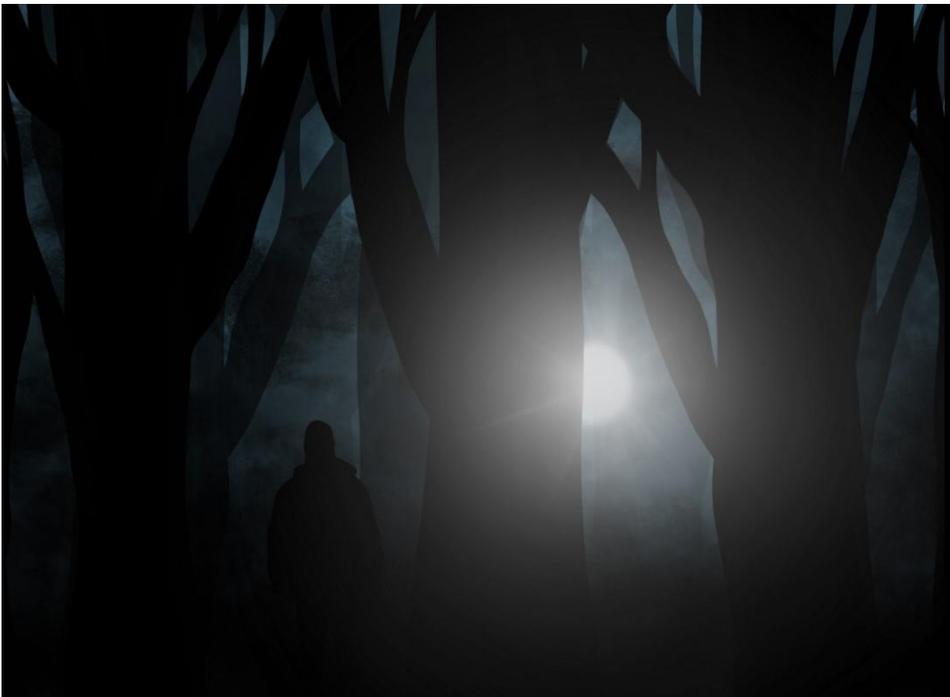
## WN Art Club

Art Club has begun for this year, and we have some amazing student work from the October Contest!

BEST AUTUMN THEME - HAYLEY G.



BEST HAUNTED FOREST - ISABELLE V.



MOST CREATIVE IDEA - ISLA C.



STUDENT CHOICE AWARD WINNER - CORINNA R.



# Home Connections in Mathematics

November 2021 'Fact Fluency'

**“Children should learn their number facts. However, they would benefit from learning their facts by using an increasingly sophisticated sense of strategies rather than by jumping directly to memorization.”**

(Lawson, 2016)

## Knowing Your Facts: Just One of the “Basics”

What do you think of when you hear, “getting back to the basics” in mathematics? Well, the basics can mean anything from counting, to computation, to problem solving. But *basic facts* refers to the set of single digit number facts for addition and multiplication, and their related subtraction and division facts. For example,  $7 + 8$ ,  $15 - 7$ ,  $5 \times 6$ ,  $30 \div 6$ , are all basic facts.

One of the fundamental skills that children need to have in mathematics is to master their basic facts. *Mastering math facts* involves understanding and recalling math facts using a variety of strategies.

## How Should Children Master Math Facts?

Most children will learn math facts gradually over a number of years. During this time, they should be encouraged to use what they already know to help them solve for facts they don't know yet. For example, to solve for  $6 \times 8$ , they may use the known fact  $5 \times 8 = 40$  and add one more group of 8 to get 48. Over time, this reasoning will help children master facts and eventually become more fluent.

The goal is not *memorization* of facts, but *automaticity* which is the quick and effortless recall of math facts.

Asking your child to memorize without opportunities to reason and visualize is not an effective way to commit facts to memory.

## Games to Master Math Facts

Games are fun to play over and over again, and therefore are an excellent way to provide repeated practise for students to learn their facts. When your child is not able to immediately recall a fact, encourage them to use what they do know to help them solve it rather than simply telling them the answer.

TRY THESE GAMES:

### Go Fish for 10!

You need: 2 players

One deck of cards (Aces, Queens and 2 to 10)



Queen = 0 Ace = 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8hgbl08XkDg>

Lay the deck of cards face down on the table. Each player selects three cards from the deck. The goal is to make pairs that add to 10. The first player looks for a pair in their hand, and if they find a pair, they lay that down for a point and pick up two more cards from the pile. If they don't find a pair, they ask their partner for what they need to make a ten pair. If the partner has the card, they pass it over. If they don't have the card, they say “Go Fish!” and the first player draws a card from the pile. Switch turns. Play continues until there are no remaining cards.

### Addition Challenge

One deck of cards (A to 10)

Players split a deck of cards and flip over the top two cards at the same time. They add their own cards and the person with the largest sum takes all the cards. Person with the most cards at the end of the game wins.

This game can also be played to practice subtraction and multiplication.

**Here are several more dice and card games to practice math facts.**

## Home Connections in Mathematics

November 2021 'Fact Fluency'

[https://www.granby.k12.ct.us/uploaded/faculty/wyzika/Dice\\_and\\_Card\\_Games\\_to\\_Practice\\_Math\\_Facts.pdf](https://www.granby.k12.ct.us/uploaded/faculty/wyzika/Dice_and_Card_Games_to_Practice_Math_Facts.pdf)

Have fun playing and mastering facts with your child.

### Financial Literacy

Penny, Nickel, Dime: In this game you will roll a dice 7 times. For every roll, you take that many pennies, nickels, dimes.

Whoever gets closest to \$1 without going over wins the game.

Please use the chart below to record your findings.

Students can utilize mental math strategies and financial literacy skills in order to improve fact fluency.

Dimes	Nickels	Pennies

Game on!

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