

## Westmount School – December Newsletter



- Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> – LIT/Early Dismissal (2:30 p.m.)
- Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> – Westmount Winter Festival
- Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Store
- Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> – Christmas Dress Up Day
- Dec. 24 – Jan. 2 – No School (Happy Holidays)
- Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Classes Resume
- Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> – LIT/Early Dismissal (2:30 p.m.)

### School Hours

Morning	Afternoon	To ensure student safety, supervision is provided 15 minutes prior to the entrance bell in the morning and 10 minutes after the dismissal bell at the end of the day.
9:00 Entry Bell	12:35 Entry Bell	
9:05 Classes Begin	12:40 Classes Begin	
11:55 Lunch	3:30 Dismissal	

### Westmount Winter Festival



**On Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> from 5 – 7 p.m., Westmount will be hosting a Winter Festival. The Festival will take place in Wakamow Valley by the skating oval.**

The evening will include a variety of free activities: Horse drawn sleigh rides, marshmallow roasting, hot chocolate, barbequed hotdogs (\$2.00 each), glow bowling, Christmas relays, crafts, snowball toss, slooshing and carolling.

### Student-Led Conferences

Thank you to all of the families that attended student-led conferences. The students enjoyed sharing and demonstrating their learning as well as setting goals for term 2 with you.

### School Cash

We are very excited to announce that our schools are now accepting credit cards as a payment method on our *School Cash Online* system. *School Cash Online* provides you with the convenience of paying online for school items such as trips, club/athletic fees, hot lunches and spirit wear. We really want to save you time when paying for school expenses, so we can't wait for you to take advantage of this opportunity. *School Cash Online* is a great way to pay without the need for cash or checks!

If you haven't already, please follow the link <https://prairiesouth.schoolcashionline.com> to register online (it takes less than 5 minutes!). Once you have registered your child, you will be able to see when they have a new item posted online for purchase. You also have the option to be notified whenever your child has a new school expense due, so you don't have to worry about missing the deadline.



## Christmas Spirit - Dress Up Day! Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup>

Get in the Christmas spirit! You can wear an ugly Christmas sweater, dress in red, green and white or even dress as your favourite Christmas carol.

### School Community Council News

**The Christmas Store** – Westmount’s School Community Council will be hosting their annual Christmas Store on Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. The Christmas Store provides an opportunity for Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 5 students to shop for Christmas gifts for their immediate family.

The gifts are gently used, donated items from our school community and are priced from \$0.25 to \$1.00. **If you have items to donate, we will be accepting donations until December 14<sup>th</sup>.**

**January Hot Lunch** – The School Community Council will be hosting a hot lunch on January 31<sup>st</sup>. January’s hot lunch will be Subway. Notes will go home on January 14<sup>th</sup>. All orders are due on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Late orders WILL NOT be accepted due to purchasing deadlines.

**School Clothing** – School Clothing orders are in and have been sent home. However, toques have not yet arrived and youth two-toned hoodies are on back order. These items will be distributed as soon as they arrive. A huge thank you to Mrs. Zoerb who created the new Westmount logo for the clothing items.

**Become a member** - All parents and community members are a great asset to our School Community Council. New members are always welcome. Even if you decided not to join the council in a formal capacity, we hope you will consider attending council meetings when you can. **Our next School Community Council Meeting is Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in the school library. We hope that you can join us!**

### Attendance Matters

School Attendance: Did you know? Research shows that missing 18 days in most school divisions, negatively affects a student’s academic performance. That’s just two days a month and that’s known as chronic absence. Some students are missing so many days of school that they are academically at risk. Chronic absence can translate into children in grade three unable to master reading and falling levels of reading behind, students in grade six failing subjects, and students in grade nine dropping out of high school. When students improve their attendance rates, they improve their academic prospects and chances for graduating. Absenteeism in the first month of school can predict poor attendance throughout the school year. Half the students who miss 2-4 days in September go on to miss nearly a month of school in an academic year. We want parents to ensure their children get the best start in school and in life as possible.

Moose Jaw Literacy Network

### Absences and Lates

Parents are asked to phone the school if their child is going to be absent or late. We are concerned about student safety; therefore, your co-operation with this request is greatly appreciated. If a student is absent from school and we have not received a phone call, we will attempt to contact the parent.

**Don’t Foreget – You can now email Westmount School when your child will be away.** Please send your message to [attendance.westmount@prairiesouth.ca](mailto:attendance.westmount@prairiesouth.ca). Don’t forget to include your child’s first and last name, their homeroom teacher and the reason for their absence.

## Westmount School Goals 2018/2019

<p>By June 2019, 79% of students in grades 1 – 8 will be reading at or above grade level as measured by F&amp;P or BRI.</p> <p><b>Current Data Update</b> – The current data shows us that approximately 74.5% of our students are reading at or above grade level. In November 2018, 9% of our students were reading slightly below grade level.</p>	<p>By June 2019, 65% of students in grades 1 – 8 will be writing at or above grade level as measured by the holistic writing rubric.</p> <p><b>Current Data</b> – The current data shows us that approximately 14% of students in grades 2 – 8 are writing at or above grade level. In September, 48% of our students were writing slightly below grade level.</p>
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### Learning Improvement Teams (LIT)

On early dismissal days, our staff meet in Learning Improvement Teams. This year, these teams are focusing on student writing. In September, grade 2 – 8 teachers collected a writing sample from every student. They then meet at their team meetings and common scored student writing. Now that we know where the students are at, we are using the writing pieces to determine the students writing strengths and challenges.

#### Three Big Ideas That Drive the LIT Process (Based on DuFour & Marzano, 2011) (Taken from the Comprehensive Learning Framework)

**Big Idea #1 Ensure that All Students Learn at High Levels** - The LIT process is “intended to impact & improve teaching... and create the conditions that help educators become more skillful in teaching because great teaching and high levels of learning go hand in hand” (DuFour & Marzano, 2011, p. 23).

**Big Idea #2 Build a Culture of Collaboration** - In order to help all students learn, educators work collaboratively to analyze & improve their teaching and student learning. Time to collaborate is embedded into the routine practice of the school.

**Big Idea #3 Focus on Results** - Educators will continuously monitor student learning and base decisions on data and evidence. The LIT gathers evidence not only to understand and improve each student’s learning, but to plan appropriate teaching responses that improve teaching as well as the collaborative team effort.

### Remembrance Day Writing – Grade 5 Mrs. Arndt

*Poppy*

Poppy

*Officer*

Eleven

*Protect*

Army

*Peaceful*

Europe

*Ypres*

By: Brettin



By: Kaedence

