Westmount School
220 Wheatland Trail,
Strathmore, Alberta   T1P 1B2
Phone: 403-934-3041   Fax: 403-934-4936
Websites: www.westmountelementary.com
Golden Hills Website: www.ghsd75.ca
“Effort Today ………..Excellence Tomorrow!”
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**October**

- **6th**: Picture Day
- **13th**: Thanksgiving
- **20th**: Sports Spirit Day
- **27th**: Book Fair

**November**

- **3rd**: Alien In-Line Gr 3–5
- **5th**: Lifetouch Photo Retakes
- **6th**: Alien In-Line Gr 3–5
- **10th**: Remembrance Day
- **17th**: 26 Call to book Parent Teacher Interviews
- **24th**: Report Cards Out

- **8th**: Alien In-Line Gr 3–5
- **14th**: Alien In-Line Gr 3–5
- **21st**: Self Control Assembly 12
- **29th**: Day in Lieu of Interviews No School
What a beautiful fall it has been so far! It is always great to see our students enjoying their outside time as much as they are this year. (Especially with that super cool new playground outside!) As always, there is a lot going on at Westmount School and we want to keep you as informed as we can.

We had a great AGM for the Westmount Elementary School Council last week. We have a totally new executive with Jen Brown as Chairperson, Pat Coone as Treasurer and Suzie Careless as Secretary. Our first regular council meeting will be held in early November. Please plan to attend to find out what is going on in our wonderful school!

Our Student Government has been elected and we are very excited to announce our government members. We would like to welcome Elizabeth Proust, Isabel Cook, Jay Kros, Micayla Kooistra, Hannah Carlson, Nicky Yoo, Matias Santoro, Natalie Funk, Jaycob Masciangelo and Neve Raycroft to the student government. This dedicated group of students will be involved with planning for spirit days, running our assemblies and presenting new ideas to the staff at Westmount School.

Our school enrollment has continued to climb through the early fall weeks. Including our International Students, we currently sit with 494 students enrolled at Westmount. While this large number of students can cause some space issues, we are very excited to see our student population continue a steady upward climb. This enables us as a staff to offer a wide variety of programming for our student population; Challenge Program, Math Boost, Hockey Program, Literacy Success and many other smaller options for individual students! Additionally, this continued enrollment growth has enabled us to petition the provincial government for some new classroom space. Our two portable classrooms are currently in the beginning stages of construction and we hope they are ready for use by the end of January.

Throughout the fall months there are many opportunities for the parents of our students to interact with our classes. We have already had our Meet the Teacher event as well as multiple field trips. Also, we have held our annual Terry Fox Run which was again a spectacular success.

We just wanted to take a moment to thank all of our parents for their involvement in our school. Without you, many of these fun “extra” events would not be able to happen. Thanks again to all of our volunteers!

I just want to take a moment to say a huge thank you to everybody who has supported the school staff here at Westmount. I know that without the support of parents our job becomes so much more difficult. Thank you.

Yours truly,

Wayne Funk
Welcome to an exciting year of Grade One at Westmount School. Our class consists of 22 enthusiastic smiling students, ten girls and twelve boys! What a great way to learn that $10 + 12 = 22$ We are very fortunate to have Mrs. Gail Daw as a part of our classroom family as our amazing volunteer for just over an hour every school day. As well, the children are especially fond of our classroom pet, an adorable little white bunny named Theodore, who has developed quite the personality this year.

After the first few weeks of everyone getting to know each other, we are now settling in nicely and developing an excellent rapport. September is always a period of adjustment for grade one children. The transition to a five day a week full-time program is often exhausting. And not just for the children, the teachers are usually tired at the end of the day too! Please try to ensure that your child comes to school well rested. In the afternoon we have already had one little person come close to falling asleep and several others have given it serious thought.

In Language Arts our first major focus is on activities which build the children's confidence as readers and writers. This important first step in literacy development can be encouraged at home and school jointly. Remember to have them follow the words with their “magic reading finger” and keep ALL reading experiences you share with your child positive. Please try to read with your children on a daily basis, and spend a few minutes on their word ring as well.

Daytimers have been successfully introduced and a round of applause goes out to parents for reading, signing, and returning them on a daily basis. They are a great way for you to stay up to date with what is happening both at school and at home.

I am enjoying getting to know all the children and their parents. Thank you to all the parents who came out for our Meet The Teacher event and attended my classroom presentation; it was great to see you there. I encourage all parents to come and join our room to see us in action. A huge THANK YOU to Charlotte Ziehr for volunteering to be our volunteer coordinator for the year. We have had a large number of parents who have expressed interest in helping out in the classroom, which is great, but I ask you all to have patience as we cycle everyone through their first turn before you may join us again. Thank you for your understanding!

Thank you to all the parents for sharing their children with me; teaching your children is such a pleasure! Here’s to an exciting and wonderful year of learning and growing together!

Sincerely,

Janice Sumner
Westmount School is collecting shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child again this year. If you are interested in sending in a shoebox for a needy child in South America, please fill your shoebox with a well-balanced variety of items from the following categories:

**School Supplies** - Items such as pencils, pens, pencil crayons, note pads, and picture books

**Toys & Other Gifts** - Items such as stuffed animals, small musical instruments, hair clips, toy jewelry, t-shirts, socks, and candy (loose, individually wrapped hard candy in a sealable bag)

**Hygiene Items** - Please place soap in a sealable bag

**Personal Note** - Include a personal note and/or a photo in your shoebox (not inside the donation envelope). View an information video from the following link: [http://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/pack-a-shoe-box/](http://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/pack-a-shoe-box/)

**DO NOT INCLUDE:**
- Toothpaste (due to customs regulations)
- Food and any chewy, crumbly, or soft candy: Including gum (due to customs regulations)
- Used items (due to customs regulations)
- Playing cards (other card games such as UNO are allowed)
- Liquids or items that could leak, melt, freeze, or break - Shampoo, creams, lip balm, bath gels, mirrors, or glass, etc. (these can damage other items in the shoe box)
- Items that can scare or harm a child - War related toys, knives, and toy guns, etc.

Using a backpack instead of a shoe box is problematic because it creates unfair circumstances at distribution events. Backpacks can also cause problems when cartons are being packed, and when shipments are going through Customs.

**Our goal this year is to collect 500 boxes.** The Wheatland EMS will be picking up the boxes near the middle of November. Thank you for supporting this Westmount School program.

For more information about the Operation Christmas Child program visit the Samaritan’s Purse web site.

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**Veteran’s Thank You Tea**

Westmount School’s Challenge students invite all of Strathmore’s veterans to a thank you tea to be held on November 6, 2013. The tea will take place from 2:30 to 3:00pm. All veterans are welcome to attend. Students will be serving coffee, iced tea and treats. They will be presenting each veteran with a thank you card and they will be singing a Remembrance Day song. Please call Westmount School and let the office know if you are able to attend. We look forward to seeing Strathmore’s veterans at our thank you tea!
Picture day has come and gone, just a reminder that retakes are November 5th. Lifetouch is using a whole new program for ordering your pictures, please read the following information. If you do not have a computer to look at the many available backgrounds you are welcome to come to the school and use one of our computer to have a look before you order or you can order from the ones that come on the order form. Thanks Westmount School

**PICTURE DAY & CLASS PHOTOS:**
October 7th, 2013

**RETAKE DAY – November 5th, 2013**

- The envelope your child will bring home from school approximately **10 days after** photo day will contain your child’s proofs and important order information and **different** background options.
- Your completed photo order must be returned to the school your child attends by the **“IMPORTANT ORDER DUE DATE”** stamped in red on the order portion of the form. If ordering online receive complimentary shipping by ordering on the due date.
- **NEW ORDER OPTIONS!!**
  - You will have the option of ordering using the traditional paper order form, or ordering online using the instructions outlined on the order form. Family Plan only applies to traditional paper orders.
  - This year you will also be able to choose from a variety of different backgrounds. Keep it traditional or make it scenic, it’s completely up to you.
- Mail **LATE ORDERS** directly to Lifetouch Canada Inc. or call **1.866.443.9648** to place the order over the phone or order online however, shipping and late charges will be applied.

**IF YOU REQUIRE A RETAKE, CHECK THE BOX ON THE ORDER FORM, SIGN IT AND HAVE YOUR CHILD RETURN IT THE TO THE PHOTOGRAPHER ON RETAKE DAY.**

Please contact Lifetouch if you have questions regarding proof order forms and picture packages.

**Lifetouch Canada Inc. - 1.866.443.9648**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- Are you eligible for our Family Plan? In all Lifetouch photographed schools, your first two children pay full price for their package choice and each additional child in the immediate family receives the same package **FREE**. Families wanting to take advantage of the Family Plan MUST order using the traditional paper orders. Family plan is NOT offered online.
- Each child receives a complimentary class photo.
- Lifetouch is thrilled to be partnered with the **Canadian Centre for Child Protection**, one of Canada’s leading experts in child protection. Your proof sheet will have 2 complimentary wallet-sized child safety cards, called Pictures 2 Protect. If a child is missing, parents can request through the CCFCP that a Lifetouch portrait of their child be provided to law enforcement to aid search efforts. Lifetouch will respond on a 24/7 basis to aid search efforts. For more details on the CCFCP, please visit: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JC4u_YRb3WY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JC4u_YRb3WY) & [https://protectchildren.ca/app/en/](https://protectchildren.ca/app/en/)
Attention: The school demographic form has gone home a week ago. If you have not done so we ask that you look it over carefully and ensure that all the information is correct, make any necessary changes, sign it and return it to the school as soon as possible. We are required to have the most current information on file at all times.

Lost and Found: It is amazing how quickly our lost and found gets filled to the brim. If your child is missing any thing please encourage them to check it out. You are also welcome to come to the school and check out the lost and found. We have everything from glasses, shoes, boots, lunch bags, jackets etc. turned in every day. Glasses and smaller items are kept at the office so check there as well.

Reminder: If you are calling the school to give your child a message before the end of the day, please do so before 3 pm. We have a wonderful group from 5A that come to the office and deliver our messages to the classrooms at that time. If you wait until 3:15 it is often very difficult to find the student as they are getting ready to go home and are not in their classrooms.

School fees: Just a reminder that all school fees are to be paid as soon as possible. If you are experiencing financial difficulty please call the school and we are more than happy to make arrangements for a payment plan that works for you.