



The Raven Report

November 18, 2016

Not much longer and the snow will be here on a more permanent basis! We are gearing up with a number of after school activities, and special events happening at Walter and Gladys Hill Public School!

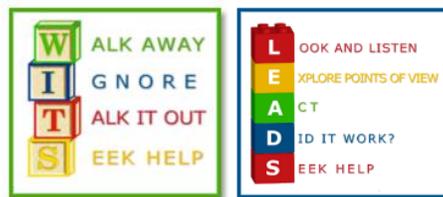
Nov. 18/19th we host the Grade 5/6 Girls Volleyball tournament (Boys at Dickinsfield)

Dec. 3 Christmas Market (10-3pm) and Paint Nite Fundraiser (7-9pm)

Dec. 14 Christmas Concert Grades 1-6

Dec. 15 Early Learning Christmas Concert (ECDP & Kindergarten)

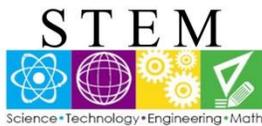
We are excited to be one of three schools piloting the WITS (Whatever it Takes) Program. This program helps bring students, parents and community members together as partners to create responsive environments that help children deal with bullying and peer victimization. We are excited to be working with Constable Robertson and the Monarchs Football team on this project. More information is available at <http://www.witsprogram.ca/schools/>



In partnership with Mr. Said from Westwood High School, we have begun to teach coding to students! Mr. Parsons and Mr. Said are working with core groups of students and then these students will be doing some peer teaching to enable all of our students to be able to become better coders! We believe that coding is a new and important skill for students and we will also be holding a few coding camps this year as well.



The mental health of our students is important which is why we have hired Shine Fitness to come in as part of our after school programming to do Dance Play and Yoga with students. We hope to continue this partnership all year long. There is limited space available, but we will give everyone a chance throughout the year. We charge a small fee for these sessions, but the response has been huge! We also look forward to a new partnership with Eagle Ridge YMCA after the Christmas break. They will be working with us to develop lunch time programs for students to help them learn how exercise affects mood. We are working on Mindfulness sessions for Parents in the new year.



We were able to work with Youth Computing from Westwood High School on our Pre-Engineering Academy this month. They have let us know that they are having a one day STEmpower Conference on Nov. 26th from 9am-12pm at Westwood Community High. The goal of Youth Computing is to empower youth to become better for the future and spreading their passion for technology. They are offering sessions on microprocessing with Arduino, Vex Robotics, and 3D printing and modelling. For more information please contact: youthcomputingstem@gmail.com or call 780-531-2476.



We received our annual results which have been posted on the school webpage (<http://waltergladyshill.fmpsdschools.ca/>). From these results we can see that some parents aren't aware of what programs we offer at Walter and Gladys Hill, so we would like to share some of this information with you in our monthly newsletter. For this month we will focus on *Program of Studies* beyond the basics.

Learning another language

- Students in grades 4-6 choose 1 new language to learn each year given 5 different language choices (Japanese, Mandarin, Spanish, French and Arabic). Classes are 150 minutes per week.
- Introductory Mandarin Language and Culture is taught to all students in grades K-6.
- After school Language Clubs are run by parent volunteers in late winter for 6 weeks and include Hindi, Gujarati, Arabic and Urdu.

Art

- Each grade has a curriculum which is directed by Alberta Education
- Some classes have artists visit to assist with lessons
- After school Art clubs are run during the year at various times for Grades 1-6 students
- A Dance group came into the school in September to teach dance to all students
- Learning Through the Arts and Boreal Art Institute work with the school to deliver First Nations Art activities to students
- Various local artists visit our Reggio classes, and they also go on field trips to visit local artists and art work at Art Galleries in the city
- Students are working on an art mural in the gym linked to The 7 Teachings
- We consistently participate in the Spring Art Show at Ecole McTavish

Computers

- We have a number of ipads for Division 1 students and Laptops for Division 2 students as well as access to desktop computers in the learning commons.
- We do not promote 1:1 ratios for computers as we are focused on collaborative projects to develop competencies of communication and cooperation as well as critical thinking.
- Computers are used to access web based programs such as Mathletics, RAZ kids, Lexia, Ooka Island, and Language Nut.
- Division 2 students access Gmail accounts so they can use Google Docs to collaborate on projects and be able to access accounts anywhere, anytime, anyplace. Division 2 students may also have teachers using google classroom to review and submit work to teachers.

Drama

- Drama is infused into regular curriculum through role play, relaxation techniques, reader's theatre,
- A drama production is in the works for later in the year

Health

- Each grade has a curriculum which they follow
- We are an APPLE school which means we have policies in place and you can read about on our school webpage.
- As an APPLE school we promote healthy eating, active living and mental health.
- We have a school APPLE Core team made up of parents, students and staff who meet regularly to discuss their mandate and how to deliver programs and educate students
- We have a school counselor who delivers Mindfulness training to students as well as other positive ways to deal with mood changes, anxiety and other life stresses.
- WITS anti bullying program; Students Assisting Students Program
- We access Shine Fitness to deliver Yoga and Dance Play after school programs to our students.
- The YMCA will be delivering "Move your Mood" three times a week after Christmas to help students get active and link mood to fitness.

Music

- We have a Music teacher who delivers grade level curriculum to each of the Grades 1-6 classes.
- Kindergarten and ECDP classes also have music class with their own teachers
- We have a school choir, a Christmas Concert, performances at the Music Festival all coming in the future
- Grades 5&6 have linked Music and Technology and are working on a project together

Phys Ed

- We have a full time Phys Ed teacher who follows the grade level curriculum
- ECDP and Kindergarten teachers teach their own gym classes
- Daily Physical Activity is directed by the classroom teacher at a minimum, on days when there is no Phys. Ed class, and more often as a movement break between lessons

Variety of Subjects

- In addition to regular curriculum programming we are focused on providing students with technology skills required for the future in each grade.
- We offer an after school Tech and Trade Academy in Multi-Media and Pre-Engineering
- We have a coding partnership with Westwood High School we has just begun

-First Nations, Metis & Inuit Education is mandated by Alberta Education and we are infusing it in the regular curriculum but also have a school wide focus to highlight each of the 7 Teachings monthly.

-Students in grades 4-6 who are interested in Sewing can participate during lunch time

-Leadership skills are being taught to grades 4-6 students via PEAK Cricket, LEADS as part of the WITS (Whatever It Takes) Program & SASP (Students Assisting Students)

-Grades 5-6 are following the Career & Technology Foundations Curriculum to explore career possibilities and related skills, passions and interests. We hope to be able to continue with My Blueprint, which exposes Grade 5&6 students to a career information as well.

If at any time you have questions please feel free to contact school administration at 780-743-3101 and we will be happy to assist you!



Please ensure your children are dressed for the weather. We always have recess outside unless the temperatures drop to between -20 to -22. Administration then decides whether we will be outside or inside. We always post on Facebook and Remind if it will be an indoor recess. Students are still expected to use their own doors for indoor recesses except when extreme weather such as -30 hits. Again, we post on Facebook and Remind when this is the case.



A gentle reminder that you must remain in your vehicles if you are parked behind someone in the parking lot. You cannot leave to get your children. The law states that this is a violation and a \$120 ticket. Patience is necessary when driving through the lots. Don't forget that you can also drop off on Loutit, and you can park on Sparrow Hawk Drive.



We wish to thank those parents who have been helping to purchase breakfast food, delivering fruit for a friend, helping with hot lunch, volunteering in the parking lot, helping out at Fall Fair and general help in classrooms. We are so grateful to have you in our school.

Don't forget that any parents can join the School Council meetings which are the first Wednesday of the month. Our next meeting is Dec. 7th.

