



School District of Mystery Lake

# WESTWOOD ELEMENTARY

## WESTWOOD WORD

September 2022

September's Attendance – 88%



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<https://webserver.mysterynet.mb.ca/schoolconnect/ParentSignone.aspx>



### This Month' Events:

- **September 8<sup>th</sup>:** *Classes Resume*
- **September 14<sup>th</sup>:** *Meet the Teacher*
- **September: 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>:** *Strong Beginnings*
- **September 23<sup>rd</sup>:** *Terry Fox Walk*
- **September 26<sup>th</sup> – September 30<sup>th</sup>:** *Truth & Reconciliation Week*
- **September 29<sup>th</sup>:** *Westwood "Feast" and Monthly Assembly*
- **September 30<sup>th</sup>:** *National Day for Truth & Reconciliation, No School*

### Upcoming in October:

- **October 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>:** *Fire Prevention Week*
- **October 10<sup>th</sup>:** *Thanksgiving, No School*
- **October 19<sup>th</sup>:** *Grade 6 & 8 Immunizations*
- **October 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>:** *MTS PD Day & Travel Day, No School*

### From the Office:

- Welcome back to all of our students, families and staff. We are excited to be starting the 2022-2023 school year without any restrictions!
- Westwood would like to welcome our new staff members: Ms. Lee (Grade 2), Mrs. Dherdi (Grade 4), Mrs. Johnson (Grade 6), Mr. Abara (Grade 6), Ms. Gibeault (IDEAL Resource) and Ms. Miscavish (Phys. Ed).
- We would also like to say farewell to Mrs. O'Gilvie, Ms. Pokotylo, Mr. Sauve, Ms. Taylor, Mr. Valentino and Mrs. Nsi. We wish you all the best in your future endeavours.



### COVID-19 Screening Tool

In order to determine if you should contact **Health Links – Info Santé** ([204-788-8200](tel:204-788-8200) or toll-free at [1-888-315-9257](tel:1-888-315-9257)) or seek other medical advice, you will be asked to respond to a few questions.

Public health officials also strongly urge anyone who has cold or flu-like symptoms, **such as a cough, fever, runny nose, sore throat, headache**, or any of the symptoms listed in the screening tool to isolate and get tested for COVID-19. By getting tested, you are helping to keep your family and community healthy.

### Important Reminders

- ❖ With the cold weather fast approaching, please make sure your children are properly dressed for the weather
- ❖ The entrance bells are at 8:50am and 12:55pm, please do not send your children to school early as there is NO supervision during these times
- ❖ Please update your child(ren) personal and emergency contact information through parent connect. If you need assistance please contact the office
- ❖ Our monthly newsletter will continue to go out along with our weekly memos. Also check us out on Facebook page, **Westwood Elementary: Thompson, Manitoba**



### In and Around Westwood School:

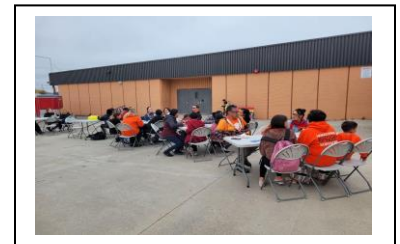
- Meet the Teacher night was a great success with lots of families coming out. It was nice to see our hallways full again!
- Farm to School fundraiser raised a total of \$1200.00.
- Grade 5's went to Mile 20 for the Fall Camp.
- Classes were given the opportunity to view the Queen's funeral and procession in acknowledgement of her death, in their classrooms and in the MPR.
- Strong Beginnings assessments were held on Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Students participated in the Terry Fox Walk on Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>, raising \$346 from the Toonies for Terry campaign.
- Grade 7 & 8 classes went to the TRCC to participate in the Floor Map activities for Truth & Reconciliation Week.
- Westwood staff & students wore orange shirts and held our first *Remembering the Children* feast in honor of the children who never returned home and the survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities.
- We held our first monthly awards assembly since the pandemic; with a wrap-up presentation of last year's Project of Heart!

It's been a busy month for our Vikings.  
Let's take a peek at some of things we have been up to:



"September 15th was International Dot Day and 1R, 1/2D, 3S, 3W, and 4B came together to celebrate it. We enjoyed listening to "Dot" by Peter H. Reynolds. It was fun creating our masterpieces."

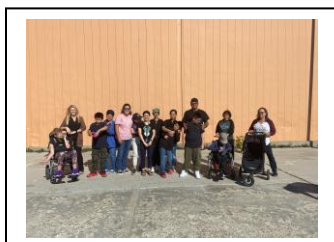
Westwood School held our first *Remembering the Children "Feast"*. We had a wonderful turnout despite the chill in the air. We would like to thank Lyle Massan for blessing our meal and all the families who attended the event.



We also held our first monthly awards assembly since before the pandemic! Congratulations to all of our award winners for the month of September.



Our IDEAL students participated in the Terry Fox Walk! Our Toonies for Terry campaign was a success, raising \$346 to go to the Terry Fox Foundation.



## Mile 20 Fabulous Field Trip

By: Aniya Linklater and Aiden Senkowski (5M)

It was an absolutely, amazing day. Ms. McCartney and Ms. Osberg's classes were selected to go to Mile 20! Mile 20 is an Indigenous sacred site. We knew how lucky we were to be able to go! We got to ride on a huge Maple Bus Lines bus and sit with a friend. We talked and slept on the large and comfy bus. It took us about half an hour to get to the northern site.

We organized into our groups with our team leaders from UCN. The women all had beautiful, Indigenous ribbon skirts. Safety instructions were given and we walked into the forest to the site. We began our day around a sacred circle where everyone was welcomed by Mrs. Dykun from the School Board Office who worked very hard to organize such a wonderful day. There were several elders from a variety of communities and other SDML staff from the School Board Office who volunteered their time as well.

The first activity I enjoyed was, Traditional Indigenous Games with Blair! My favourite part was throat singing "Old MacDonald"! The second activity I really loved was, drumming because we learned many different techniques. The last activity I enjoyed was building a tipi. We learned that each pole has a name like, hope or empathy.

A funny moment that made me laugh out loud was when Gabriel referred to our UCN guide as a wizard. Another hilarious moment was at Traditional Games when we learned different ways to protect ourselves, Ms. McCartney and Cynthia had to battle with pool noodles!

One of the things I learned was the names of the Indigenous plants and how they are used as medicine for different illnesses. Another important thing I learned was that sweat lodges are used for praying and feeling better mentally. They were used in the past and are used now.

The first heartfelt lesson I will always remember is that Indigenous people were denied their language and culture. The second heartfelt lesson I will remember is that Orange Shirt Day is based on a real person. She went to residential school and her beautiful orange blouse was taken away. It meant so much to her because her granny gave it to her. She was forced to wear the clothes at the school.

A huge thank-you to all of the elders, UCN students, Ms. Dykun, SDML staff, and our very own amazing Ms. McCartney and incredible Ms. Osberg! We had an awesome day of learning and fun!



*"Westwood has a community tree that we like to use to share our learning and positive messages. September's focus was Every Child Matters in connection to Orange Shirt Day."*



Since the beginning of September, the grade eights have been reading/studying "The Secret Path" as a way of learning about Residential Schools. "The Secret Path" is a ten-song album written by Gord Downie (lead singer from Tragically Hip) with a graphic novel by illustrator Jeff Lemire that tells the true story of a 12 year old boy named Chanie Wenjack (misnamed Charlie by his teachers). Chanie unfortunately passes away as he walked a set of railroad tracks, escaping from the Cecilia Jeffery Indian Residential School in Kenora, Ontario. He didn't know how to get home or where he was going.

The grade eights and Ms. Grant really wanted to get in touch with Chanie's family to send their condolences, thoughts and prayers. Ms. Grant reached out to the "Gord Downie and Chanie Wenjack Fund" where she got the address of the Wenjack sister- Pearle Wenjack. The grade eights and Ms. Grant have spent many classes writing letters to the Wenjack family. We believe as a grade eight class and learning about Residential Schools will help create a path towards reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. We want to build awareness, educate and make connections between all people of Canada. So, in order to make these connections, we started the letter writing. The letters are heartfelt and the students put forth the effort and thoughts into writing these letters on their own. As hauntingly sad, real and painful as this may be, Residential Schools are one aspect of our Canadian history that must not be forgotten. The grade eights have learned so much from this book and we all agree that we can never let this happen again in our country.

*Mrs. Grant & the Grade 8's*

